

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference at Wake Forest Jan. 14, 2020

On explaining how the young team already has three ACC wins on the road:

"Again, I continue to say it that nothing is going to surprise me with this team. They have a level of confidence and it's a great team in terms of preparation. It's pretty unique and pretty special. I've had some young teams that were a little goofy and needed to grow up some. We're leaving some things on the floor and needed to handle it a certain way. This team, you give it to them and they got it."

On Tyrece Radford's 21 points and overall play:

"[Tyrece] is a special person [and player]. He was able to get to the rim and get to the foul line."

On changing expectations throughout the season:

"I have [changed my expectations]...back in October I was just trying to come up and gasp for air...but my big picture expectations haven't changed because you can't live like that. You have to take it one game at a time."

On moving the ball during the game:

"We were playing at the right pace but I thought we had a few too many late clocks...all and all I thought we got the ball in pretty good places."

On the improvements from Jalen Cone and Tyrece Radford:

"Both played very well against NC State, doing it night in and night out [while] building on their levels of confidence."

On creating Wake Forest turnovers:

"We did what we typically do. 18 turnovers is pretty good. Our principle is there and we are sticking in our gaps; [we are] getting our hands on the ball to make deflections."

Wake Forest Head Coach Danny Manning Q&A Highlights

Opening Statement:

"I thought we came out in the first half and there were a couple of stretches where we went scoreless for a couple possessions. I think at the seven-minute mark in the first half we did a couple of things defensively to only be down two going into half time. Rebounding the ball was something key that helped us. In the second half, we gave their shooters too many good looks and once they made a couple of shots we weren't able to run them off the line. And then for us, we can't go into a game and Virginia Tech has eleven steals, which contributes a lot to our 18 turnovers, but those are live ball turnovers. A lot of times we got are shot blocked too. Those are empty possessions offensively. We needed to do a better job of making our passes, especially into the post. A lot of times we were feeding the post and there was a deflection or the help-side came over, so we have to do a better job of being the eyes for the receiver and seeing where the help is at."

On what needs to change with turnovers:

"Just have to value the ball more. The idea is right in terms of wanting to get the ball, getting it to Olivier, but we have a problem of having vision of surrounding players, not just the person guarding him. A lot of times we see the guy guarding him but not the help-side or the weak-side coming in. Going into this game tonight we talked about getting the ball into the corners and we didn't have the chances to hit the corners enough because they were really sucked in, especially when Olivier was inside the paint."

What was lacking in the second half:

"They got comfortable. Like Radford, he plays tremendously hard and he gets thirteen rebounds and gets to the free-throw line twelve. Some of those were late when we were fouling, but he put pressure on us with his dribble penetration and that's what we have been doing a better job at getting to the free-throw line. We have to get back to what we were doing in terms of getting pressure on teams by getting paint touches to get to the free-throw line because part of our formula is to get to the free-throw line. We've done a better job at getting there but we have to do a better job of putting pressure on teams, especially when we get into the bonus. Sometimes we get into the bonus and we settle for jump shots as opposed to getting paint touches to get to the charity stripe."

Virginia Tech Players Q&A Highlights

TYRECE RADFORD

On what helped him be so productive offensively:

“I just went out there and had fun and enjoyed playing with my teammates. I guess when I’m having fun, it just happens like that (laughing).”

On having 18 points in his last game and if that gave them confidence going into this one:

“That was a big thing, too. With me scoring 18 last week, I had to keep it up. If I do that, my team can go further. Everybody on the team has to contribute. If I keep doing what I’m doing, I think we can go far.”

On what he liked about his big-time dunk:

“I love that dunk even though he hit me and I lost it. I recovered it and it was tough. I think it was an eye-opener to a lot of people.”

WABISSA BEDE

On what he liked on how the team played offensively:

“Today, we were clicking in the beginning, besides them coming back after that, but [Brandon] Childress went to the bench and we had to capitalize on that. We lost it but then we came back thanks to Tyrece’s [Radford] energy, like always, jumping in passing lanes and getting steals.”

On if he could tell Jalen Cone was going to have a big game tonight with him being back home:

“Little man’s been on fire and he is brave. I love that kid. Every time he makes a shot, I handclap. He’s in that category now, every time he shoots an open 3, it’s cash money. He has moved into that category that if he takes an open shot, it’s going to go in.”

On Jalen Cone’s role:

“He does not care where he is. He is going to fire them up and make a lot of shots.”

LANDERS NOLLEY II

On how happy he’s been with himself and the team’s progress so far this season:

“We are just enjoying the moments and are taking them in as they go. We will continue to just take it game by game and have fun every day.”

On if the team has exceeded expectations and if that changes the goals set for this year:

“Na, we have not exceeded many goals or have focused on setting records for how many games we have to win. We just go out and compete every game and play our game and have fun doing it.”