

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference vs. Syracuse Jan. 18, 2020

On the final shot of the game:

“That wasn’t what we drew up, but he [Landers Nolley II] was going to be a part of it. We made the wrong play. That is on Mike Young, not on my team. We’ll handle that better and the next time, or 10 times, he will be a part of that action that didn’t work out for us. Again, I take all the responsibility for that.”

On success getting the ball into the high-post:

“He [Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim] really tweaked it. He’s won 1,000 games for a reason. He’s played that game for a little while and he knows what he’s doing. They tweaked some things from our first matchup. We wanted Wabissa [Bede] and “Boots” [Tyrece Radford] in the high-post more because they don’t shoot it as well as [Jalen] Cone, [Landers] Nolley, [Hunter] Cattoor and [Nahiem] Alleyne. Isaiah Wilkins played very well for our team today. There were times where they weren’t guarding them and they fan to those guys who can shoot. I thought our team all-in-all scored enough to win. We didn’t defend well enough to win. At the end of the day, Syracuse played a little better than my team did today and that’s the game. That’s college basketball.”

On climbing back into the game after going down 16 points:

“We got two quick 3s to cut it back and then Nahiem [Alleyne] really helped us out. I thought Isaiah Wilkins inserting him into that lineup gave us another shooter on the floor. The kid is a good passer and good offensive rebounder. I go back to the defensive end. I thought we had a better look about us defensively and on the glass. It’s going to be hard to win when you allow an opponent to shoot 48% from the field on you. We had as many scouting report mistakes as we have had all year and that is not me being critical of my men. It’s just the game. We’re flying out at [Quincy] Guerrier, who is a really good player, but he’s not going to make a shot from 3, and we’re flying at him like he’s Ray Allen. He gets to the rim and we foul him. We lose [Buddy] Boeheim and get help off of Boeheim. We didn’t do that in Game 1 and it worked out pretty well for us. The only explanation is it is the game. Mistakes were made and Syracuse played a little bit better than the Hokies and won.”

On shot selection from 3-point land:

“I wouldn’t turn down the first 36 [3-point shots], but I just wish we could do some other things, explore some different shots and put them into rotations. They were good today. No qualms or heartburn over the shots we had over the course of the game.”

Syracuse Head Coach Jim Boeheim Q&A Highlights

On turnovers and the overall 3-point shooting performance from both teams:

“Both teams to really not turn the ball over in a game like that, 7[Virginia Tech]-4[Syracuse], is incredible. They can really shoot it, and they didn't shoot it quite as well in Syracuse, only 10 [3s], but they made 15 [3s] here. They can shoot the ball, and the kid [Nahiem] Alleyne really hurt us. We were worried about [Landers] Nolley and [Jalen] Cone, but Alleyne really hurt us. He was 5-of-6 [from 3], and that was great shooting. We didn't shoot it like we need to from three. 6-of-24 is usually not good enough for us. Elijah [Hughes] couldn't get anything going. He made the one that we needed. Buddy [Boeheim] got us off to a good start, but then they started to faceguard him, and so then we had some opportunities from Marek [Dolezaj] to get inside, and we needed to take better advantage of that. It's a hard place to play, and if they make 15 3s, you have to have a lot of resilience and a lot of character to be able to hang in there in that situation.”

On Syracuse's defensive performance:

“We started out the game with our center not getting to the corner. . . you just can't play that way. We just gave them corner 3s, they made three corner 3s, and that's what we worked on [defending]. That's inexcusable. Quincy [Guerrier] was really good on the boards in the first half, but he's got to stay out of foul trouble a little bit better, and Howard [Washington] was really good in the first half. It was just a tough game and a really good win.”

On Buddy Boeheim's midrange game and overall contributions:

“He's been making some hard ones. We like Elijah [Hughes] to do that, but right now Buddy [Boeheim] is the one and he's even better probably. The one that he made in the second half was really hard, the guy was right on him, but he's been playing tremendous basketball for us. His defense is better, and I think we are improving.”

On the Syracuse production and 34-12 edge in the paint:

“We're not a team that tries to score in there. We try to drive it, and I think we did that a few times, but they're so physical and hard to get by. Elijah [Hughes] is as good as anybody at getting by, and he just couldn't quite get by them. We want to give Marek [Dolezaj] the ball in some of those situations, and Marek was good down there, but it's hard to even believe that number.”

Virginia Tech Players Q&A Highlights

JALEN CONE

On preparing for North Carolina and another game close to home:

“Next one is a big one. Of course, UNC is a highly thought of school when it comes to basketball. So, we’ll start preparing for that one. It will definitely be exciting playing another in-state school, so we’ll see what happens.”

NAHIEM ALLEYNE

On embracing a new role off the bench:

“It doesn’t really matter. I just do whatever it takes to win. My boy Jalen Cone has been shooting it really well, so that’s why he’s in the starting lineup.”

On having success beyond the arc:

“We just praise on moving the ball every time because we’re trying to get a great shot, not a good stop. Coach [Mike Young] emphasizes getting a great shot and not a good shot.”

LANDERS NOLLEY II

On finding rhythm:

“It’s a great defense. They push you out further than you usually shoot, so it’s something I’m definitely going to work on and next time it will be better.”

On final shot:

“It was drawn up for me to find somebody or hit the shot. Clearly, I didn’t do either. Next time it will be a better situation and it won’t be that close.”