

**Virginia Tech Women's Basketball
Head Coach Kenny Brooks Q&A Highlights
NC State Game Press Conference
Jan. 2, 2020**

On the team's shot making in the game:

"It's pretty much who we are. The kids did a really good job of locking in and following the scout in the first half. Got away from us a little bit and obviously they made a couple of adjustments and [Elissa] Cunane got loose too much and we didn't really stop that. I thought out kids gave great effort. We don't take pride in playing close, I think this team is good enough that we can win ACC games this year."

On Aisha Sheppard's special night:

"She's coming into her own. Obviously, she played the first two years in a backup role behind Taylor Emery, now she's had to come out and be our force. She's not doing anything that we haven't seen her do, we know she is capable of doing those kind of things. She's just really learning what she's supposed to do, how she's supposed to do it. Teams are playing her differently and it's going to be a learning curve for her for a while, but I thought she did a really good job tonight and stepped up and made some shots."

On Dara Mabrey's injury late in the game:

"It's very tough, obviously. She's a warrior, she's one of the toughest kids that I know so obviously if she is limping like that then she is hurting. They did a good job on her they forced her to drive as opposed to her being able to shoot the three, but hopefully we'll be able to get her back sooner rather than later."

On Taja Cole's ability to fit into the team so well so quickly into her Virginia Tech career:

"Well she's still learning I think that her best basketball is ahead of her and once she really understands exactly what we want from her and how we want it, I think that she'll do a great job. It's kind of a tough situation to walk into, the scenario where you're the transfer and you have to be the quarterback of the team. So, she is still learning little intricacies not only about her teammates, but me as coach and my philosophies and what I want and how I want to do it, because we are asking her to play a lot differently than how she played at Georgia. Once she gets comfortable, I think she is going to be a force for us."

On the challenge of guarding NC State center Elissa Cunane:

"Very tough. She's a good player, a very good player. We recruited her. Her and Elizabeth Kitley and Cayla King, they came down to visit unofficially together. Obviously, they are very close. I love Cunane's family, her mother and father. We got to know her very well, we knew she would be this type of player in this league. You watch her grow and I've actually said it before, I've told my assistants – you look at Liz Kitley, I think Liz is where Cunane was last year. She's kind of like one year behind her and I think that's going to be a battle for a long time to come in the ACC"

that's kind of good, good for the league. She's a good player, a very good player and you let her get down that low she becomes hard to stop. We did a good job in the first half I think her only basket was the 3-point shot and I'll take her shooting that as opposed to [inaudible]. But she made some big shots as well as [Aislinn Konig]. She hit some big shots too as well as [Kayla] Jones. They hit timely shots, they did. When they needed them, they stepped up and knocked them down."

On how Elizabeth Kitley played against Elissa Cunane:

"Experience, you know they went to her not exclusively but it was the main part of what they were trying to do. They capitalized on them and she did a really good job so we have to learn. That's one of the better centers you're going to see in the league especially with their offense and their focus and what they're trying to do and give her the ball as much as they try to get it to her. They do a good job. I told our team that probably the difference between us right now – this was before the game – is that they understand where they want to get the ball and how to get it there. We're still learning in that situation. We'll get better and we'll learn from this and get back at it on Sunday."

On two of the better young centers in the country (Kitley and Cunane) being from the same town:

"No question, I don't think people understand how close they are. It's kind of funny, they're like peanut butter and jelly. They're always together and they always speak to each other and are very good friends. Like I said, they've been down to our campus many a times together but they are really good friends."