

Virginia Tech Men's Basketball
Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights
Postgame Media Conference
Jan. 4, 2020

On the outcome of the game:

"I tip my cap to the Cavaliers, Coach [Tony] Bennett's bunch. Obviously, they outplayed us, we had an idea of what we wanted to do, we thought we knew exactly how they would guard it. We missed a couple of shots that we typically get down and instead of being down seven or eight in pretty good shape at the end of the first half, we were down 13. That's not insurmountable but very, very difficult. As good as they are defensively, I thought that they were just exceptional today and beat us to some things so tip of the cap to those guys. They've got another very nice outfit."

On redshirt freshman Landers Nolley being held in check in the second half:

"Yeah, I thought it was better defense in the second half. He got a couple down that were guarded well, he just made good shots in there in the first. One of the few first half mistakes was that he was able to get behind something and got a three down. He didn't make those shots in the second half but I thought overall Landers played another really good ball game."

On the Kihei Clark-Wabissa Bede matchup:

"Clark got the best of him today. In a matchup that we needed to win. Clark is very, very good and the engine for them and they put him in a number of ball screens. I'll be interested to go back and look at it. He carved us up pretty good and some of that is Wabissa was trailing him and that's not on him, that's on our team. We will go back and look at it. We're 14 games into this thing and I can't imagine life without Wabissa Bede, he has been terrific. He didn't have his best day; our team didn't have its best day. Brighter days ahead."

On turnovers:

"Probably a combination of Virginia's defense causing trouble and our uncharacteristic mistakes. We had six turnovers at the 14-minute mark, I mean we are averaging 9.5 on the year, third in the country I think. When you kick the thing around and play sloppy basketball it drives me insane. Eight turnovers at the half, 13 for the game. The numbers are all messed up, six assists and 13 turnovers. That's not Virginia Tech numbers certainly. It would be less than fair not to credit Virginia and their preparedness and their team's activity on the defensive end."

WABISSA BEDE

On the offense not producing today:

"I give credit to Virginia's defense. They forced us to their pace and we needed to be stronger with the ball, delivering a better pass and more."

On Virginia's pack-line defense and how he has played against it before but quite a few of his

teammates have not:

“I need to do a better job of calming our guys down, that’s the biggest thing. As you saw, that led to turnovers, which is not like us because we average a little over eight a game. And then we had eight at the end of the first half, which is not like us. So, with me being the point guard on the team, I need to calm everybody down and I take the blame for it.”

On the team shooting 10 free throws in the second half and capitalizing off of mismatches:

“We stopped being scared, that was the biggest thing. I told the team to keep playing hard and they’re not calling any fouls, so go to the paint hard and go off two feet and be strong. I’m not going to get mad at you if you play hard. So, we all played hard and that’s all you can ask for because shots come and go.”

LANDERS NOLLEY

On what Virginia did defensively to make his scoring efforts quiet in the second half:

“I just feel we were like trying to get other guys going and take pressure off our team to hopefully catch a rhythm and spark us. Then start playing well offensively like we normally do.”

On the 13 turnovers as a team and what Virginia did defensively to cause those:

“I felt like through the first two media [timeouts] we were rushing, with having like six turnovers the first two medias. So, once we settled in, even though we still had some bad turnovers, that’s basketball. Just have to play good defense and offensive and move on.”

On moving the ball more and getting to the free-throw line more often in the second half:

“When you move the ball, good things happen with more things opening good driving gaps. So, guys can then get to the rim if they want. It opens up more opportunities for people to get more space.”