

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference vs. Radford Nov. 25, 2020

What was it like to coach in that game:

"It stunk. It was different, really different. Thrilled to have the opportunity to pay. I did not say anything to them, just well obviously we are limited to 250 people. It's not what we're accustomed to. That was different than I anticipated. We had Nahiem mentioned we tried to simulate a game day experience last Saturday with the noise, the distanced bench, you know all that sort of thing. I probably did not handle that very well. Shot selection was not very good at all the first 10mins. I take a lot of responsibility there. You have a chance to work through some of that stuff when you scrimmage. We would have scrimmaged Richmond and East Tennessee for obvious reasons that didn't occur. I'm just thrilled we've got this flight and we've got some time in Connecticut to watch and learn and grow, we needed it badly. All in all felt good about how hard they played. We had a couple of the guys play good basketball for us."

On playing small ball with guard Tyrece Radford at the four position:

"It was more about RU than it was our team. I was searching there for a little bit in the 2nd half. Pemsli is not completely back from a small lagging injury. N'Guessan is going to be a really good player, I thought he helped us a lot, Mutts is going to play better. He fought hard and we are going to find where he fits. I think when it's all said and done we can play a number of different ways."

On Keve Aluma's 3-point shooting and if that will continue:

"I'm not the shooting whisperer but this kid sat out for a year and you either get better or you digress. He worked and spent a lot of time on it. He has got a beautiful stroke and big strong hands soft hands much like a tight end in football. He receives the ball well and is still working on his balance when he is off left or right. His balance isn't spot on but that is pretty typical of what we see day in and day out in practice. In the final stats of our practices he has made three, four or five from three. I don't want him to search for them and I thought he did a pretty good job of finding those shots out of our offense. A couple of them were set. An out of bounce set we ran a little something to get him behind the arc and he made that one and I think in the first half it was late on the clock. He can really shoot it and he is a hard guy to guard to be able to step out there and make that shot as a five."

Virginia Tech Players Q&A Highlights

NAHIEM ALLEYNE

On playing in a game with unique environment:

“It was definitely interesting playing in an environment like this. I’m just glad to play again, get the guys out there, and play a little basketball again.”

On how team was able to get momentum:

“In the first half, the first couple of minutes we were just doing one-pass shots and we can’t do that against better teams like Temple, who we play next. Like Coach said, “Get involved,” so I tried to get involved more by getting to the basket and pulling up for my jump shot.

On Coach Young’s advice about adapting to environment:

“He always says to bring your own energy. It’s going to be like that year round. No fans or just a couple fans, bring your own energy. That’s what he said.”

On expectations coming into the game:

“It was definitely weird. We did a little bit of a scrimmage before we did what we did today and it was definitely interesting. All in all, we played hard, that’s all.”

On how team performed early in game:

“A couple people had first little jitters, you know, the freshman, but that happens. As a team, we can go on runs, but we have to be better defensively. For the first game though, just a little jitters.”

On if there was any rust in game:

“I didn’t feel rusty out there, I just kind of played my game. We scrimmaged each other every day. I try to work out by myself or get some shots up. I didn’t really feel rusty. I was just ready to play.”

KEVE ALUMA

On how it felt to have a good performance in debut:

“It was just good to get back out there. I wasn’t too worried about points. I just wanted to get the win.”

On what helped his game:

“I think just working hard in the offseason and then trying to be as confident as I could [be].”

On the vibe going into the game:

“It was definitely weird to be able to feed off the crowd and use that to help. We definitely have to make our own energy and try to do a better job of that next time.”

On adding the three-point shot to his game:

"I just worked on it with the coaches and tried to expand my game as much as possible."

On what was learned:

"We definitely have to step it up. Tonight was alright, but we got to do better."

On what he likes about small lineup:

"I like that we can get on a run and are pretty mobile."

On what he can bring to the table:

"I only had a few rebounds,[so] I want to crash to glass more and get back into that. It was alright."

On strangest part of the game:

"I try to treat every game the same, regardless of what is going on outside the court. It definitely was different."

On what was different about scoring performance today:

"I just had open shots and my teammates were able to find me."

On wearing masks:

"We did wear masks [on the bench] and in some of the timeouts we wore masks. It was alright, I don't know if I really like wearing masks, but to play I'll do whatever."

On how team remembers to wear masks

"Definitely Hisham [Ziyout], you lock eyes with him once and you remember to go grab your mask."

On challenges of integrating transfers:

"Everyone was still trying to find their roles. No one on this team is a 'me first' guy that only cares about scoring. We all just want to win and I think that will help us in the long run."

On if game felt like a scrimmage:

"Yes. It definitely did feel like a scrimmage."

On if team needed to be reminded to lock in:

"The coaches definitely let us know. Like I said earlier, we have to have that one person that brings the energy and keeps everyone locked in."

On who could fill that role:

"I could see Justyn [Mutts] definitely doing that."

"We got more control of the ball, making 100% passes instead of 50% passes because you never know which way it's going to go if it's not 100%."

On what helped the team shoot so well today:

“Just ball movement and screening. I feel like we screened a lot today and got the right shots, the shots we wanted by moving the ball around.”

On his four 3-pointers:

“Just confidence, having confidence and shooting the ball. Plus, making sure my teammates trust me to shoot the ball and making sure that on the floor we play hard.”