

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference vs. Penn State Dec. 8, 2020

On what Penn State did to succeed on offensive and defensive end:

“Mark (Berman), I don’t know. They got us back on our heels. I think on both ends, banging shots left and right, our shot contesting wasn’t good. I thought their ability to drive it for some reason spread us out and we found ourselves reeling. (The) 1-2-2 (zone) slowed us down offensively. We had a hard time getting to a rhythm there. They lost to a really good Seton Hall team on Sunday. They’ve got a one-day prep (and) they come in here last night. They shot around today and, certainly we talk about in college athletics, ‘the more desperate team’, and they were coming off of that one and felt bad about it. They were up 19 (points) in the first-half. They popped us right in the mouth and we didn’t respond very well, and that’s a concern. We’ll get back after it tomorrow and we’ll figure out.”

On if he saw anything leading into the game hinting at Tech’s defense being slow:

“Oh, no, Mike (Barber). Golly day. I’m just racking my head and I’ll continue to do so through the night until we can get to practice again tomorrow. Practices on Sunday and Monday were as good as we have had. Good pop and we had a good plan. We were ready to go. I wish I could give you an answer. I can’t, Mike. I don’t have an intelligent answer that I think would help any one of us.”

On what kind of response he would have liked to see after falling behind early:

“Just both ends. Better ball movement – we talked about it. And this is not a knock, okay, this is great respect for Penn State and Coach Ferry. He’s done a nice job with his team. If this game is an AAU game, up and down, quick shots, poor ball handling - that is not going to bode well for our team. This has to be a basketball game. This has got to be longer possessions, hitting one and two sides of the floor each time down, playing through Keve (Aluma) in the post. WE didn’t have that. Again, everything they throw in the air seems like it’s going in the hole. That’s not the basketball gods. That’s the Virginia Tech defense. We weren’t nearly as good on that end as I have grown to expect us to be.”

On if team is struggling to adjust to new size and style:

“I don’t think so, Peter (Duggan). I haven’t thought that we have lost any shooting. I don’t think we’re shooting it particularly well right now. That is not a big concern. I don’t think it is any deeper than Penn State came in here and flattened our nose. They did so early. So (I’m) surprised and disappointed in our response, but I’ve got good people back there. We’ve got a

week to work at it and need it to open league play against Clemson. We'll be better and I look forward to it."

Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

WABISSA BEDE

On what he saw from Tech in the turnover department:

"They [Penn State] played good defense today. They were turning teams into turnovers like 17 times a game and did so tonight. So, credit to them."

On Penn State making 12 3-pointers and what he thought about Tech's perimeter defense:

"We let them shoot right in our face. They were all great shooters. All credit towards them for making those shots."

On it seeming like the team is in a little bit of a rut and what is it going to take to get out of it:

"We are going to keep shooting, don't worry. We know that. We put a lot of time into shooting, but will bounce back from this with hard work in practice these next few days."