

**Virginia Tech Women's Basketball**  
**Georgia Tech Postgame Press Conference**  
**Head Coach Kenny Brooks**  
**February 13, 2020**

**Opening Statement:**

“Very good win for us. I’m very excited for the kids. We did a very good job of bouncing back after a - I want to say a little bit lethargic because I know our kids so well, but you give credit where credit is due. I didn’t know what that defense was going to be, you look at the stats and they’re like fourth in the country for points allowed. I didn't know what it was. I thought maybe because they were very slow with their tempo and they don't get many possessions, but that defense is as good as advertised. It causes so many problems because they’re so long and they contest everything. They contest your shots, your dribble penetrations, your passes, and it throws you out of rhythm just enough where you're starting to do things you’re not accustomed to doing. It took us a half and we kind of figured it out. What got us going in the second half was we got some stops. That Cayla King shot right before the half was huge because it was almost like a momentum breaker. It put everybody in a good mood for a minute, whether it was the fans going into halftime or us going into the locker room. We hit three 3’s really quick to take the lead and that point on, it was a game of ebbs and flows. They went on runs, we went on runs. Even when we got the seven-point lead in overtime, they made some tough shots. Pan made some very tough shots. We were there and contested it, but she’s long and she rose overtop of us to make some tough shots. We just made a few more plays and I’m very glad we did so. As a result, we’re where we continue to want to be.”

**On the game-tying last shot of regulation:**

“It’s a designed play that we have. Liz [Kitley] is a decoy. We threw the ball inside because we knew they were going to suck in on her and we had Shepp [Aisha Sheppard] coming off a screen, and they executed it perfectly. She hit her right in stride. We told Shepp that if you have it, go ahead and take the 3, but if not and you don't feel comfortable with it, we’ll call a timeout and call another play. They executed it perfectly, and Shepp came up in rhythm and knocked it down. That gave us momentum. We had to get a stop, two stops, as a matter of fact, and we did so. When we came to the huddle to start overtime, it was a different vibe. It wasn’t a, ‘Woe is me. We’re in overtime.’ It was totally different than the Duke game. The Duke game we felt like we let a lead slip away, but this time we had to come back and make a shot. The mood was really good, and we took that and used the momentum to get a nice lead to start the overtime.”

**On the team's progression over the course of the season:**

"This team is progressing very nicely every day. Yesterday, we had the best practice we've had here since I've been at Virginia Tech. Their understanding of each other, they're figuring it out. They know what they're supposed to do. They're clicking. Chemistry will show, and this group has chemistry. They really care about each other. Everyone in that locker room was happy and excited, whether they played great, whether they didn't play at all, whether they played bad. They understand the big picture and where we can go with this group, and that's very exciting."

**On what the win means for the big picture of the season for the team:**

"The big picture is that we are tied for fourth [in the ACC]. I think we're one game behind Florida State. It's not about the NCAA Tournament. It's not about anything other than controlling our own destiny. We want to get the fourth spot. We're in position to do that if we just win. We don't need help from anyone else. Our thought process is we just take care of business one game at a time to try to get that fourth spot. Then everything else will take care of itself."

**On if this game was a statement win:**

"No. We've had some good ones. Sunday is going to be just as big. To say "statement", it means we felt like we did something we couldn't accomplish. We're just taking it one at a time. The way we won is a little different, so maybe that helps our confidence. This group is very confident. They thought they are just as good as anybody they match up with and that's half the battle right there. We almost expect to win because of their mental attitude. They're very excited, but I wouldn't say it was a statement win."

**On the third quarter of the game:**

"We got some clean stops. They're very aggressive going towards the boards. Fletcher is not your typical point guard. She doesn't sit back and watch the rebounds go. She had 13 tonight. We knew that. She's their leading offensive rebounder. We kept telling the kids, if we can get the rebound clean and get it to Taja [Cole] in stride, we'll get shots. But if we're not getting clean rebounds, they were able to latch onto Dara and Aisha Sheppard in transition, and we weren't able to get shots. Taja forced some layup attempts which weren't very clean. But when we get a clean rebound and get it out, we're very dangerous because we've got a shooter on both sides. The lanes wide open, and that's what we did in the third quarter."