

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference at No. 6/6 Duke Feb. 22, 2020

Opening statement:

"I just told my team the same thing I'll tell you. They were, obviously, very ready to go. My team was ready to go. They played an awfully fine basketball game, and that's about all that needs to be said, I think. We have no choice but to guard them the way we guarded them, and some of you may be scratching your heads, thinking that I made a mistake. I don't know who in the world can play [Vernon] Carey one-on-one, and I'm trying to do it with the best guy of all time, but he's not very big, so we've got to constrict the floor. It's what we did in Blacksburg, and it worked out very well for us. Now, he's seen a lot of different defensive looks and a lot of different traps from different angles, and I thought he did a marvelous job of getting over his right shoulder with his left hand. He's a masterful passer; that part of his game has really come on. A good shooting team, I don't think they're a great shooting team, but, because of how we have to defend, they make eight first-half threes. They blitzed us early and often. They were better, obviously. They were that good, and I didn't think we were awful in spurts, they were just flat out better than my team on this particular evening."

On Duke's defense:

"Just their length. They're just so aggressive. And the ball pressure, which we'll get to at some point here, the ball pressure speeds you up and speeds you into some uncomfortable situations. I thought that when they hit us in the mouth, you cannot handle the ball poorly and turn it over. The one-pass possessions, a bit of fool's gold. It might look like a pretty good shot, but you've got to get it down. If you don't get it down then here they come at you again, and that's where the trouble begins."

On Vernon Carey's ability to stretch the floor:

"What the hell am I going to do here. We've seen quite a few games, here, recently of Duke. He's that talented, to step out there and make that ball. That's credit to him and the work that he's put in. A very, very good college basketball player and he'll do it for a long time."

Duke Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski Q&A Highlights

Opening statement:

“Our guys played really well tonight. They played hard, they played outstanding defense, they cared for the ball, rebounded, really pleased with the win.”

On what the team did better in the first half of this game compared to their first meeting:

“We were prepared. We had preparation time. The last time we played, we went there after a 9:30 Tuesday game against Michigan State, coming back at 4:30 in the morning on Wednesday and travelling on Thursday. For them, you need preparation time and also at that time, we weren't ready to play a five out. We've played now against five out, and Vernon (Carey Jr.)'s played really well, Javin (DeLaurier), and so we had preparation time, but we also were better and we played well.”

On what the key to unlocking consistent energy from the team is:

“They've done it. We're 23-4, I think we've done it almost every game. The key is them, and they've been great. They had a bad night and they didn't have a bad night, so we're 1-1 this week.”

Virginia Tech Players Q&A Highlights

TYRECE RADFORD

On Duke getting about any look it wanted on offense despite playing hard defense:

“We came in going into the game knowing that their shot was going to fall. We already knew that and just had to fight basically. I felt like we did what we could. It wasn’t our best game, but it happened.”

On the first offensive possession for Duke, with Tech doubling Vernon Carey Jr. and him kicking out for a successful 3-pointer:

“[Them knocking down 3s] was not a part of the game plan. We stuck with the game plan and did what we were supposed to do. I did feel like we could have had more energy while we were playing, though. But I do feel like next game will be better.”

On after playing in triple overtime three days ago and if that impacted their performance tonight:

“We had enough treatment and rest to shake back from that game, so I don’t think it was because of that.”

ISAIAH WILKINS

On last possession of regulation:

“We started off hot, we had a good game plan going into it. When a team that good starts like that, it’s hard to beat. If we were able to start like that, we would be tough to beat as well.”

On how he thought he played:

“I felt like I played all right. I try to be ready whenever my name is called. And that’s the big thing for me, with not knowing when I’m going to play. I just have to be ready to play when I go in.”

On if it’s discouraging when a game gets that lopsided or not so much when you’re playing a top-10 team:

“I mean, they’re a really good but of course it’s going to be discouraging. For a team like us, we know we can beat a top-tier team. So, we game planned and worked hard to get in this position. So, of course it’s a little discouraging.”