

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference at No. 11/10 Louisville March 1, 2020

Opening statement:

“Louisville has a terrific coach and really a fine group of seniors that represented Louisville in a fine fashion. Remember, Dwayne Sutton. It’s amazing what your college years can do. I remember seeing him when he was on the Tennessee Travelers and was a 6-foot-7, 200 pounds. What a good-looking man he has become and really a good basketball player. I thought we were in good shape at the half. We never turn the ball over and then we had seven first-half turnovers and 16 for the game, which negates our play on the perimeter. They shoot the basketball so well and we limited to two made 3s at the half. But we shot ourselves in the foot and kick it seven times, which is just unnerving. We had some turnovers and bad shots to start the second half and then you’re down 10 and you’ve got a problem.”

On being tied at halftime with the No. 11 team in the country and if they made adjustments in the second half:

“I thought they made more of a conscious effort to throw the ball into the post more to Steven [Enoch]. They took Enoch out of the post and played [Dwayne] Sutton at the five. I don’t it was anything drastic that Chris [Mack] typically does throughout the course of the game. We’re a little bit different because we are small. I just thought, you’re on the road in an unbelievable environment and a great fan base and they amped it up a little bit and we didn’t respond quite as well as we needed to.”

On Landers Nolley’s shooting struggles as of late and what his message is to him:

“Don’t turn down a good shot. If you turn down a good shot, I’m going to take you out of the game. I’m not going to take you out of the game for missing a shot. But he had a tough night. Louisville, Chris Mack and the staff are really good coaches. They’re going to scout the fire out of the Hokies, as we do them. They can put a Sutton on him, a big, strong athlete on him and he had a hard time getting to some spots that he typically does. But that’s the only message I’ve had for him.”

Virginia Tech Players Q&A Highlights

JALEN CONE

On what Louisville did well in the second half:

“They came out and fought in the second half and we did not compete to that level and fight. We had some missed box-outs and they got some second chances. You can’t give teams like that a second chance to get the ball in the hoop.”

On if Louisville was determined not to get upset in the second half:

“A little bit. They made the winnings plays, which is what I call them, like getting your team second chances on the offensive end, getting stops. There were some times when we got stops but would take some bad shots and some of that is on me. I took some bad shots and put my team in a tough situation. But they had more winning plays than us – more offensive rebounds, hustle plays. They came down with the 50-50 balls, just got about all of them. We just got to get tougher.”

On the defense letting up some in the second half:

“They are a good team with a lot of people that can shoot. They knock down shots. But we just got to bounce back from that and come down on the other end and get a bucket and come down on the other end and get a stop. We just failed to do that sometimes.”

NAHIEM ALLEYNE

On what changed in the second half:

“In the second half, they started to get more aggressive. They started rebounding more and hitting the offensive glass. They were hitting some tough shots too. On the offensive end, we couldn’t hit any shots. But we kept moving the ball, just couldn’t hit shots or get to the line.”

On if Louisville’s defense did certain things differently in the second half:

“To us, the defense was the same because we were getting the open looks that we usually get. P.J. [Horne] was getting his shots up and he was 1 for 7, with that not being his game. So, next time he is going to knock those down.”

On Louisville’s second-half performance:

“They got on a run to start the second half. I think we did good defensively, we just couldn’t rebound the ball in the second half. They kept crashing the boards and got second-chance points.”