

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference vs. Clemson March 4, 2020

Opening Statement:

"We beat a good basketball team. I watched them on film a lot over the past couple of days. They mauled Louisville, beat Duke and beat Florida State in fine fashion. Aamir Simms is a really good basketball player, as is John Newman III and Tevin Mack. Those kids have had time, they have had good years in our league. P.J. Horne did an outstanding job on Aamir Simms. As good as he is, we were able to get to him twice in Game 1 down there and turn him over. Low and behold, we were able to get to him again tonight. I thought that put him back on his heels a little bit. He is an all-league player in my opinion, he's had that kind of year. To turn the ball over 12 times in the first half, I couldn't believe that statistic and we were still up five. Three of those were offensive fouls and we have put a real emphasis on doing a better job screening. We did that but we walked ourselves into a couple tough situations. All in all, it was a good night for our team. I am proud of our team. We battled through some things and stayed the course and found a way to get out of here in our home finale in Cassell. I am proud of our bunch."

On the change of play:

"When that thing goes in the basket the game is a heck of a lot easier. P.J. Horne making four [3s], Jalen Cone has just been banging out shots night in night out, Nahiem Alleyne hit one in the first half on a nice extra pass from Landers Nolley [II]. We had that nice distribution, and here comes Tyrece Radford slicing to the basket, he scored 16. When P.J. Horne has the ability to step out and make multiple 3s, that makes us tricky to guard. For him to make four, that is really difficult. I rank Clemson up there with the top two in our league for half-court defense. I was pleased with how we cut, passed and screened tonight. Then certainly, putting the ball in the hole."

On Hunter Cattoor's critics saying he couldn't play in the ACC:

"They don't know what the hell they're talking about. That's why bankers need to stick to banking, Mark Berman needs to stick to writing and I'll stick to coaching. That's [Cattoor doesn't belong in ACC] a stupid comment.

"I said when we got him last fall, I told my staff, 'I think that kid can play anywhere in the country.' And I come here, thank goodness, April 8 — I remember sitting in that office. I called him on Sunday night before I was introduced Monday. I told him what was going on, 'Please

don't say anything, this is just between us, but I want you to come.' Fortunately, that was a pretty easy recruitment. We had gone down that path, we had a pretty good relationship. I love his mom and dad, and he is a great person. Character wins. Kids that can shoot the basketball and that are tough — win. That kid has had a darn good freshman year and he's going to get better and better as we go along because he cares and it's important to him. That's about all I have to say about that."

On Tyrece Radford's impact on team:

"Just a level of toughness and a level of hard-nosed basketball. You know what you're going to get night in and night out. He leads our team in rebounding and he's 6-foot-1. He goes in there in traffic and he snares these three [rebounds] tonight on the defensive end. Just that, he scores just out of the flow of things. He runs in transition, he slashes when there's dribble penetration and his man turns his head to watch the ball. He's a really good offensive rebounder. I don't know if he had any of those tonight. Just a basketball player. There's no other way to describe it."

Clemson Head Coach Brad Brownell Q&A Highlights

Opening statement:

“Congratulations to Virginia Tech. I thought they played great tonight. We played very poorly, certainly some of that is because of the way they played, and some of it I thought was because our energy level for whatever reason was very low. Our communication was very poor, and for whatever reason mentally we weren’t in the game, and we didn’t recover. I thought we played soft on both ends. This is one of our poorer performances of the season. Again, I think Virginia Tech had a lot to do with it. They played outstanding, confident, great pace, ran their stuff well, made shots, the energy of the crowd helped, but I’m disappointed in the way we played and coached today. We did a bad job.”

On Clemson’s defense in the second half:

“I thought our defense was terrible. We talked about it at halftime, we thought it was very average in the first half. In the second half, our guys just didn’t compete very hard. Once they made a couple of shots, we just gave into it. Again, they ran their stuff great, their kids made big time shots, they played well, and we did not respond to being punched in the mouth. They punched us in the mouth, and we just took it and didn’t compete tonight.”

Virginia Tech Players Q&A Highlights

TYRECE RADFORD

On what he thinks about being considered on the All-ACC freshman team:

“I had no idea, you just brought it to me and it’s a blessing always. I’m continuing to stay in the gym, and next year is going to be a better season.”

On how does it feel to get back to the winning ways there:

“It feels good because Clemson’s a good team. They were hot. I think they beat the top 3 teams in our league (ACC) and they’ve been playing well. Coming into this game they were on fire, we had to put the fire out and we did that.”

On how the team got the win and what was different from today compared to recent games of losing:

“Last home game had a big part of it. We give it to our fans; wins, losses, they always tell us we are going to get the next one. They got high hopes in us and that focus on this game was big. We just came to play and we pulled it off.”

HUNTER CATTOOR

On the excessive turnovers in the first half but the defense coming up with stops to take a lead at halftime:

“That’s what they said coming into the locker room, we had 12 turnovers and that’s not our type of basketball. If we would’ve cut down on the turnovers, we would’ve been up 10 or 15 at halftime. So, we just knew if we took care of the ball and to keep making stops we would come out with the win.”

On did Coach Young give you the green light on any open shots:

“He said if it’s a good shot, then he lets you take it. He’s never going to say anything about a shot unless it’s a really, really bad shot. But if you’re feeling it, and you’re open, just let it fly.”

On do you consider that deep 3 a good shot:

“As long as it goes in I think he’s happy.”

On how far his range is:

“I have no idea, I’m pretty comfortable. I don’t think I’d ever come in and shoot by the volleyball line or the logo, but anywhere else I’m pretty comfortable.”

P.J. HORNE

On what was it about today's game to bring you back to your winning ways:

"Just taking care of the ball and moving the ball a lot. Making sure we shoot great shots instead of good shots, and just playing as a team."

On how good does it feel to get back to the win column:

"It feels really good. I feel like we can carry this momentum on to the next game and try our best there to get the win."

On how the team limited turnovers in the second half:

"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."