

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 16, 2021

NCAA Tournament First Round

Postgame Press Conference

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights

Opening statement:

"Hats off to Coach [Mike] White's Florida Gator team. Sometimes in this business you think you know how things are going to play out in terms of pace on either end of the floor and that's not exactly what you're going to get. This was a really good Virginia Tech rebounding team, and Colin [Castleton] and [Anthony] Duruji and the rest of the Gators outrebounded us by a pretty good clip. And then we just couldn't get stops. We were up eight and miss a layup and then they score. We were where we wanted to be and were in good shape, and then we didn't handle some things very well. I thought Florida played well. They advance and we go back to Blacksburg, and that's hard to swallow.

On Florida shooting 56 percent and hitting some tough shots:

"They did. They're such a ball-screen heavy team with [Tre] Mann and he's really good. I thought we did good job with him overall, though. We allowed just 27 points at the half and thought we were in great shape. They had turned it over nine times (in the first half) and we were up six. I thought we guarded really well. We did the pace we were looking for and everything was in place. We didn't load to the ball a couple of times then one thing led to another and I tried to tweak it a little bit. They were just a little bit better area than we were when it mattered most, unfortunately.

On Nahiem Alleyne's play and his 3 to send it into overtime:

"He's had a great year. I also think of [Hunter] Cattoor and all of these guys and what they put together over the long haul. To do it on this stage and to do it against the Florida Gators, he (Alleyne) was terrific. He had a great look and bounce about him. I thought he was really, really good on lock. He was matched with Scottie Lewis a couple of times. Just a tremendous performance. I'm pretty proud."

Virginia Tech Guard Nahiem Alleyne Q&A Highlights

On what his mindset was on his first NCAA Tournament:

"I'm not going to lie, I was a little nervous at first. But, at the same time, once the ball tipped up all the nerves went away. They (Florida's defense) were switching a lot and their bigs were switching onto me, so I had to take advantage. I had to go to the rack, get fouled and make plays."

On what Florida did defensively to make it harder to get quality 3-point attempts in the second half:

"Like I said, they were switching everything and were switching up. So, it was harder to get the ball movement how we like it and such. We were trying to screen for each other and do slips too. We tried to get to the rack as soon as possible, but at the same time they were switching everything. So, credit to them."

On describing his 3 that sent the game into overtime:

“I mean, it was a crazy feeling. It’s everybody’s dream to hit a big shot. Big-time players make big-time plays. That was a crazy feeling. But that really wasn’t the play. We were supposed to give the ball to Tyrece [Radford], but they were shading his side. So, Keve [Aluma] passed it to me and I just knocked it down.”