

Coaches Quotes
Florida State 72, Virginia Tech 85
Saturday, January 29, 2022
Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee, Fla.

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young

Opening Statement

"I am proud of them. After Wednesday, we kind of had our heads between our legs and feeling sorry for ourselves. But Thursday we were right back in the gym working on our game. We were working in the film room with our coaches and recognizing mistakes, defensive lapses, and turnovers that were costly. Now you come into Tallahassee with FSU turning people over at greater efficiency than everybody in the league, anybody in the country for that matter, with their length and toughness. We had two turnovers in the first half, eight in the second half, and 16 assists. I thought we fought and we tried admirably to box and sustain that box and be physical. They have pretty big people."

You talked about Sean Pedulla the past few games just his emergence today and his ability to be effective for you guys on that offensive side.

"I have great faith in him. He's helped us a lot. He recognized he played poorly, but he recognizes that he is a major component in this in this club. His play on Polite tonight was just significant. He's tough. He bows his neck, he moves his feet, and he keeps the ball in front of him. And he had four first half threes when we needed it. Our start of the second half was nothing short of atrocious."

Keve Aluma spent much of the game in foul trouble, but it didn't really seem to matter with a guy like Hunter Cattoor with 27 points. How big was Hunter's night, especially with all the foul trouble?

"We played a lot of that game without Aluma and we played a lot of that game without Justyn Mutts David N'Guessan and Darius Maddox really helped our team there. We had really nice contributions from our bench here a couple of games in a row. They showed some consistency and were really good against Miami. They came back in here today and played really well. It's encouraging."

Last two games, 55 points from your bench. What do you like about how that group seems to come along?

"It's a recognition that their play is critical to us. As we head down the stretch here with 10 league games remaining, to get Storm (Murphy) and Cattoor some in the first half, allowed for a couple more clicks and allowed them to be fresher as the game progressed. But Pedulla is playing and he's coming on here like gangbusters with Maddox. I am proud of (David) N'Guessan as well."

How are the guards able to block that off for you to be able to limit them to 14 shots?

"It's constant tweaks throughout a ball game. And we finally got to (something that I hate) going under a ball screen. But you don't want to go under two, you want to go under one. Aluma, Mutts, who's ever guarding the big rolling to the basket, we can manipulate that a little bit. Maybe he catches it a step off his sweet spot. Now, a kid steps behind it and makes a three while you're trying to go under...but that's what the game dictated. We were having a hard time and they have John Butler over on the backside corner, which they're quite good at throwing it back over there to John or Wilkes for a three. It puts you in a real pickle. I thought we did a good job making that adjustment, and it helped us."

As a team you had 18 rebounds. Would you ever have predicted a game where Aluma had four points, you had 18 rebounds as a team, but you still had a pretty dominant victory?

"Probably not, but you know what Chris, maybe a great sign is we head to the second half where Aluma doesn't have his best stuff [how many did Mutts have fellas? 10] You know, we typically get 25 from that bunch, but we got other people picking up their wagon and making winning plays. We're not going to make 18 threes night in night out, but you know to continue to get good play and smart intelligent playing from Sean and Darius and those guys is a real shot in the arm for rough rock club. Have a good day everyone."

Freshman Sean Pedulla

You made the most of your opportunity tonight. What was it like? How did it feel? And you know, with some of your big guys out with foul trouble, you, and Hunter kind of stepped up to carry the weight. What does it say about this team?

"I think it's just the next man up mentality. We can't sit and pout whenever some of our starters are out or some of our best guys are out. Just like, we got to win the game. That's the most important thing. So, some guy goes out, you've just got to pick up the wagon and take care of your job."

When I spoke with you out to the NC State game a couple weeks ago, you told me that you, David N'Guessan and Darius (Maddox) and the rest of the guys on the bench, were kind of finding your stride. You guys scored 55 points off the bench in the last two games. Is that kind of just you guys finding your groove a little bit more?

"I would definitely agree with that. I'd say the last three or four games we've definitely picked up some of the slack that we've had earlier on in the year, and we've just hit strong with what we are running with. Other than last game, I didn't think I did my best, but just next game mentality, just let it slip behind, focus on this game. Do what I could to get a win."

We heard really good things in the preseason, that you were showing you had some of this ability, but this is the first time you've really broken out and been able to show it. Kind of what's gone into this and how does it feel to finally have a breakout game like this?

"It feels great. I felt like I was in high school again just like hitting shots that I usually hit, so that part felt good. It's just confidence for me, especially because I hadn't done it yet, and that was like, once you get one going once you get a couple of shots in, just keep shooting, don't worry about it. Just let it fly. And this puts you into this mentality, you got to have another shooter. So once the first couple went down, that's just all I was thinking about. Like, the confidence thing is behind me now, it's just we got to win the game."

You went six for seven from three. What's your best shooting game ever in your career?

"I went 10 for 12 one game in high school. That was it."