



Coaches Quotes

Florida State 52, Virginia 65

John Paul Jones Arena

Charlottesville, Va.

January 5, 2019

Virginia Head Coach Tony Bennett

On Offense Of Braxton Key

"He's had a couple of real good practices, defensively he's been really good in position, and I told him that. Offensively, I thought he really let the game come, took the open shots when they were there and attacked when it was there. That's his game. He's kind of a complete player who does a little bit of everything and understands how to play. I was just as pleased with his defense as his offense. Ty [Jerome] and DeAndre [Hunter] offensively weren't scoring like they had been so the way Kyle [Guy] played in the first half offensively was a shooting clinic and then to see Braxton [Key], that was good that he stepped up. Florida State guarded us tough in the second half. We got some good looks but they made it harder and we weren't quite at the same clip."

On Defense

"We were locked in and we were ready to play defensively. Our length, our slides, we contested stuff. Did they miss some shots? Yes. Were we perfect? No. But we said we're going to work, and at half time I said, 'If you can, win this with your defense'. Offense we've talked about many times can come and go but defensively you just have to make them shoot a contested shot, we have to make them earn their shots, not give them second chance points. I think we did that at a very acceptable level for us."

On high amount of points off turnovers

"Well at the end they might have scored a few off of our turnovers but I think we were active, the crowd was great, our guys they were locked in. At times when we're playing we have some versatility size wise and you have some bigger bodies on the floor, whether it's Braxton [Key] and DeAndre [Hunter] or Jack [Salt] and Mamadi [Diakite], with all their size, that's pretty good. We clogged up some lanes, we showed on ball screens, and got back quick. Florida State, they weren't on their game so I understand that, but we took care of what we had to take care of."

Virginia Guard Ty Jerome

On the atmosphere in the building for the ACC opener:

"It was awesome today. It was awesome...The students are on break, but it was still an amazing atmosphere."

On Braxton Key stepping up today:

"That was big for us. I told Braxton that his moment was coming. There's been a lot of ups and downs. A lot of games he hasn't played a lot. I told him to stay ready. He works hard every day, so for him to come out and have 20 was big for us."

Virginia Guard De'Andre Hunter

On Braxton's offensive ability:

"He's been working his butt off in practice. He makes shots, he was rebounding, he was getting put-backs, and that just really helped his confidence, and he carried it through the whole game."

On beating a top-10 team:

"We just played defense. Our shots in the second half weren't really falling, so we had to rely on our defense. We practice it every day, so it's kind of second nature. When we make it hard for other teams to score, they get tired, and we can take advantage of that on offense."

Virginia Forward Mamadi Diakite**On Braxton Key:**

"He gives me a hard time in practice. He's very versatile. You could see that today. He made some threes, he was going to the offensive boards, he was able to lock [Terance Mann and Phil Cofer down.]. I'm not surprised he had 20 points."

On beating a top-10 team:

"I don't want to say it was easy. But we were focused. We stuck to the plan, which was for all 5 defensive players to rebound...and to not let them have easy offensive fast breaks."

Virginia Junior Guard Kyle Guy**On shooting process:**

"Like I always say, it is just my teammates having confidence in me and me having confidence in myself. When you hit a couple in a row Coach Bennett starts to run a couple plays for you and that really helps."

On back to back good games:

"I think just to go off of what I was saying earlier, the coaching staff and teammates have confidence in me. It really gets me going. I think Ty does a great job, he's a true servant he always trying to find me and get me going. He always comes and finds me in the timeout and tells me that he is about to get me going. I think that has a lot to do with it."

On a streak of 11 consecutive 3-pointers:

"I think it is a career high. My freshman year I had a 16-0 run by myself but that wasn't all field goals. That's a lot of points."

On potential future plans:

"I think I am doing a great job this year of blocking all that noise out and making sure that I am focused on day-by-day stuff. I think that has really helped me. I am absolutely happy for De'Andre and Ty getting that draft buzz. I've obviously seen that I'm not really on much, a chip on my shoulder, but I've been overlooked my entire life."

On recent story:

"I was really pleased with how Anna Katherine did that story on me. I think it was fantastic and like I said on twitter, I don't normally promote an entire story about myself, but I think it is something that can touch a lot of people and that is what I'm all about."

On starting ACC season off with a win:

"I think it is really just the coaching staff. They do a great job of scheduling non-conference teams that can prepare us for the ACC gauntlet. Just how we practice every day in practice is a testament to how we start off every year. "

Virginia Guard Braxton Key**On crowd:**

"The fans were great and I think they have been great all season. Coming from where I came from, we didn't have fan support like this. So, it's great to see fans whether we are playing Marshall or George Washington. I thought tonight was great. They cheered us on."

On his UVA season-high 20 points:

"It felt great. Like Kyle said, my teammates had confidence in me and I had confidence in myself. Whenever I had an open look, I tried to be more aggressive today, and shots were falling for me today. "

On playing at Virginia after transfer:

"Personally, I felt like I was going to play all year. I had no doubt in my mind that I was going to play. I prayed on it every day and left it up to the University, it was in their hands to make it happen and it happened for me. I'm blessed and grateful for it. I think it has taken a while to adjust, but with the type of guys we have, Ty, Kyle, De'Andre, and Jack we have a lot of leaders, not just one or two. It is easy to fit in and find your spot. "

On becoming a key part of the offense:

"I mean just coming to practice every day and having a positive attitude. I know I haven't been scoring the ball the way I wanted to. My teammates have been very lifting up for me these past couple days, this whole season for us. They know that I can do better and they have confidence in me, and it showed today. "

On guarding Phil Cofer:

"He is definitely difficult to guard. He has played in two games or three games prior to this, so we didn't have much film on him. He is really athletic and a guy who can shoot it from deep, gets to the rim and finishes well. Guarding a guy like that is definitely a challenge but I love a challenge."

On friendship with Kyle Guy:

"The day before I announced that I was going to transfer, I texted Kyle and said 'hey do you think UVA would still be interested in me?' He said he was working on it right away. Coach Bennett was the first coach to call me and it kind of went from there. We've been friends for five or six years. Having a friendship like that and being able to play with him every year has been fun."