

**Oct. 31, 2020**

**Virginia 44, No. 15 North Carolina 41  
Scott Stadium (Charlottesville, Va.)**

### **Bronco Mendenhall Press Conference**

#### ***Opening Statement:***

“I'm so proud of my team and I watch them every single day work and believe and work and believe and work and believe and stay together and work and believe and trust them. And listen to us as coaches and give us a chance to coach them. And I'm so thankful for them. I'm so proud of their effort. I'm so happy that they got a chance to have something tangible that comes out of all the work they put in - and how fitting. But, it's really every phase and every way possible to scratch out the victory and I just I couldn't be more pleased.

“I'm so proud of Brennan (Armstrong). I thought he played an amazing game and that's just the beginning. As we saw from the Duke game to the Clemson game when he had a chance to go back-to-back. Now you see Miami to this game and go back-to-back. He has such an amazing future, and running and throwing and leading and he's so competitive. We had all different kinds of contributors. Shane Simpson running the football. Wayne (Taulapapa) running the football. All the different receivers catching it. The tight ends catching it and some special teams plays. It was a complementary game. It took our entire program. I would wouldn't want it any other way. I'm really pleased with our offensive plan and production from beginning to end. I love the balance of the different contributors and I thought we controlled the game. They (North Carolina) are so explosive and you're never really safe with the way they can throw the ball, but we made enough plays and made the critical plays to win the game, and I'm happy and thankful to my team and just so, so gratified to see them celebrate.”

#### ***On the fake punt at the end of the game and who made the call:***

“No, it's my call because man if you don't get that they're in great field position and that's a game winner or probably a game loser, and the head coach is the only one that makes those. It is a lonely, lonely feeling. But, I trust the fake. I've seen it work in practice and I loved who was doing it (Keytaon Thompson). It didn't even go the way we thought it would. But, I thought it gave our team the best chance after all that battle. I wasn't going to go out passively. And so, yeah, I chose to go for it.”

#### ***On his belief that will comes before skill and whether the will to win or the skill was more important:***

“Yeah, and will before is sequential. It doesn't really mean by priority because you need both. I don't like to focus on the skill part until I think I'm seeing the resiliency and the determination is in place. It's been a challenge to get all that done during COVID and trying to get ready to play, but really that's happening while we're playing. It's just the timing is different. But, when I saw the different players touching the ball, especially, and the different contributors today - certainly the will was more important with enough skill. Collectively, that would be the formula. We have enough skill, collectively as a team, with a really strong mindset.”