

Nov. 21, 2020

**Virginia 55, Abilene Christian 15
Scott Stadium (Charlottesville, Va.)**

Bronco Mendenhall Press Conference

Opening Statement

"I think our team prepared well. I think they handled the unique nature of this game and we're going into the season at a high level. They've really done everything I've asked them, and we've asked them, to do as a coaching staff. It was just really gratifying to see smiles from so many players that hadn't had a chance to play this year in a real game after they've been just practicing, laboring and working and trying to help their teammates and this program move forward. To be able to get so many of those guys in the game was the best part of the game for me - seeing so many smiles and smiles from so many different players that that I hadn't seen out there playing and then I think just seeing their teammates that are starters or even the backups getting so much time. How they were cheering for the other guys, so that was a really gratifying."

On Brennan Armstrong's continued development

"He's gotten better every game. I love the way he played to start the season against Duke. I thought he was better against Clemson. I love the way he competed at Miami. (I) loved the game against North Carolina. (I) liked a lot in the Louisville game and now here's another one - all just different and distinct in their own way. He continues to get better and perform regardless of circumstance so he's, he's really a good player, a special person, good leader, and he's just beginning. And I was so impressed by it."

On injuries sustained on defense

"Yeah, it's the highest level of concern when we're thin already. That added to it and it was really unfortunate. It's always hard to see players get hurt. I hate that part of the business in this job, especially the players that I have such good relationships with and just admire. So yeah, it's an issue."

On the wild nature of the end of the game

"So, we literally were lining up players at timeouts and having them study the call sheet and have older guys telling younger guys what to do and yell from the sideline. Then Robert Anae was off a line. He called in the wrong play at the end. We were trying to run out the clock and we end up getting a double pass called out of our own end zone. So it's complete accident. It was just like, what the crap just happened? We're trying to substitute different players in and got off on the script by a line. It shows you what being off one line can do maybe in your life, but also in a football game, where you can go from running out the clock to a double pass. I guess if that didn't happen then D'Sean Perry doesn't have a chance to run an interception back for a touchdown. So, yeah, there's a silver lining and great moment for him."