

Virginia Tech Football
Players Q&A Highlights
Game 11 Postgame Conference
November 23, 2018

JOVONN QUILLEN

On the game-tying fumble recovery causing a momentum shift:

“I don't know if y'all [the media] remember, but in the UNC game, we kind of did the same thing where we forced the ball out at the one [yard line], got it back, and then drove down and scored. And when that [the fumble during the UVA game] happened, I just knew that somebody had to get the ball and make a play. It was in our endzone, our base, so I knew we had to go get it. I was nervous that it was going to go out of the back of the endzone actually.”

On the season so far being potentially disappointing:

“I'm not going to say that it has been disappointing. We have had a lot to learn, and we don't like using the word young, but we have had a lot to learn. Even though we were losing, we were still coming together as a team, and so in this game right here, we just had to put the cake together.”

TRE TURNER

On being in such a back and forth game:

“It was pretty cool, I mean it was my first time playing Virginia because I'm a freshman. I knew it was a big rivalry coming into the game, but I had never been a part of it. Just going through the whole game and all of the emotions going through everybody's head made it really fun to play in that game.”

On constantly coming up with big plays:

“Since I've started playing football, just every catch I've gotten I've tried to make a play. I try to score on every play, every time I get the ball. Here, all of the guys call me ‘Big Play Tre’, so I just try to do something every time I get the ball.”

RYAN WILLIS

On the throw to Dalton Keene and his catch late in regulation:

“The play was kind of broken, and at that point in the game you just have to make something happen. I kind of threw up a prayer, and I really trust Dalton. He's one of my go-to guys, and he made a play for us. He stepped up, and he steps up every week actually. I'm proud of the whole

team. It was really a team effort. The defense came out and played great during the first half and did awesome throughout the whole game, and I'm just proud to be a Hokie tonight."

On what the win means to him and for extending the season:

"It means everything. That was for the seniors. I wasn't going to let them go out on a bad note. We still have a chance to turn the season around and we can still have a winning record if we play our cards the right way. We're just trying to keep the next streak alive and we're trying to go to a bowl game. We owe it to these seniors. They've done everything for this program, and they've shown us the ropes. We're just trying to give back what we can to them."

RICKY WALKER

On the last play of the game:

"I remember in the huddle thinking that we were up by three and that I didn't want to go to another overtime, so I was thinking about how we could win. I said 'A turnover wins the game, so let's go out and do it!' Next thing you know, coach called a blitz and I was going to execute, but I looked back and the ball was on the ground. I saw maroon jerseys hop on it, and they [the people in the crowd] just went wild. Everybody started running on the field, and it was my best feeling yet as a Hokie."

On his last Commonwealth Cup game and facing an extremely confident UVA team:

"This was definitely the best game playing against these guys in my career. Just, blow after blow, they make a play, we make a play. The first half was pretty dominated by us, but in the second half they came out swinging even harder. Guys didn't quit, and that drive by our offense with Dalton making that catch. It's unbelievable stuff. That's two years in a row that on senior day we've had crazy finishes, last year with Pitt and today with UVA."

HEZEKIAH GRIMLEY

On Tre Turner emerging as a playmaker and his development:

"I was his host on his official [visit]. From then to now, you can see he made a big change from high school in his maturity. As far as his play making, you can just see that he's comfortable now. When he first got here he was just filling stuff out, but now he knows his ability."

On games like this, where there's a strong will to win and effecting their confidence:

"They show us that we can be *that* team, of course we didn't want to be the team that ended the streak [against UVA]. We knew what was at stake, but games like this make us realize that we can be bigger than what we have been in the past."