

Virginia Tech Football

Associate Head Coach, Defensive Coordinator Bud Foster Q&A Highlights

Media Conference vs. Virginia

November 23, 2018

On what it meant to win this game:

“I’m really proud of our kids. They have been through a lot these last few weeks and they have just kept coming to work every day. We have improved but unfortunately, it’s been inch by inch rather than foot by foot. It showed that they have improved tonight. It showed that they have character and that they care about each other. I thought we played extremely well in the first half and not so much towards the end of the second half. We continued to fight and play. We have had some tight games with Virginia, but I don’t think there has been a complete game like this in this streak. I thought it was a great football game. Both teams competed hard and I’m very proud of how our kids hung in there. I’m happy for our kids because they come to work every day and they have been very resilient. I’m very proud of them.”

On Emmanuel Belmar’s fumble recovery at the end of the game:

“I’m happy for him. I’m happy for a lot of guys on this football team. I’m happy for Emmanuel Belmar because he is a tough, blue-collar lunch pail guy. I’m really happy for our seniors like Ricky Walker. Walker has been such a tremendous football player here. Vinny Mihota has been such a tremendous football player here. Those are two guys that came to this program to turn this program around and they helped us do that the last couple of years. This season hasn’t gone the way that we wanted it to but they have been great role models for the younger guys.”

On being in the booth again for this game:

“Our guys on the sideline did an awesome job. Being up in the booth does help me see some things. I could see some of the things they were doing particularly at the end. They were going to run the QB and we ended up blitzing a couple things. I was probably tardy on a couple calls in the third quarter with their multiple formations. Our guys did an awesome job on the sideline. Charley Wiles, Tyrone Nix, Justin Hamilton, Jack Tyler all did a great job. It was a great effort by everyone. I don’t know if my heart could handle being down in there any more than what we did today. It was just a great team effort all the way around. Offensively, they responded when we gave up some plays. We played winning football when it’s all said and done. I’m just really proud of all those guys.”

On all the injuries in the second half and if they are running out of steam:

“It could be that and maybe it could be a physical or mental thing. It was a hard fought game all the way to the very end. Our kids fought to the very end. I’m very proud of that.”

On how Bryce Perkins performed:

“I’ve seen that Bryce Perkins is the difference for that football team. He is a dynamic athlete with the ball in his hand. He is accurate and made a big-time throw on their first score. The disappointing thing is that we gave up a big play on a five-yard out. We missed two tackles on that play that turned into a 75-yard touchdown run. Those are plays that we have to eliminate and those are plays that haven’t gone against us over the years. The last touchdown that they got we brought the pressure and you just have to go make the tackle. Our coverage in the back end of the second half was awful. We have to be better than that and more consistent than that. We talked about as a defense going into this game that we

have to execute every play. Jovonn Quillen made a great play. We have to continue to improve, compete and do what they are taught to do. That's the part that's made us go up and down in this stretch."

On if it will be challenging to come down from this win and prepare for Marshall:

"I would hope not. We have a lot to play for when it's all said and done. We are going to play a really good and talented Marshall football team. I'd like to play someone else but it is what it is. Coach (Justin) Fuente kind of said we are in a playoff scenario and we had to win today to go play the next one. We will have to win again to go play another one. I thought our kids responded today and we are going to take tomorrow off and come back to work Sunday. Our kids will be excited to build on this and give us an opportunity to continue this streak. This streak is really special and it's hard to do. They don't just give bowl games away. I know a lot of people think they do because there are more bowl games out there these days. Bowl games are hard to earn especially with a young group that's working to improve every day."

On how beneficial it is to extend the season and get extra practices with such a young team:

"Without a doubt that's been a big part of our success over the years (which) is basically having another spring practice. We have to win this next one to get that opportunity but we do get another week of practice. I'm hoping we can get another couple weeks of practice after this next game. We are going to have to have a great week of preparation to extend the streak. It gives us another opportunity to go play another one which I'm really excited about and I'm happy for our kids."