**Virginia Tech Football**

**Defensive Coordinator Bud Foster Q&A Highlights**

**Media Conference**

**October 2, 2018**

***Opening statement***

“First, I’ll start it off this week. I want to say congrats to Coach [Frank] Beamer. There are a lot of big things going on for him this week. I’m really excited for him. It’s surely well-deserved and I couldn’t be happier. In my eyes, he is Virginia Tech. It’s tremendous recognition and I’m happy for him. I’m also anxious to see what it looks like (laughing).”

***On what Notre Dame QB Ian Book brings to the table:***“I’m really impressed by their football team, number one. They’re big and physical up front and they have some dynamic skill kids and maybe the largest receivers we’ve seen. You’re talking about guys that are 6’ 4” or taller at the receiver position. They also have the No. 1-rated tight end [Alizé Mack] in the country along with a couple other guys. They got some dynamic backs and their top guy [Dexter Williams] played for the first time last week and rushed for over 160 yards against Stanford. But this guy, Book, to me, he just has that ‘it’ factor. He’s got a live arm and has a tremendous presence about himself. He also can escape the pocket and there’s been much said about the other player [Brandon Wimbush], who can run and has physical abilities. But this guy, Book, can do it all, he can run and create things and doesn’t seem to panic when things aren’t there. And he makes good decisions.”

***On losing one of their top offensive lineman [Alex Bars] and how the Irish’s O-line now looks:***“Like I said earlier, I think they might only have one senior on the offensive line, but they’re big and physical. When you think of Notre Dame, that’s about what you would think they all would look like up front. They are all 6’ 5” or taller and around 315 pounds. They’re big and strong, making them one of the better offensive lines we’ll face, if not the best offensive line that we’ll face. Just overall, they’re an extremely talented team. They’re a 50-50 group as far as run-pass percentage, particularly on first and second down. They do a lot of one-on-one blocking up front and it’s an impressive group when it’s all said and done.”

***On how the young defensive ends played this past weekend against then-No. 22 Duke:***“I thought that TyJuan Garbutt really played well and was active. I thought Zion [Debose] could have been a little more active and productive. But among those young ends, I thought TyJuan really made some plays and was a little bit more of a factor than I wanted him to be. Obviously, I’ve said it before, the best teacher is experience the more that those guys can, the more they’re going to continue to get better. I thought Emmanuel Belmar played extremely well, very physical, played hard and rugged. Then Houshun Gaines obviously had a big-time game.”

***On DB Jovonn Quillen having a big game against Duke and what he did in practice leading up to it:***“I was disappointed in the week before against Old Dominion with him, just in his overall approach, but I thought he really responded this past week. He did that in practice and that carried over into how he played. Your preparation, it’s not just his but everybody, people’s attitude and approach is everything. Those are what the game demands for someone to be successful. As I’ve said before, last spring and summer, he’s one of our most improved players and we need him to step up – and he did that this week. I was really proud of him and we need him to continue to move in that direction.”

***On guarding against inconsistency from the defense in its last two games:***“Well, we’ve been there before. Sometimes with a young group, you tell them that the burners hot and don’t touch the burner. That’s what we told them the week before and they still touched the burner anyway, they didn’t believe us. But, hopefully, they realize what we’re talking about after 35-plus years of coaching of what we’ve done, seen and experienced. You have to experience those things yourself to understand that what they’re saying is true and it’s painful when you don’t do it the right way. So, I’m hoping that we come out today and have a big-time practice. I hope they come out and make every rep count during practice because that is what you’re ultimately doing – you’re preparing for Saturday. And those reps count just as much today as they will on Saturday.”