

**Virginia Tech Football**  
**Defensive Coordinator Bud Foster Q&A Highlights**  
**Postgame Media Conference**  
**November 17, 2018**

***Opening statement***

“I am disappointed but I truly believe that we are on the right track with this group and improving. It’s been some trying times, but we’ve got great leadership. Its already been proven what we can do when things are right and we’re battling through some times and one thing I’m really proud of how our kids are fighting and working. We aren’t always getting the results we want, but you’re seeing the resolve and improvement. Being here for 32 years, the leadership is as good as its been and I’m excited about it (the future of the football team).”

***On seeing a stride in the run defense against Miami:***

“Yeah, we did. In the second half, they popped the one play about 41 yards when it was third-and-two. I blitzed up the pipe. We called the defense, but probably not in that situation or we haven’t repped in that situation in a while. The linebacker blitzed the ‘B’ gap and the end leaked up the field, and there was a crease there. That’s on me right there. You take that play out of it, and I thought, for the most part, our gap fits were in check for the most part. They did a pop a run. We were in just a gap-fit defense, and there should not have been a play and that was the one that led to the swing pass touchdown. We made a minus-yardage play and then busted the coverage. We should have been in great fits there. That should have been a great defense for that particular play, and that’s the frustrating part from a coaching standpoint because that’s something we rep every day. Coming off a block and making a play, that’s just part of the game now. But all in all, you take a couple of plays out ... I was pleased with our run fits.”

***On accelerating the growth of young guys this season and how it can help in the future:***

“I can’t look into the future. I hope it will when it’s all said and done. It has in the past, and I hope it will with this group in the future as well. There are some tough lessons, and the ones you want are the ones that hate to lose and understand this feeling. They’re the ones that can look themselves in the mirror, and ‘Did I give my best effort? Did I strain to the best of my ability tonight? Did I execute the way I wanted to and the way my teammates wanted me to?’ Those are the things that we’ve got to look at and continue to grow and develop that way because I think that’s where we can be better. I think we’ve got such a young group that some of them need to learn how to strain and push themselves to limits that they think they can’t go to yet. We’ve got to make sure that we’re pushing to that level where they know they can go.”

***On whether this season has been the most challenging one he’s faced:***

“You know, it’s been an interesting year to say the least. That’s what coaching is all about. It’s not every year where we’re going to win 10 or 11 games like we’ve won, unfortunately. Did I foresee it being this type of year going into the season? No, there were some guys that we weren’t expecting to lose that were playmakers for us and game changers for us. But that’s part of coaching and developing young men. The key to it is these young men understanding that

you've got really quality coaches. It's proven in their track records – that if they trust the process, buy into the process, trust their training, come out to work every day and work with a purpose, then good things are going to come. That's what this group is buying into and that's going to come as we move forward.”

***On coaching from the booth today and how it offers a different perspective***

“That was a little different today. I don't know how long it's been. I've never called a game. This is the first time I've called a game from the booth. I think the last time I was in there was '92 or '91 or '90 ... I can't remember. That's a lot of fourth quarters ago. It's been a long time ago. I know somebody's going to ask, 'What's up?' I was under the weather early in the week, and the docs recommended that I go to the box just for safety purposes. I might get up there and go again. Who knows?”