

Virginia Tech Football
Head Coach Justin Fuente Q&A Highlights
Postgame Media Conference – Marshall
December 1, 2018

Opening statement:

“Awfully happy for our kids. Thanks for everyone coming out to support our guys as we tried to get bowl eligible. Getting to the number 26 was a part of this, and I really felt it was bigger than that. These kids in the locker room stood tall and stood strongly when other people ran and when things weren’t well and things were tough, we stayed together and we continued to battle, and that was the only way to keep the two streaks alive”.

On Ricky Walker setting the tone with the turnover on the first play:

“I thought it was huge, a big turnover there in a game that was going in, it was evenly matched. Big-time play forcing the fumble and recovering the fumble”.

On keeping the bowl streak alive, how important is the extra practice for the bowl game and the future:

“We need time in the weight room when we’re not practicing. We need that time because we’re such a young team and to get that extra time is going to be huge for us. We have a lot of freshman on the team and that’s going to be huge for us. It gives us chance for us to practice and for those guys to stay together.”

On unifying the team instead of squandering, is it because of the coaching staff or is it internally, in the locker room:

“Ultimately, the kids have to make that choice, and I think it’s a great mix of older guys and younger guys who are smart enough to observe on how they go about their business on a daily basis. And you want those guys, those guys being the older guys, to go out the right way.”

On possibility of playing Memphis in a bowl game:

“My gut reaction being 100-percent honest with you is that there’s so many of those people, and those kids over there, that we recruited and were involved in their lives, and I’m not on the quest to be on the opposite side of that game or not.”

On coming in too emotionally high after beating UVA:

“First day, I felt really good. As far as being emotional ready to play, I had no question.”

On it being an unusual game with the fog with the stadium, etc.:

“I would say this, first of all, we talked about it during the week, and I didn’t really know what to expect, and we got to be prepared for whatever the situation. We play for Virginia Tech and Hokie Nation, but those kids play for each other first and foremost and so it kind of transcended into the week that I don’t know what it’s going to look like. Now, I would say, it was pretty loud with the people that came out and supported our kids, and particularly during the game in the first half. The turnout wasn’t exactly the same, but it was similar.”