**Virginia Tech Football**

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

**Media Conference**

**September 25, 2018**

***On how the defensive unit has responded after the Old Dominion game:***

“Well, we will find out a little more today when we have practice this evening, but first, I thought we had a good meeting on Sunday. Obviously, there was disappointment and a lesson learned with a lot of young guys. There’s a fine line at this level with your opponent. I thought they bounced around well at practice. We can move and move forward, but we can learn from it. That’s what we are going to do hopefully. I would say our kids have been good at responding, but we will found a little more today and tomorrow during our heavy days of work.”

***On the young guys taking that in-game coaching and applying it to the field being an issue:***“That was a little bit of it and that’s what I told our kids defensively. Instead of pulling together sometimes we kind of became undisciplined, and that’s not who we are or what we’ve been over the years. We knew that if we were going to be in a tight ball game, we needed to keep our composure – that was one thing. The second thing is the young players taking the coaching and adjustments and apply them from the sideline to the field. Those are things that we did during our two-and-a-half weeks of camp. What we spent a lot of our time on early was preparing for a season, not for that first football game and that’s what I talked to our kids about. We got to be able to carry some things over.”

***On getting the DBs back into being productive when defending the pass:***“Again, my hats off to Old Dominion and how its quarterback came in and made some throws that Aaron Rodgers makes, with putting the ball on the money. We had some kids in some good spots but we just didn’t make the plays, ODU’s receivers came down with the plays. That’s part of it, we got to go back and work on our technique and fundamentals. Again, we got a group of kids that it was game number three for a lot of them, I’m not making any excuses, but every snap is a learning experience and the best teacher is experience.”

***On with the loss of DE Trevon Hill, how will the team generate pressure:***“That’s going to be important, we are going to need to have guys step up. But that’s part of it, whether you have an injury or whatever the situation is when you lose somebody, there is going to need to be somebody who steps up. Houshun Gaines has shown that he can do some things, but we need guys like Zion Debose, Emmanuel Belmar, TyJuan Garbutt or Nathan Proctor to all of the sudden be thrown in the mix. I want to see them play fast.”

***On Duke’s quarterback situation and its offense:***“Number one, I’ll say this, I have the utmost respect for David Cutcliffe. Whoever we play during a season, I think Duke is the most prepared, best-coached team that we play every year. He’s done a tremendous job recruiting and they have beaten some really good teams and they’re extremely talented. They’re probably where we were a couple years ago with a prominent senior group. Their quarterback is a very athletic guy and they do a lot of RPO stuff with him, which is a pain to deal with. This one of the better Duke teams we’ve seen. We’ll have to stop the run game because they don’t beat themselves with not turning the ball over. That’s the makeup of a quality team.”