

**Virginia Tech Football**  
**Offensive coordinator Brad Cornelsen**  
**Bye Week Media Conference**  
**October 23, 2019**

***On having his third-string quarterback enter the game:***

“It’s hard to prepare for Quincy [Patterson] in that position. I had confidence in those guys, they’ve all been the right kind of guys that have prepared, they’ve all gotten some reps at different times. It was a little bit of a wild game from that standpoint, but those guys didn’t bat an eye. Quincy, when he got in there, was ready to go, he had been waiting for that opportunity and made the most of it.”

***On his decision to switch to Quincy Patterson after Ryan Willis’ first two drives:***

“A little bit of both. Certainly with what Hendon [Hooker] did for a couple of weeks with the game planning, the direction we were headed, it certainly fit Quincy a little bit better. Willis still has to stay ready. Each game is different, each defense is different, the way the game plays out is different. They all got to be ready to go.”

***On how limited was the play calling for Patterson:***

“There are certainly things that we can still do with him in there. The looks we were getting and what we were able to do to control the ball. The way the game plays out when it’s close or you’re ahead, obviously gives you the opportunity to do whatever you want to do to some extent. When you get behind, you feel like you have to open it up a little more. Sometimes you don’t have a choice. What we’re doing with Quincy works towards his strengths and that’s what we are going to continue to do. We’re going to have to throw the ball more with him in there. He knows that, I know that, everybody knows that. And he can and we’ll continue to develop in that area. What he adds as a guy carrying the ball back there is what his strength is and what we’re going to continue to work through.”

***On his decision to throw the ball on fourth-and-three in overtime:***

“When you can run the ball like that, whether you have a big, strong running quarterback or your run game is really good, those are the kind of matchups you get. It’s a simple game at that point. The defense packs it down in there and you get a one-on-one. Regardless of who’s playing, making the game simplified for those guys like that is awesome for them. That’s no different than we’ve ever done and we’ll always do. When you can boil the game down to that, that’s why there’s always been such an emphasis for us in the run game, that’s what it does for you.”

***On whether Patterson's throw to WR Damon Hazelton could have been any better:***

"I thought it was a really good throw. We talk about not overthrowing the go balls. That's something he is continuing to get better at. The right amount of touch, we want to lay the ball on the outside, that sort of thing. I thought both guys did a really great job executing in that moment."

***On how he decided what plays to run on the overtime two-point conversions:***

"You have a menu of two-point plays that as the season goes on, those are the ones you usually fall back on, that you carry into the game, that you work during the week. Certainly the one we finished with was not a typical two-point play. We were just running a quarterback sweep. We felt like the way we had been running the ball, the situation makes it easier to call a run and to call a quarterback run when it's not completely do or die. When you get the ball second and you've already seen what's happened, I think that can play in it also."

"The first two-point play, that was one that we carry every single week and we were confident that he could get in there. I thought he made a really good play. I thought he made the right decision and a really good throw. It was tight coverage and those guys were battling and we couldn't get to it. I thought he did a nice job executing that one too."

***On whether Patterson get more No. 2 reps heading into Notre Dame:***

"We're kind of working through that. This week is just going to be us getting better again, so those guys are all going to be working through there and getting reps and getting Hendon healthy. That's something we'll revisit when we get to Sunday practice and start focusing on the game, getting to our scout work for what we're going to see against Notre Dame. "

***On the mentality of the offensive line getting 'juiced' when they're blocking for Patterson and TE Dalton Keene:***

"Yeah I think that can happen. It helps when you are just running the ball and moving and getting yardage. There's no question that the big guys feed off of that. There's certainly an element to that, absolutely.:

***On having the confidence to call a pass on fourth down in a do-or-die situation:***

"Well it was the right look. The people were in the right spots and executed. I think the people that aren't involved in the game get more caught up in the actual situation than probably the coaches and the players do. You operate like you've always done and call *the best play you think you have and the players go execute it. It was a great job by*

*those guys doing what they're supposed to be doing and not letting that moment interfere with what they've been coached to do."*

***On how close is RB Jalen Holston to getting back and playing Keene as a running back:***

*"Jalen [Holston] is getting better, he's still working through it. He continues to progress. With Dalton [Keene] at tailback, that's something we've been messing around with a little bit. First of all, thinking of him as a guy that can protect on 3rd and long. It gives you a bigger body to protect blitzes. What he's shown us with the ball. He runs physical and there's a little more instinct there than I think what you would think of as a typical tight end. He's just so smart. He can go execute with very little practice at certain things. We'll continue to use him in as many different ways as we can.*

***On his thoughts about G Austin Cannon:***

*"I'm not sure we're more proud of anyone in our program than him [Austin Cannon]. He's probably just the best teammate on the entire team since the day he stepped on campus. Just to watch him continue to get better, physically become a dominate guy and then all of a sudden, he has an opportunity. Not just that he got an opportunity, he played well. He earned it and he's taken it and run with it. I'm excited about him and we need him and the other guys to do the same thing."*

***On changing players in the offensive line from drive to drive:***

*"It doesn't happen a whole lot but it certainly has happened at times in the past. I think it is certainly healthy. Those guys stay fresher and the competition that adds when you do have a situation like that, it's a healthy situation to be in."*

***On a Bud Foster memory that sticks out to him:***

*"The thing for me with Bud [Foster] is, when you're going against your team in practice and you roll out there every day, Bud does not want to give you anything. There are certain guys that are like, bend don't break and don't want to give up any big plays, he doesn't want to give up a yard. It's a battle every single day when we're going in crossover, spring ball, fall camp, off weeks, whatever it is. That mentality that he has and that aggressive style that he coaches with on defense. Those schemes, he's really innovative and the schemes that he has really gives you problems. Watching him from a far for a long time, you don't really know until you get in the middle of it. That's the thing that will always stick out in my mind. How hard it is to make yards period."*