

Virginia Tech Football
Defensive Coordinator Bud Foster Q&A Highlights
Notre Dame Week Media Session
October 29, 2019

On disrupting Notre Dame QB Ian Book:

“He is obviously a talented guy. He’s very capable of throwing the football and very capable of running the football. I think the one thing - just my observation, is that he has been very quick to tuck it instead of just setting in the pocket and let things happen develop a little bit. I think that has been the biggest thing I’ve seen in the last couple weeks. Michigan, that game just got out of hand and they brought on a lot of pressure and just created a lot havoc and that wasn’t necessarily the case with USC. They moved the ball well in the first half and next thing you know it’s a close football game at the end. He’s a really dynamic player, the biggest thing we have to do is stop the run. That still has to be our first and foremost. Hopefully we can create a little bit of pressure, I think any quarterback if you can hit him a few times and make him move his feet a few times then they have a tendency sometimes to look at the rush. That looked like a lot of what happened last week against Southern California but it was just a good football game at the end.”

On getting DL DaShawn Crawford and CB Caleb Farley back:

“DaShawn has worked this week, obviously he came off a high ankle sprain so that’s a tough injury to come back from. But he’s been working at it and we are expecting him to be ready to go. Caleb has practiced. It has given us an opportunity to get some guys back and work on some things. This week we have obviously had a couple extra days to prepare for Notre Dame and work our practice for those guys. Now we have got to go fine tune it these next couple days. We are going to have to play well, they are a really good football team. I know everyone is disappointed but they will come and play good football and I’m sure they are disappointed with that game. It is a great challenge for us but it is also a great opportunity against a really great program a well-coached team, a dynamic football team with athletes on both sides of the ball. We are going to have to play extremely well.”

On the play of DL Jared Hewitt:

“I would say he had his best complete football game against North Carolina. He got matched up against a freshman over there and really played to his experience. I’ve seen a guy that has taken his role as a leader number one. Number two, that leadership carries over not just being a rah-rah guy but he is also a leader by example, his performance and his practice habits Tuesday through Friday. He is being a great leader in that way and that is showing in his play. I think that is the biggest thing that I’ve seen from Jared, that he is doing it all the time whether it’s Tuesday or Wednesday. That is the key to our success, or anyone’s success. You have to practice how you play. We are getting closer with our younger group and he is being a great example in setting the standard for that. That is probably his biggest reason why he is playing the way he is.”

On the atmosphere at Notre Dame when Tech played there three seasons ago:

“That was my first time there. I grew up in the Midwest, I grew up watching Notre Dame (highlights) every Sunday morning when I was six or seven years old. There was only four stations at the time and everything was in black and white. For me it was really pretty cool. I remember walking out there and standing in the middle and taking it in. Seeing ‘Touchdown Jesus’ in the background, as a fan that was a pretty cool experience. You pretty quickly forget about that because all of a sudden kickoff is coming up and you have to get ready to play the game. It was a great atmosphere and a great environment. It was senior night for those guys, they didn’t have a great year but they had really talented guys on offense. That was a big win for us and a big win for our program. We are going to have to play that way again when we go up there. But it was a great environment and they’ve added to it. I think when we were there they were building the press box so that’s going to be new. Actually when we were getting dressed they were tearing up the visiting team locker room. As we were showering there were guys ripping out tiles. It will be interesting to see what all that looks like since they updated it.”

On the team’s recent record coming off a bye week:

“Sometimes I think you get away from that competitive mode. It’s a long time and you lose a little bit of your edge. That is something we have really tried to focus on this week. We have had really intense practices and intense crossover work to keep that edge about us. We’ve talked about that, we have to come right out the gate and play well and be fast starters and that is going to be important particularly coming off the bye week and playing on the road.”

On DL Zion Debose and the possibility of him playing Saturday:

“I’m hoping so ... We will have to kind of play it by ear. He really didn’t do much today. He has practiced the last couple of days but he didn’t do much today so we will just see how he feels as we move forward.”

On Virginia Tech’s involvement with Notre Dame Linebacker, Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah:

“Yeah, it’s been a while, I do remember him he was a long athletic kid at that time. You just kind of see where his development is going to go as an athlete, what position he would be and that kind of gets into numbers. He was a talented kid big, raw athletic kid back in the day.”

On previous players who have been ‘massive overachievers’ for Tech:

“There are guys that come to mind right off the get go, Brandon Semones, George Del Rico, Cody Grimm, those are guys that all of a sudden became big time football players. We needed those guys to win and we did. Those guys come to the top of my head. This program wasn’t built on four or five star guys. It was about getting the right guys in our program that were good football players number one, but two that playing for Virginia Tech was extremely important to them. We wanted achievers, guys that were going to come to work every day and work to improve and get better. That was the mantra of the Lunch Pail, that we were going to have to be a blue-collar group to get to where we wanted to get to and we did that. Along that way we had some guys who were highly recruited and our recruiting got better, winning takes care of that. We are heading back in that direction right now which is exciting. Those are guys that

come right off the top of my head, some of them were walk on kids. Cody was a walk on, George and Brandon were not.”

On whether a coach can tell right away that they were under-recruited:

“Yeah, you see all of a sudden that they are really good football players and they are more athletic than you give them credit for. They slip through the cracks somehow and programs will say we made a mistake on that guy. Kam Chancellor is the perfect example. He is a guy that nobody recruited and he has had a stellar career here and then obviously what he did at the next level is phenomenal. We knew with Kam that we had found a diamond in the rough.”