

**Virginia Tech Football**  
**Defensive Coordinator Bud Foster Q&A Highlights**  
**Pitt Week Media Session**  
**November 19, 2019**

***On where CB Caleb Farley has improved the most in his career:***

“Number one it’s his experience and number two and most importantly, it’s his practice habits. He’s working hard to be disciplined in his techniques and fundamentals on a consistent basis, because that’s what that position is all about. Now you have to have ability, and he can run like a deer. That’s a big-time asset, but by the same token he’s running backwards most of the time, or initially, while guys are moving forward, so there’s a lot of technique and fundamentals involved. That’s where he has really worked hard to improve those areas. I’ve worked with a lot of guys who can run but are not very good DBs, and he’s a guy that’s putting it all together. You’re seeing that in his performance which goes back to his practice habits and his consistency in that part of it.”

***On whether the approach to defending Pitt will be different than last year’s game:***

“Not necessarily, they can still run the football. They’ve got a great core of receivers, their tight ends are talented, they’re big and physical up front. They’re still to me the same football team, and they’re capable of running the football. Obviously, we can’t let them get the run game started, that’s critical in any team’s success, but we have to be really good on early downs. That’s probably where they’re different, they have a little more pro mentality as far as throwing the football and that mindset. I’ve known (offensive coordinator) Mark Whipple for a while, he’s an outstanding football coach, he’s had a great career at the college level and the NFL. You see a little more of the NFL flavor with him now than what I saw last time when we played against him, he was the coordinator at Miami a few years ago. When you think they’re going to run it they’re going to throw it, and when you think they’re going to throw it they’re going to run it. It’s a good mix, and they have the capabilities to run the football. Their backs 21 and 23 are physical guys, 19 and 22 are kind of like Keyshawn King for us. They can get out of the backfield in the passing game, but they also are home run hitters. It’s a complete football team, and they’ve got a quarterback who has a live arm and an extremely accurate arm. I just think they’re trying to utilize all their assets when it’s all said and done.”

***On whether the coaching staff needs to give the defense extra motivation against Pittsburgh:***

“No, no we don’t. I mean they’re the defending Coastal Division champs, and they ran the ball on us like Georgia Tech ran the ball on us. There’s a lot of carryover from our defense a year ago, and that’s the one thing that you’re starting to see is the experience starting to come into play. The guys, as far as their practice habits and their consistency to perform, you’re starting to see that come into play, but again we have to get ready to play another game. As good as we played this last week, it’s going to be a different game and a different mindset, it’s going to be a physical football game. Pittsburgh is big and physical on both sides of the ball, and we’re going to have to get ready for a 60-minute fist fight so to speak. By the same token, we have to be disciplined on the back end in the passing game. They’ve got very capable receivers that can

take it to the house and run by you, so we have to go play another complete football game against this team. I think Pitt right now is playing really well, this is the first time we've really had crossover with them as far as looking at them offensively, but we've seen them on defense and I think they're really talented and really good on defense, so we're going to have to play a complete football game as a football team this weekend."

***On whether video of the goal line stand against Pitt in 2017 could help motivate the team:***

"Well, yeah but we've used that in the past. I think the biggest motivation factor is we can put on last year's game and show that we were manhandled across the board. The guys that played against them in 2017, none of them are here. It was a different football team that played them last year, but we're a different football team that's going to play Pitt this year too. That's just been our body of work, but I think that the biggest motivation factor is we have a chance to do something special, and we're getting ready to play a really talented football team and were going to have to play really well."

***On what the defensive seniors have meant to Virginia Tech football:***

"We only have three seniors if I'm not mistaken, or maybe four because Daniel Griffith is going to walk out, but between Reggie [Floyd], between Jovonn Quillen, Ish [Ishmiel] Seisay, Daniel Griffith, those guys have just been amazing. Reggie has been a guy that followed suit with some of his buddies there with Greg Stroman and Timmy Settle but has been involved and made some great plays for us over the years and been involved in this turnaround from Coach Beamer to Coach Fuente, and has been a big part in a lot of wins for us. Jovonn is the same way, they've all had different roles, with Reggie it was being a backup guy early but learning to play the game from Terrell Edmunds and guys like that that were great leaders and great practice players, and I think that's the one thing that those guys pass the torch to Reggie and Jovonn and Ish.

"Ish has been kind of the guy that hasn't played much but is really a morale guy. He's just a great team first guy. Jovonn has played a lot of different roles, he's been a dynamic special teams player for us, he's had some dynamic moments on defense, and Daniel Griffith has been an outstanding player for us on special teams and has really come a long way as a football player. He's in my room and I'm really proud of the progress he has made from where he started from. I think the one thing these guys will leave is a tremendous work ethic and staying the course when things are maybe difficult and hard, and people aren't saying good things about them, and just knowing that if you stick to the plan and stick to the goal and trust the process that good things will happen. I think those guys have laid the process for that."