

**Virginia Tech Football
Student-athletes Q&A Highlights
Pitt Postgame Press Conference
Nov. 23, 2019**

QB Hendon Hooker

On the team's turnaround (since the Duke game September 27)

"It's really unique. Everyone's just coming together as a family and showing love and support. At the same time, everyone's expected to do their job. It's been good."

On the support from the defense the past two weeks

"That's great. I love seeing defensive touchdowns, that's big time. Just kind of moving forward, I'm happy those guys are playing their game and having fun. We're just getting after it."

On his relationship with r-senior QB Ryan Willis

"We're roommates on the road. I kind of told him I'm trying to get this win for you for Senior Day so you can go out with a bang. We're real close in the quarterback room, we show each other some love and he encouraged me to have a good game."

WR Damon Hazelton

On how the weather affects the game plan:

"The rain affects the game obviously, but I let the coaches decide if the game plan is going to change or anything like that. I just control what I can control. My mindset pretty much was regardless what the weather was, just go out and be ready to play and ready to go. That's what I tried to focus on."

On QB Hendon Hooker

"Hendon's been great. I've always been a fan of him. He continues to come in and work hard each and every day. That's something I'm proud of and as a leader he's fearless. I love playing with him."

LB Rayshard Ashby

On causing the fumble for the scoop and score:

"I was coming off the blitz, and when I tackled him, I saw the ball come out. I was trying to get up, and I saw Norell Pollard getting it, so I was happy. I didn't see any Pitt players around, and I saw him score, so I was just happy and excited for our defense."

On how hard is it to get a shutout and if it was talked about in the huddle:

"I don't know if we talked about the shutout a lot, but just going out there executing and not letting them - like we want the shutout and we are aware of it but a lot of it is just going out there exciting, not giving up, don't let them get big plays and stay focused and locked in instead

of easing upon them. A big play can happen, and things can turn around in a hurry, so it was important for us to go out there and try to get a shutout every game. We realize and enjoy it more after we do it more so than when we are playing.”

DB Divine Deablo

On how much fun it's been to be a part of this defense the last couple weeks:

“It's been a lot of fun, to be honest with you. In practice, of course, it's hard work, it's tiring, but we keep pushing. Come game time, the feeling is amazing. So of course, it's a lot of fun.”

On the turnaround of the season:

“To be honest, pleasing our teammates and coaches is the most important thing and we don't listen to the outside world. That's the most important thing and we are going to continue to do that and get better every day.”

On Bud Foster's last game in Lane Stadium being a shutout:

“Personally, it has meant a lot to me because Bud has put so much into this program, and to give him a shutout in his last game in Lane is big time.”