

Virginia vs. Virginia Tech

Nov. 29, 2019

Virginia Tech Coaches

Head Coach Justin Fuente

Opening Statement:

“First of all, congratulations to Bronco and his team. It was a heck of a football game out there today. Thanks to everybody that made the trip to support our kids. It certainly was a battle. It was a lot of back and forth. For a while there it looked like nobody was going to score, then it looked like everybody was going to score. I am really proud of our kids and the effort they put out on the field today. We didn’t always play well but they accounted for themselves well and we are competitors. Obviously, we made mistakes on both sides of the ball. We also made some plays too. We had a chance to win the game, and ultimately we didn’t get it.”

On Caleb Farley being out:

“Caleb is an accomplished player and he really wanted to go. His back has been stoved up for the last couple of days. It was just one of those deals. He has been battling it the whole season. He has really been a tough competitor the whole time and really wanted to play. He just couldn’t. Armani, I thought, accounted for himself well. He has had a lot of reps and he is a heady football player.”

On Hendon’s second half:

“He played pretty well. He competed his tail off. We got in a situation there at the end of the game where everybody knows we are throwing the ball and that is not our strength. They were pretty tough on him there.”

On post-game talk to team:

“I told them I loved them. I was proud of them. I told them they competed. I told them we can take this event and go one of two ways. It can draw us closer together, fuel our fire. We have one more opportunity to play football together with this group. One more chance to play better against whoever we play. That needs to be our focus.”

On Bryce Perkins:

“He is a good player, athletic and big. He certainly has been the catalyst for their offensive success. That is for certain. He is a very accomplished player. He is deserving of the praise he receives is what I should say.”

On turnovers:

“I am trying to think of them to be honest with you. They had one fighting for extra yards. One of Hendon’s was on 3rd and 28. They kind of forced the ball in there. They did a good job of mixing up looks. They can create pressure. They did a good job taking the ball away.”

On Hendon’s first loss as a starter:

“I think he was a competitor out there. It’s not always going to go your way. He did a good job of giving us a chance to win the ball game, particularly there in the third quarter. He was really playing well at a high level. He will learn that part of that position is you will get too much praise if you win and too much criticism when you lose. It is just the way the world works at that spot. I am awfully proud of him and I know he is out there competing, trying to win the ball game.”

On team reacting to loss:

“We have another game to play. We have got to go find out what bowl game we are going to, finish finals, train for that and develop young people. Hopefully, we will have another opportunity to play well together.”

Associate HC Bud Foster

On this game

“Disappointed for our guys. It was a hard fought game on both sides. It was great football game, I’m sure from the fans’ perspective. From a coach’s standpoint, it was not that much fun, especially at the end there. If we were on that other side, it would be a lot of fun. Luckily, we have been on that positive side a lot more than we haven’t. Our kids will remember this I think. I talked to them about a rivalry. A rivalry is when two teams win and now this team won. So yeah, we will need to kick this thing back up again when it is all said and done.”

On the rivalry

“It is tremendous. It is a good clean rivalry. You know, you have seen some rivalries that are not very clean, not very nice and disrespectful. Obviously, we like to compete against this program. We want to beat this program. But it has been a great rivalry. I was here 33 years ago. We lost that one unfortunately and we lost this last one. I have a lot of respect for this program and the people here, the guys I have had an opportunity to coach against. George Welsh, to Al Groh, to Mike London and now Bronco are all guys I have gotten to know. The games over the years have been extremely close. Some have obviously been lopsided. No matter what, you know you are going to get everyone’s best shot. And that’s a credit to the competitors that step on that field from these two programs.”