

Virginia Tech Football
Bud Foster Q&A Highlights
Postgame Press Conference
Nov. 9, 2019

Did you know you were getting a banner in the north endzone?

“No, I didn’t. Not going to school here, not playing here, but being a part of this place, to have that put up there is just a tremendous honor. Something that I never even thought about. But to be put with some of the great players here that have been a part of this great institution and great program is a tremendous honor. I can’t thank Whit [Babock] and Justin [Fuente] enough for this day. I’ve just been fortunate to coach a lot of good players. Today they recognized me, and honored me, but in a lot of ways it was an honor to those guys. They’re the ones who made the commitment and helped create the brand and the standard and the culture. Today made it very special.”

What was going through your mind during the pregame ceremony?

“I put a lot of heart and soul into this thing. It’s kind of bittersweet. I’ve had a great run. We’ve done some really special things. And to know that it’s slowly coming to an end, to have my family with me... when you’re in the coaching profession, particularly with football with recruiting, and the time it takes, it’s not a several-months of the year job. It’s an 11 months out of the year job, almost seven days a week. They sacrificed so much. I had so many players back. To have Coach (Frank) Beamer by my side, who I owe so much to, it was a dream come true. I’m so appreciative and thankful. I’m proud but it was also an emotional time. It’s hard to say exactly what it is. But it’s just a proud moment.”

“But I’m real, real happy we won the game. That’s the most important thing. I’m proud of the kids. They came back after a gut wrenching, tough loss from a week ago. They showed a lot of perseverance in their approach all week. We played a really talented offensive football team. I’m just really proud of our kids and how they played today. I told them, ‘It’s now about me, it’s about you. We need to go take care of business today.’”

What were the keys to limiting the Wake Forest offense?

“Number one, they couldn’t get the running game started. The quarterback just never got in a rhythm. We were able to get a little bit of pressure. Offensively, we moved the ball on them, and just shot ourselves in the foot a little bit. We were playing well as a team. We gave up a couple cheap plays. We were able to get some decent pressure on the quarterback, created a couple plays, and were able to get off the field on third down. They were top 10 in third down conversions, and we were able to get them off the field. We were able to get them off-kilter, off-balance.

“We’ve used the term A.D. - ‘After Duke.’ Our work ethic, our practice habits, really focusing on us, not worrying about anybody else. I like the direction we’re going.”

On the play of TyJuan Garbutt and the importance of forcing turnovers.

“It was neat to see one of our defensive tackles get a pick again. We’ve had that over the years. We brought some edge pressure. The quarterback was getting ready to throw a shallow cross and threw it right to our guy. We had a pick or two this spring. We’ve had that. I was bringing pressure to the back, they were sliding their protection. Then Charlie said, ‘Let’s bring it opposite the back this next series.’ So we did, and they slid their front. We get where we can get a rub, or a built-in twist, and we got that. TyJuan did a great job. Dax was on the edge blitz, tackle-blocked him, and was able to make a big-time play. That kind of sealed the game. Just really proud of our kids and how hard they played. They were relentless. We talked to our kids about going to the next play. That’s all we can control. That handles all the ups and downs, the momentum swings. Just focus on that next play and play our best football that next play, and I think we’ve done a good job of that, particularly since A.D., after Duke.”

On the Da’Shawn Crawford interception.

“We were in man-pressure. It was a pure, zero-coverage blitz. They were in a tight formation. I felt like they were going to throw it. We brought that a couple times this year. I think Chamarri Conner has a couple pressures out of that, a couple sacks. They ran a crossing mesh route. They threw it to Da’Shawn. We want to draw the guards, then cop out of their late, and hopefully bring some edge pressure, scraping the linebackers, blitzing the back, so to speak.”

On the play of Jermaine Waller and Armani Chatman.

“For the most part, those guys played well. We played a lot of press coverage. I was concerned about that. Justin Hamilton felt like [Sage] Surratt and [Scotty Washington], both are big kids but not overly quick at the line of scrimmage. We felt like if we could get them at the line of scrimmage, that could negate some things, and it did. It kind of negated some of their timing. Other than the pass interference, there weren’t a lot of throws on target. I was really concerned. I think Sarrat is a really dynamic player. I don’t know what kind of speed he has, but he’s got great body control, great hands, just a tremendous football player.”

On the expectations coming into the game.

“My biggest concern was, were we going to have a hangover from the Notre Dame game? We had a good week of practice. We’ve had some good weeks of practice where we didn’t play very well. But that’s the one thing I thought our kids did a great job of. Our guys watched the film. Personnel wise, I have guys grade their positions. They have a lot of respect for these guys across the board. Obviously their skill positions are as good as anybody we play. Our DB’s felt like [Wake Forest’s] receiving corps may be the best we play, with Sarratt, and Washington, and then [Kendall Hinton]. And then the quarterback has been playing so well for them. I was concerned with explosive plays. We didn’t give that up as much.”

On the progression of Dax Hollifield.

“I felt like he was pressing early in the season. He’s really played well the last few games. I’ve got a great relationship with all my guys, particularly the linebackers. I was involved heavily with all those guys in recruiting. The one thing I like about my room: we’ve got guys that work extremely hard. How they play is how they practice. They’re not on any list. We’re not talking

about them on Thursdays. They aren't missing class or skipping study hall. They're not late for this, late for that. Those are guys that take care of business. I'd like to think they're an extension of their coach. That's going to be the hard part when it's all said and done—the relationships you develop. In the process of recruiting, you tell them this is a relationship for a lifetime. I'm not a big social media guy, but I do communicate with my former players on Facebook. We're going to stay in touch. But the relationships you develop is what I'm going to miss. Not only with the players, but with the coaching staff. We've been fortunate here where we haven't had a lot of turnover over the years. We've had a lot of success with a lot of guys. Maybe there's a lot of people that could've been standing next to me. I've been very fortunate and very blessed."