

Virginia Tech Football
Offensive Line Coach Vance Vice Q&A Highlights
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On Luke Tenuta:

“He’s had a great, great offseason. I know we were able to redshirt him last year and he’s put on about 50 pounds since I’ve got to know him. He fits in great with this group, he works every day. Just like most of them right now, they’re all fighting for one of the five spots. Obviously, he’s intelligent and understands what we’re trying to do. He’s able to play multiple positions also, so he’s got a lot of value right now. He’s had a great camp so far.”

On Jesse Hanson:

“Obviously it was very beneficial for him to be here in the spring, you know being a mid-year, and he sort of understood a little bit more so than the incoming freshmen what was to be expected. He’s out there grinding every day right now and done a great job in the classroom in summer school. He’s in the weight room everyday and he knows what it takes. Same as Luke, he’s fighting for an opportunity.”

On the competition for starting positions:

“There’s five spots right now. With this group of guys, with their mentality and their work ethic, there’s legitimate competition at every spot with every person in my room front to back. You have a bad day and you’re going to get shoveled around a little bit. It’s legitimate competition. You got some guys that have got experience advantages over some others, but just the caliber of the kids we got and more so their mentality and their athleticism give them a chance to do what we’re asking of them. You just got to put back-to-back days and you’re right in the mix.”

On naming five starters:

“We’ll put five out there for the first play. I’m not really handcuffed anymore. If you’re not doing it, I don’t have to watch it and I can put five more in there if I need to. That’s the luxury that you don’t get a lot of times and it’s a healthy competition too. Obviously, they’ve got the right attitude and mindset. They want the offense to have success, so they’re competing with each other not just behind them but beside them and everywhere else.”

On Brock Hoffman and his situation with the NCAA:

“Obviously, it’s been tough, but we can only control what we can control. Obviously, we’d like a resolution not just for us but for Brock and for his family and for everyone else. He’s a leader. He brought it day one to that room and throughout the summer. He’s got a chance to be a very good player just waiting to find out when.”

How Hoffman's situation changes practice:

"I think this camp I've had seven centers take snaps. In this profession, you've always got to prepare for not having this guy or that guy. You don't want to be caught standing at the altar with no one saying 'I do' to you."

On Christian Darrisaw:

"I'm super excited right now because I think he's healthy. That was not the case for three quarters of the year last year. Obviously, his technique – and he is a sophomore – there is a lot of room for improvement and he understands that. He's a guy with a lot of pride. He's been very consistent in the pass game, and the run game we're still working on. He did a great job in the offseason bulking up in the weight room and increasing all his numbers in there. Like I said, he's healthy right now and it's pretty exciting for him."

On the potential of Tyrell Smith and T.J. Jackson's getting into the lineup at various positions:

"Tyrell was worked quite a bit this far at one spot. T.J.'s moved around two or three. The great thing about both of those guys – they've been here a while. They understand schemes and they give me depth at a lot of places. Both of those guys are fighting for a spot right now. It's time, it's time. Obviously, Tyrell's a great leader for that group. He's the only old (guy) in there. T.J. is very athletic and huge and has overcome that a little bit. Tyrell's mainly a tackle and T.J.'s played all of them except center."

On whether he's ever started a true freshman and the potential of Doug Nester:

"Well, unfortunately some of the schools I've been at I have had to play a freshman in the first game. You don't get much sleep. It is an adjustment and Doug's high school – they're going to run downhill 68 of 70 plays. With the pass protections and picking up the protections he's done an unbelievable job. He comes in there and works every day. Again, another guy that fits perfect in this group. He goes out there and gives everything he has. It's good play dough, if you will, to play with right now."