

Virginia Tech Football
Defensive Line Coach Charley Wiles Q&A Highlights
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On he feels about his backup defensive ends:

“I’m excited. Eli [Adams] has come on. He was a real dynamic player in high school. Multiple, multiple sacks, very active and he’s a little undersized. He’s not very tall, but’s 240 pounds and he’s been playing really good at camp. It’s been a great move for Jaylen Griffin to come down to the defensive line. We’ve done that before where guys are maybe a step slow and get them a little closer to the line of scrimmage. He’s a great kid, has a good football IQ, things have come to him, he’s strong and able to eat now. It was all he could do to stay under 250 pounds and now he’s around 260. He’s a 400+ pound bencher He’s strong and only getting better and better all of the time and I’m excited about him.

“Jaevon Becton has all kinds of ability. The more he plays the better he’s going to be. He’s long, athletic and he’s in that No. 2 spot behind Tyjuan Garbutt. He caught a little bit of a flu bug before the first scrimmage, but scrimmaged the other day and was very productive. Nate Proctor is battling for some time there as well. A really, really good walk-on kid is Nigel Simmons. If he continues the long haul, which he has will be great. I’m excited about those guys. Adams, Becton have been making plays and I feel very comfortable with those guys playing half of the time.”

On Dashawn Crawford:

“A lot of quickness and now he’s up to around 290 pounds and there was a question about how big he could get. You never see him around here without something to eat in his hand and he still has his quickness and pop at the point of attack. He has picked it up really well. He had a big advantage in coming in, in January. He’s getting better and the good thing is he’s being pushed by all of the other guys, which is a good thing. It’s hard to play 55-65 snaps inside, it really is. It’s very physical and you can wear down a little bit. You’re always chasing the ball, so you can get a little tired. I think he is in the 25-play range and can be productive those plays.”

On Jaden Cunningham:

“He’s been a real pleasant surprise. He doesn’t get pushed around in there and holds the point of attack well and can run a little bit. Imagine him in a year when he’s in great shape and has a year underneath him in our program. He’s going to benefit a lot from that. We batted 100 with those guys which is hard to do.

“He’s coming along nice as well as Norell Pollard, Mario Kendricks and Josh Fuga are all getting reps. Robert Porcher needs to continue to get bigger and stronger. Unfortunately, he had some high school injuries that didn’t allow him to train and then he had a shoulder problem during the off season. He’s just lacking some upper body strength, but can play and has great body position. There’s some competition out there and that’s the best thing knowing that you’re in a

direct competition and it's a production-based business. You have to play at a certain level, make play, be productive or somebody is going to take your spot."

On how prepared will his group be for Boston College and their running game:

"We know Boston College well and what they're all about. They have a big running back and they're always good along the offensive line. I don't care if some of their guys have graduated, they recruit well and their going to be Physical. We're going to be ready for the challenge. We have to go in there, play with technique, fundamentals and be physical. We'll be ready to roll."