

Virginia Tech vs. BC

Aug. 31, 2019

Postgame quotes

Virginia Tech defensive coordinator Bud Foster

(On how much better the defense played in the second half)

For whatever reason, we played, and I'm not talking tight in our coverage, but we played extremely tight as a defense. That wasn't the same group that practice and how they performed. You saw how we played in the second half, and that's kind of how I was hoping we'd play the entire game. We settled down. The kids were obviously disappointed [with the first half], but we had the ball first ... When the quarterback ran the ball, that's just a busted defense. We've seen that play a thousand times from our offense. Our linebacker had a misread, and our safety had a misread. Those are the things we've been doing all camp, disappointing things, but we settled down in the second half and that gives you some hope. I told them we can't be a 30-minute football team. We have to be a 60 minute football team. We've got to create some things. We had a big play that, at the end of the day, Rook dropped a pass in coverage that would have been a big turnover for us. We've got to capitalize on those opportunities. We kind of got penalized for a big play with Waller's interception. That's one of those crazy rules in college football. I'm anxious to see how close he was to the goal line for his momentum to carry him in because in college, they don't have that. But you get penalized for making a great play, and that was their only drive when they held us down there and had a short field. That was really the one time they were able to run the football on us. That's what they're going to do, is pound the ball. But that one drive was the one time they moved the ball on the ground against us, and that was disappointing.

(On the third-and-9 run on the final drive)

They ran what we call 'Power solid.' All we have to do is gap fit, and I promise you there is a guy that ran out of his gap. All you need is that, and for that big guy to go through an arm tackle. That's where we've got to be consistently. You can't do it nine times out of 10 at this level of football. That one play at this level can beat you. We had an opportunity to get the ball back and a couple of minutes left to go in the game. We're moving the ball. We're not always taking care of the ball at the end of the day. That was disappointing. To be honest with you, that was really disappointing.

(On whether BC's pace caught them off guard)

A little bit, and we were prepared for that, but that they did – and I think early on, we panicked a little bit for whatever reason. We see that from our offense, and that's something that's not new to us. That's something we expected. They did it last year. All in all, we fought our tail off. We kind of ran out of time. We were driving, we were working, we were stopping them in the second half and had some opportunities. We just kept shooting ourselves in the foot, and at the end of the day, we ran out of time. I just told the defense – and obviously they're disappointed – that I appreciate their fight and effort, and they showed in the second half what we've been doing all fall camp. We've just got to do it for 60 minutes. We'll improve ... You improve the

most from week 1 to week 2, and that's what I'm hoping – that we'll have a big week. The kids are disappointed, but there are a lot of things we can build on.

(On the block that knocked TyJuan Garbutt out of the game)

I'm anxious to see that block because that's kind of what the new rules are all about right there – a blindside block. Obviously, he's one of our best football players. He had a big time camp and is a big time pass rusher, and all of the sudden, he's out of the game right after the first series. That was extremely disappointing. We lost Quillen, and I love what Jovonn is all about, and we'll see where that is with his that injury. Then you lose Tyree [Rodgers], and he's your backup safety. Behind that, you've got [Khalil] Ladler. He's a good football player. I Worry about his speed on the back end a little bit. Then you have J.R. Walker, who is a true freshman. Like I told you at the first press conference, we have some depth, but you're a play away from being like you were a year ago with some guys playing for the first time in college football. Hopefully we won't get into that.

(On playing nine defensive linemen)

We decided as a staff that those young defensive tackles are going to have to play. They're talented kids. They just don't have the experience, but I like what they're about. They have a good football IQ and a good understanding of their gap fits and those types of things. They're going to continue to get better and better and better each week. Those kids love football, and that's exciting from a coaching standpoint. We're going to play a bunch of people. That's our thought right now. We have what we have, and we can't go through a season just playing one group all the time. We'll get beat up that way. That's just part of the nature of the beast. We've got some young kids that are going to play.