

Virginia Tech vs. BC

Aug. 31, 2019

Postgame quotes

Virginia Tech head coach Justin Fuente

Opening statement

“Congratulations to Coach Addazio and Boston College. He’s got a good football team. It’s tough for our guys to battle back and fight and scratch and claw all the way through and come up short. Lord knows we made plenty of mistakes out there today. That’s not to take anything away from Boston College and the performance they put on, running and throwing the ball and creating turnovers. We’ll have to pick ourselves up and get ready for next week.”

On Ryan Willis’ decision making

“We’ve got to be better than that. We’ve got to be more disciplined and have our eyes in the right spot. It’s part of playing quarterback. Obviously, forced some balls in there. Had some times that weren’t good. Ryan knows that. I still believe Ryan can make plays and take care of the football.”

On whether an added emphasis on run defense hurt the pass defense

“You can’t line up and play two high safeties no matter what versus these guys. You’ve got to be able to handle both, and that’s what good offenses do. They can run the ball in play action and create one-on-ones and take advantage of those. We didn’t hold up as well as we’d like to in the back end in some one-on-one situations. We did a decent job in running defense. We could have obviously been better. That was a big part of the game going in.”

On why Damon Hazelton didn’t play

“He just hasn’t practiced much. Been dealing with a hamstring for a long time. It’s a nagging thing that’s been going for some time.”

On the lack of a running attack hindering the passing attack

“I don’t know that it was -- that was the reason for turning the ball over. I think we’ve got to do a better job as a staff of giving us opportunities to run the ball. We’ve got to be better up front and better at running back in our decisions and what we’re doing. They’re a big, stout team. They are historically very difficult to run the ball against.”

On Kaleb Smith

“He’s been an incredible worker. He’s still learning the craft. He’s still working on some technique, but it was good to see him have some success today because he has been out there every day just busting his tail and trying to get better. We’ll look for him to continue to work and hopefully continue to improve.”

On Hezekiah Grimsley’s muffed punt

“We left him in because we trust Hezzy. I’ve seen him work. It was a short punt. He was trying to close ground on it, and the ball was just -- I believe he fair caught it, if I’m not mistaken. The ball was just a little bit out of his framework, right off his fingers.”

On Keshawn King's performance

“We felt good with him out there. Jalen went down, and so his -- Keshawn's load increased a little bit there in the second half. We certainly don't -- I don't have a percentage on it. He's certainly not ready to run everything we've got out there, but he seems to be picking it up pretty quickly. He missed a little time with the tooth deal, but he seems to have handled it all pretty well.”