

**Virginia Tech Football**  
**Defensive Coordinator Bud Foster Q&A Highlights**  
**Postgame Press Conference**  
**September 14, 2019**

***On the playmaking ability of CB Chamarri Conner***

“It was good to see. I was waiting for him to come out of his shell a little bit. He’s got a lot of abilities. I know he played on special teams a little bit last year, but he’s playing for the first time. He came out of that today. It was good to see him have some success and be the playmaker I think he can be. I’m hoping that’s going to improve his self-confidence. The best teacher is experience and he’s gaining valuable experience every week and it showed by his play today. We needed him to step up and he did a great job. He got some pressure off the edge, and then he made some really nice plays out in space. That’s what that position demands. When we are really good on defense, the nickel position is a playmaking spot.”

***On the importance of getting pressure from the front four:***

“That was critical. I felt like going into this game we needed to win the line of scrimmage. I felt like that was where we could gain an advantage. I thought their quarterback was extremely talented. I thought their [running] backs were better than what we faced last week. I thought where we could make a difference was up front. The last call, the long run, I was disappointed with the tackling, but I blitzed into it. They had thrown the ball out of that formation previously, but came back and ran a ‘Belly G’ and kind of washed us a little bit. Take that out, I thought we controlled the line of scrimmage for the most part. We got some pressure with four-man. Some young guys chased the ball and we got a little bit of edge pressure out of their tight formation. We were able to create some minus-yardage plays.”

***On the offsidess by defensive tackle DT Jarrod Hewitt in the first half***

“That was disappointing because we talked about the shift. And those are things which as a coach... I have a lot of respect for these guys, these games scare me to death. I’ve been in that situation before coaching at that [FCS] level. As a coach, you just want to make sure your guys are locked in. It’s about us and not about them. Some of those things like that are when you’re concerned: are these guys locked in, are they overlooking, are they focused? In the end I thought Jarrod played pretty solid, but we’ve got to be better in those situations.”

***On LB Dax Hollifield’s play against Furman:***

“I know that guy and he cares, probably a little too much sometimes. I love what he’s all about. He’s going to continue to get better. It just got tight in some situations, like Alan Tisdale who’s really had a good camp. It’s not that I’m disappointed in Dax whatsoever, it’s rewarding Alan

and his body of work. I thought our kids did a nice job this week. It was only one personnel grouping, but they had multiple looks, between the bone looks, the tight bone, the spread stuff. They get into unbalanced which they hadn't shown. I thought our kids did a good job of reacting to everything—the split gun stuff, the option one way and then running the counter option the other way. They make you play solid, disciplined football. I'd like to have a couple plays back, but I think you have that every week. It was a good win for us because of how we had to come back and win. I think that's making a statement about our kids and their character. They hung in there when a lot of people didn't think they would. We have to embrace the accountability of what it takes to be successful. It's those things Sunday through Friday that get us ready for Saturday.”

***On DE Emmanuel Belmar:***

“E.B. has done an awesome job. He's been a great leader for us. He is one of those guys that has to play hard. He's not the most gifted guy we have on the defensive line, but he's a rugged, hard-nosed guy. He's very productive for us. I'm continuing on counting on him being one of our leaders on the defensive side of the ball. It's good to see him have some success because he's worked at it. I appreciate how we comes to work every day.”

***On the most important things the defense must improve on during the bye week?***

“Hopefully we get a couple guys back, particularly DE TyJuan Garbutt. Ty arguably might have been one of our top four or five guys defensively going into the season. He's fast, he's physical. I think he will bring some element of pass rush and toughness too. We have to embrace improvement. We have to embrace what it takes to be successful. That's really what we're going to focus on. We're going to focus on Duke. They're going to be a well-coached football team. I know David [Cutcliffe] does a great job. You start getting into conference play now, seven of the next nine weeks are going to be conference football games. We're going to get ready to pay attention to detail and grasp the game plan, and continue to grow and develop and improve at a high level. That's where I'm really challenging our kids is to practice like they play.”