

**Virginia Tech Football**  
**Head Coach Justin Fuente Q&A Highlights**  
**Game 6 – Boston College Media Conference**  
**Oct 2, 2017**

**Opening statement:**

“Thanks again to everybody that came out last week. I just thought it was a great example of Virginia Tech and school pride. This fantastic crowd was really in the ball game, everything you could ever dream from an atmosphere standpoint. I haven’t seen all of the College GameDay but I got to go down there and I’ve heard that it was absolutely fantastic. As we turn the page to Boston College we’ve got a tremendous challenge we’ve got to go on the road. Our first road conference game. We know a couple weeks ago they were tied with Clemson 7-7 in the fourth quarter. A big physical tough opponent that wants to run the football and has played great defense and is very well coached and very good on special teams. Look forward to our guys having a great week of preparation and getting ready for this one.”

**On when he looked back at the film was there anything that was bothersome to him:**

“Well yeah and I would reiterate that, yeah absolutely. It’s like that every week whether we win or lose we always evaluate what we said or did or taught going into that week. So, certainly there were things in all three phases of the game that we wish we had done differently or handled differently or played differently. I think when we met yesterday and we tried to highlight the things that had nothing to do with Clemson. They made enough plays on their own and we knew that going in and there were several examples of us not doing things well that had everything to do with us and nothing to do with them. That was probably the most disappointing thing overall because like I said we knew they were going to make plays. You know, there are mistakes and forced mistakes and they’re going to force you into mistakes and make plays.”

**On what were some of the mistakes:**

“We didn’t block on the backside of 17, we didn’t fan when they were in an odd front, we didn’t catch the ball before turning to run up field. I mean there is a litany of things in there and again it’s shared. Because those are the three things I mentioned, it doesn’t mean that it belongs to one group or one side of the ball or one person. That’s on all of us and obviously me as the head coach to give us the best chance to win with what we got. In order for us to do that we can’t make those simple mistakes.”

**On was there anything encouraging about the way the team handled the loss:**

“Yeah I thought it was good. We had a good workout Sunday. I think our kids understand the challenges in front of them. You know, none of them are happy about what happened. My message was don’t even walk in here feeling sorry for yourself. Nobody’s going to feel sorry for us and it’s up to us to change the situation we’re in. I think they heard that and I’m looking forward to seeing them the rest of the week.”

**On how does he believe the Tech offensive line held up against the Clemson defensive line:**

“I would have to say that we should have played better at every single position. I mean at quarterback, offensive line, defensive line, linebacker, defensive back, and punter. Greg Stroman at punt returner was probably as good as you could get. Other than that I would give our team a very average grade.”

**On what is the meaning behind this week's Respond and React mantra:**

"Well when you're faced with adversity and outcomes that you don't particularly want or didn't aspire to. You have two options. You can react and go the wrong way or you can respond to the situation and hopefully we'll have a great week of preparation and do a good job responding."

**On when you have an open week on the horizon do ever have teams looking forward towards it:**

"Oh I don't know. I think there is element of understanding that you have to live with this result for two weeks. When you have a bye week after the next game. I don't know that I've really experienced much where guys were anything other than handling business. Well maybe excited about being able to get healthy and get caught up on some stuff."

**On is Coleman Fox on his way to carving out a role in the running back rotation:**

"Well I don't know, we'll see. You know two weeks ago excluding the Clemson game, the games were out of hand and I wanted to get him in there. Jalen (Holston) had been sick and this past week we had a fumble, we had a missed block on the perimeter and Coleman had practiced well and we felt like putting him in there. So I don't know, we'll see. I mean he's done a good job when he's been in there and he continues to work hard so we'll see going into this week."

**On Henri Murphy returning kicks instead of James Clark:**

"Oh I think it's a little bit of both. James (Clark) is dealing with a few things and Henri (Murphy) has done a good job. You know Henri was a little banged up for a little while so James kind of came into that role. Then James gets a little banged up so Henri is kind of back healthy and he kind of slides in."

**On bringing up young guys at getting them ready at the cornerback position with Brandon Facyson injured:**

"Well I think developing younger guys at every spot is important. I think (Bryce) Watts is the closest one that's ready to contribute. I didn't know Brandon was injured. He was a practice yesterday practicing. I anticipate everything will be fine. Continuing to bring Bryce and some of those young guys along is going to be important. You just never know what's going to happen, it's a long season."

**On is Jovonn Quillen still working at cornerback:**

"Yes some."

**On what has he seen from BC that has impressed him:**

"Well their size is the first thing. They are a big strong physical football team. They get in many more big personal groups, multiple tight ends, under the center, try to the run the at you then play action over the top, do a good job of their naked and bootlegs. Very sound on special teams. Their punt returner has been fantastic. Statistically I don't know where he's at but he really had a good game against Clemson and a good game last week. Defensively it's a lot of man coverage. They don't back up very much. They get down there in your face and play press man and mix a little zone in. Overall it's a big physical well coached football team."

**On why does he think BC has had a hard time scoring:**

"Oh I don't know. I think they're built a certain way in terms of playing really good defense and playing really well on special teams and running the football – trying to maybe shorten the game a little bit and trying to find a way to make a couple plays, enough to win games. They've played some quality people. I just think there make up is surrounded by playing great defense and special teams and running the football and taking care of the ball."

**On does he have any concerns about Joey Slye:**

"Sure, absolutely concerned about it."

**Were there any upperclassmen that were vocal on Sunday after the loss:**

"Oh I didn't see any. It certainly wasn't time for a players only meeting and circling of the wagons. It's early in the year and I think our guys are excited about the challenge in front of us. My answer would be no. I do think we have good leadership though. There have been a couple times when guys have addressed the group like through camp and that sort of stuff where we were getting a bit stale heading into the first game or whatever that is but nothing out of the ordinary this week. So far."