Virginia Tech vs. Oklahoma State  
Dec. 28, 2017  
Virginia Tech head coach Justin Fuente Q&A Highlights  
Postgame News Conference

*(Opening statement)*

“I’m awfully proud of our squad. Proud of our kids. We’re saying good-bye to some fantastic seniors that have set great examples for our younger players. We had a plan, and we executed it well at times. Those are my initial thoughts on the game. I don’t really remember Oklahoma State making very many, if any, mistakes. We made a handful, just enough to keep us from pulling the thing off. That’s not to say Oklahoma State doesn’t deserve credit for winning the football game. They do. They have a fine football team. They’re well coached, and they did a good job. I’m awfully proud of my squad, too. They prepared well. Guys played their tails off. They really worked out hard and laid it out there.”

*(On why the running game worked so well)*

“Well, mostly it was inside zone. I thought Deshawn did a really good job of cutting it back when it needed to be cut back. He bounced it out the front a couple of times when they all collapsed in there ... I thought the backs did a really good job, all three of them. Jalen [Holston] didn’t get as many carries, but when he was in there, he had a nice run on the option play.”

*(On the Josh Jackson fumble at the Oklahoma State 1)*

“It was a mesh that those two guys [Jackson and Steven Peoples] have made 10,000 times and just rode it a little too long. It was something we feel comfortable with because we’ve done it since day 1. We didn’t execute.”

*(On his team’s play despite missing several key players)*

“Well, we’re not going to use that as a crutch. It is what it is. People go through things during the season. It’s our job to play football and represent Virginia Tech the right way. That’s by preparing, competing and putting our best out there, and I think our kids certainly did that today. They have a lot to be proud of. They accomplished a lot during the season. They won both of our rivalry games, and they won nine football games. Our kids have a lot of pride – a lot of pride in Virginia Tech, a lot of pride in themselves and this program. We knew we were going to get a great effort from our kids tonight.”

*(On Jackson’s performance)*

“Off the cuff, I would say, at times, he made a lot of plays. He competed his tail off. He’s tough. He absolutely right now gives us the best chance to win. There are probably a couple of plays out there that he wishes he had back or had made. There’s a lot of plays out there that he did make, too.”