

## 2008 ACC Football Championship Tampa Bay, FL

December 6, 2008

### VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

**FRANK BEAMER:** I think what's special about the game today is it was such a team effort. Offensive did a heck of a job out there. Defensive did a heck of a job. Special teams we were good, good and solid. I think to beat a good Boston College team, a really good Boston College team, and I told you before how proud I am of these players and these coaches, I am this particular year, because I just think we overcome stuff. I'm really proud of that.

I think that now we are going to enjoy this for sure. But we go to the Orange Bowl with the idea that one more win gets us to 10. I think that would be really, really special for this football team to end up with double digit, 10 wins.

So we are going to enjoy it because this is really special. This is really special.

But we are going to go right back to work and concentrate and get ourselves ready to go down to the Orange Bowl and play a great football game.

I'm proud of these two guys right here Tyrod (Taylor) and Orion (Martin). We have had great leadership and it's come in different ways. Great plays, it's come in different ways. But these two guys have been instrumental. I'm really proud of them.

Q. Tyrod MVP how does it feel?

**TYROD TAYLOR:** A great win, a great team effort, Boston College played a great game too.

**ORION MARTIN:** Give Boston College credit. They never gave up. I'm thankful for this team and the way we fought through the season.

Q. Coach Beamer, you entered the league, I guess people wondered how you would fit in and how the ACC would shakedown. This is 3 titles in five years, what does that say about your program? What do you think about your accomplishments?

**FRANK BEAMER:** I think the ACC has brought out the best in Virginia Tech. I know the ACC has been great for us, and I hope we have been good for the ACC. I know it's brought out the best in us.

Q. Tyrod, the first touchdown run, can you describe it a little bit for us. It looked like a called pass, and you felt the pressure from the end and decided to take it up inside?

**TYROD TAYLOR:** Yes, it was a called pass, actually a flat around the corner, and they told me if the end gets up the field quick to take off and that's what I did. A great block by the backfield and linemen.

**FRANK BEAMER:** Virginia Tech, champions, I'm going to turn this around.

Q. Tyrod, how much more comfortable do you feel running the offense at this point than you did at the start of the season?

**FRANK BEAMER:** I feel very comfortable. Guys have stepped up, as well as other people going out and trusting your teammates and allowing them to make plays for me.

Q. Orion, did you see that orange go whizzing by you when you scored your touchdown there. And, Frank, if you could comment on (Darren) Evans's performance and just the tough yards he was able to get in there?

**ORION MARTIN:** Yes, it was a great play by Jason (Worilds). He came around the corner and made a great play. I was there to scoop his score. I had the easy part. But Jason give him the credit for that play.

Q. Did you see the orange come running by?

**ORION MARTIN:** No.

**FRANK BEAMER:** He was running too fast, he was blazing.

Q. Darren Evans, his performance?

**FRANK BEAMER:** I'm disappointed. They got that ball out of there a couple of times. They were ripping at it. They were getting stood up and ripping, give Boston College credit. I thought Darren ran hard, ran tough. I think he is only going to get better and better like a lot of guys on this football team. They are only going to get better and better. We owe a lot to Orion Martin, the senior, that's lead us with his actions. He doesn't say a lot, but he doesn't have to because everybody knows what a great person this guy is and what a great effort guy he is.

Q. Coach, take about the significance of that fumble forced by Macho Harris and recovered by Cam Martin and how that prevented it from getting 14-7?

**FRANK BEAMER:** Yes, there were some big plays, absolutely big plays. Completed passes, got the fumble, got it out of there. I think overall you gust just go back and look at it. What's so gratifying for me, what I like so much, is our offense moved the football. They did what they needed to do. Defensively we made plays and did what we needed to do. Kicking-wise, sometimes you don't notice, but there is some great kicking plays out there. Some good coverage, some good kicking, keeping pressure away from our punter. It's such a team win. When you win championships, it's by the football team. I told the team last night it's going to take all of us and it did. It took offense, defense and special teams.

Q. Frank, we talk all year about these close games, and I think the other day you were talking about that, they are all going to be that way, how refreshing, or surprising was it to be able to exhale in the last few minutes of that one? In the biggest game of all, you guys kind of run away with it.

**FRANK BEAMER:** We probably made that one closer than we needed to be when we fumbled that ball a couple of times. I don't care how we win them. These guys find a way to win. Close, by a bunch. It was good to be able to breathe at the end of the game for a change. The only thing I had good breathing motion for about three or four weeks there.

Q. Coach, , when you are leading 30 to 10, why take a safety?

**FRANK BEAMER:** I thought it was a pretty good decision. When you risk -- they blocked 2 kicks, as you've gone down. You take a risk the way they get back in the ball game is block a kick, score, onside. That's the way they can get back in the ball game. We still had an 18 point game. I believe it wasn't it. So they got to go for 2 somewhere in there. Or 3 touchdown game. So they got to score three times. One time they're going to have to go for 2. I thought it was a right move.

Q. Coach, you took a pretty good shot from Cory Holt early in the game?

**FRANK BEAMER:** Where is Cory, I want to get that rascal back.

Q. Can you talk about your defensive strategy?

**FRANK BEAMER:** Were you impressed with my toughness right there? He whacked me. I staggered a little bit. Tyrod, came back, got my feet, got my senses and I came back. Go ahead, I'm sorry.

Q. Could you talk about your defensive strategy with (Dominique) Davis forcing him to throw the ball 40 plus times?

**FRANK BEAMER:** We knew we needed to stop 41, stop the run, and make him -- he is an excellent quarterback. He made some good throws. He's got a great future. But you make a young guy like that beat you. I think our defense did a good job with that.

Q. Frank, you mentioned we talked about how this is becoming a little bit routine for Virginia Tech. How much more special is this one because of the obstacles that you guys had to overcome?

**FRANK BEAMER:** I will tell you, this is really good. I said it to you guys, it's the youngest football team we had in some time with the toughest schedule, with some key injuries, and some people that kind of gave up on us.

But this football team hung together when it was tough and again it kind of goes back to leadership. But we stayed with each other offensively, defensively, special teams, and come out here and win this ACC Championship.

It says a heck of a lot about the kids in this program and that coaching staff that I have back there.

I want to tell you something else. We got the least number of penalties in the ACC, but it's the least number of yards of penalty of any team that I ever had at Virginia Tech. I think that says something about these kids. They play smart. We kind of got our eyes straight ahead, don't pay too much attention to a lot of things and come out with a championship, and I think this one is special.

Q. Frank, it was interesting in your opening remarks that you immediately started talking about the Orange Bowl and getting back down to business. Has some of the past bowl defeats stung at you in the way you performed and you want to change that?

**FRANK BEAMER:** Well, we lost the last two, and I really -- I thought we had a great chance to win the last two. The thing I've learned and these guys have learned, those things stay with you a little while. Alumni don't forget those things real quick. But we didn't either. I think it's very, very important that we not only represent the ACC, in this Orange Bowl, but we really make a preparation to go and win this Orange Bowl.

Q. Frank, before the season you said 41 percent of the traveling roster for that ECU game where players had not played before, are you surprised by how quickly they all developed?

**FRANK BEAMER:** Again, I think I really liked this football team. I said that a bunch of times. I looked how they practice. I like how they treat each other. I like how they keep the dressing room clean. That's something. Some time in the past you go in there and their dressing room is all over the place. We've had a pretty clean dressing room. It says something. We take pride in that, don't we, guys?

**TYROD TAYLOR:** Yes.

**FRANK BEAMER:** So, you know, and today, it was out of the 70 that we brought here last year, there is 37 different people this year. I mean we played back-to-back championship games, but over half of our football team, this was their first championship game. I'm pretty proud of this crowd here.

Q. Orion, your first ever college touchdown comes in a pretty big game. From where you started at Tech to where you ended, to get that score in the ACC Championship game, how good did that feel?

**FRANK BEAMER:** It felt great. I was just happy, on top of that getting the win. Words can't explain what I was feeling at the time, it happened so fast. I'm just so thankful to be part of this team.

Q. Macho Harris, you wanted to come back, you wanted to accomplish some things, be a better player, you had four or five past break ups today, the fumble you forced, it was huge, his play, this season, this game, you kind of took over there on defense, in his last championship game?

**FRANK BEAMER:** Yes, the things that I would say about Macho is that he is a player. When he talks, you know, the kids listen because they know he can back it up. He is a player. I think he has a lot of respect, and he certainly helped this football team be successful. There is no question about it.

**ORION MARTIN:** I think when Macho first came back he came back with the right attitude. He didn't come back cocky or arrogant, he came back as a team leader and worked his butt off. That shows on the field. He has been making plays, offense, special teams and defense. He has been a strong leader for us.

Q. Coach, nationally the ACC has gotten no love this year. But in the ACC you don't see games 70 to 65 or anything like that. Everybody in this conference plays defense. Do you think that's a big thing right now?

**FRANK BEAMER:** I think, absolutely, John Swofford before our game today, we have a lot of teams with good defenses and trying to get our offenses better. You go through our league and you see a lot of really, really good defenses right now. And you know we got some young guys on offense that are going to be good. And were good in the past.. I think we really helped ourselves. I know I'm proud and we are proud to be a part of it. Our winning percentage against outside competition, I think we had some very solid wins against that competition. I think in the fact that we gotten schools that are eligible for a bowl right now. That's very significant, I think. I think we play enough games. The ACC is not going to have to apologize for anything of them. I think you take it over the years. We may not have the great, great football team right now, but we got a lot of really good football teams that are getting better. That's the way I see it.

Q. Coach Beamer, what do you think about the impact of Stephan Virgil in his first year as a starting corner?

**FRANK BEAMER:** I think he has been good, a big interception today. He is a player. He's got good instincts. He is competitive. He is tough. I think he has probably played better than we thought he might. We thought he was going to be a good player. I think he has played better. Going into it, you think he might.

Q. Tyrod, just a little bit about your touchdown runs. At one point were they called runs, and what point do you feel you could make it to the end zone?

**TYROD TAYLOR:** The first one and second one were called pass plays but just trying to make a play on my feet and got in the end zone. Second one I was going to throw it, he reached for my leg, I thought I got clipped, I

had to get rid of the ball or get upfield quick and I just throwed for the end zone.

Q. For both players, with the way the season started and the injuries and then a couple of mid season losses, what was it like being up on that podium wearing those caps and those shirts?

**FRANK BEAMER:** It's was a great feeling, we've had a lot of ups and downs this year. We have a great family atmosphere. It started with the coaches and trickles down to the players. We played through it. We had injuries, suspensions. But we stayed together through it all. It just felt great standing up there.

Q. Frank, the progression of Tyrod, how important has that been to the development of the entire offense? And his feet you can't beat him.

**FRANK BEAMER:** With Tyrod he just needs more experience. He can throw the ball well. He is a threat to make you miss. I think the more times he reads pass coverages knows where to go with the ball and when to go with the ball. He has to continue to get better and better. I said it and I will say it in front of him. He is going to be a terrific quarterback.

Q. I would like a comment from all three of you on, what you felt changes were made on the offense that were particularly effective in this game today?

**TYROD TAYLOR:** Watching film. They play everybody pretty much the same. I was trying to attack. We had the opportunity to make big plays and we did. We got a chance to get a couple of big plays out there. Just overall great performance by the offensive unit.

**FRANK BEAMER:** I think you got to certainly match Boston College's toughness, and I thought the ball popped there a couple of times today, and I thought we had some great effort by our offensive line. Evans, tight ends, receivers, we got to block too. And then I thought we really mixed it up well early. Inside, outside throwing. That's what I think you got to do against Boston College too. I don't think you let them get in a rhythm. I thought we were doing a good job of us getting into a rhythm and keeping them a little off balance.

**ORION MARTIN:** Just standing on the sidelines looking at the offense, it looked like overall a good team effort. They played well, caught the balls. Tyrod made plays with his arms and feet, we was able to run the ball better we did the last game.

Q. We know you don't need extra motivation going to the bowl game now you represent Virginia Tech and the ACC, you are the leader of the pack out of ACC, how does that feel?

**TYROD TAYLOR:** It's a great feeling. We never gave in. We always fought, trusting each other to go out, and represent the ACC is a great opportunity for us to go out there and play well on the a big stage.

**ORION MARTIN:** This is where we want to be. We are excited about going to the Orange Bowl and representing the ACC. We are ready for the challenge.

**FRANK BEAMER:** There has been plenty written about our ACC record in BCS games. There is no question you got to hold your own on a national stage. And certainly the Orange Bowl is a national stage, and whoever the opponent is, you know it's going to be a really, really good football team.

You know, I said many times I kind of felt like we let the ACC down last year because I don't know that we played as well as we needed to play or

should have played.

So we are going to do our best to represent the ACC, a league that we are tremendously proud to be a part of, and represent them in the right way.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, congratulations.