

**September 25, 2013**



An Interview With:

## **DABO SWINNEY CLEMSON**

DABO SWINNEY: Good morning. Glad to get back on a normal schedule for us this week, coming off a Thursday night game. It's homecoming for us, and always a special week here.

Wake Forest is typical Wake Forest; well-coached, present a lot of challenges. Offensively they've got six seniors back, six starters. They've played a lot of football for them starting with their quarterback and running back, and they've got a great wide out in Campanaro.

Defensively same thing; they've got a lot of guys returning, and with seven starters back, they play incredibly hard. Whitlock, No. 50, is second in the country right now for tackles for loss, and he's also got three sacks.

They move around, do a lot of different things that can present problems for you offensively, so we've got our hands full with a very well-coached Wake Forest team, and look forward to getting back here at home and getting in front of our home crowd, and hopefully we can continue to improve as a team.

We've got several guys that are banged up, so we've got a lot of guys that are going to have to step up and fill some key roles for us this week.

**Q. Did that game Thursday, most people would say 26 points in a heartbeat for their offense, but did that give you some pause, some cause for concern at all?**

DABO SWINNEY: No, no. We'll take -- all we want is one more point than the opponent. When we don't have that, then I get concerned. The objective is to win the game, not score a certain amount of points. Yeah, we missed some

opportunities to score some points, but it's a team game, and thankfully our defense made some key plays and we had some key contributions from our special teams, a couple of huge field goals in that game from Chandler. Again, the objective is to win the game.

The thing that I do like about our team is we're 3-0, and there's several other 3-0 teams out there, but we have two really hard-fought battles under our belt with Georgia and then going on the road in that environment against an undefeated team in NC State.

I think that's great experience for our team to have to handle adversity and challenges early in the season like that. I think that will eventually pay off for us.

**Q. Wake has had a stingy year this year defensively. What's the biggest headache that poses for you?**

DABO SWINNEY: Well, they're very well-coached. They've got a very good scheme. They're a 3-4 odd type front, a lot of movement. They don't sit in one spot, a lot of slanting and angling and twists, and they bring pressure. It starts with No. 50. He's not a very big guy, their nose tackle, but man, he plays big, and just plays -- I love to watch him play. I love watching him on film every time I get a chance to see Wake Forest on tape. He is a fun player to watch because he plays the game with such passion.

They've got two starters back up front, two starters back at linebacker. But I'll tell you what, their secondary is very impressive. No. 7, No. 9, those guys have played a lot of football. They're three-year starters for them, and each year going into this game as I study them, I just come away so impressed. I mean, they're very fundamentally sound. They do a great job with their eyes.

If you go out there and you're running routes with bad technique, bad fundamentals, it's going to be picks because these guys are very, very clued in into what you're trying to do and do a great job of game planning each and every week.



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Same thing, they've got a senior safety No. 17 who's an outstanding player.

They've got good players at each spot defensively, and then their scheme is a challenge for you. You have to really communicate well and everybody be on the same page, not just in the passing game but in the run game and be able to get everybody targeted so you have a chance to have a successful play.

**Q. A question about Tajh: Just in general he hasn't turned the ball over yet. How have you had him be so effective in both managing the ball and moving the offense downfield this season?**

DABO SWINNEY: Well, I mean, he's just being Tajh. He's a third-year starter, and that's what we expect. I mean, he's still got a lot of room for improvement. He's got to play better in several areas, but the one thing that he's doing a great job of, as you mentioned there, is taking care of the ball and being the game manager.

I mean, that is huge for us. We've got to have that to continue so that we can have the type of season -- because if we can continue to win the turnover margin, we're going to be a hard team to beat. That's usually when we have problems, it's when we've lost that turnover margin. And that is a key.

You look at our two losses last year, same thing. Big plays and the turnover margin, those are two huge stats for us that we pay close attention to, and it obviously starts with your quarterback and doing a great job of making good decisions and not putting the ball in jeopardy. So far he's done a nice job there.

**Q. Did you expect this type of impact out of him when you first started recruiting him all those years ago?**

DABO SWINNEY: Certainly. You know, he was the guy that I felt like we could build the program around. He and I kind of came in together, if you will. He was my first quarterback to sign. I got the job, and we went out and signed him. I knew that we were going to have some growing pains and all that kind of stuff, but he's turned out to be exactly what I hoped he would be: A winner, a great leader, a humble young man, and a college graduate. He's achieved a lot of things. He's led us to division titles, ACC Championship, double-digit win type seasons, and he deserves a lot of that credit because he has certainly become the leader of our program.



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I hate he's got to leave here in a few months, but he's laid a foundation here that I think will allow us to sustain some success.

**Q. Talk about Boyd as quarterback, about his growth of being the quarterback for Clemson over the years.**

DABO SWINNEY: Well, he's just matured in every area that you can as a player. First of all, he's grown so much with his knowledge of the game and of the position. He's grown fundamentally, technically. He's really developed into a great leader and has a command of what we're trying to do offensively in every area, whether it's the run game, passing game, protections, all that stuff. He's gotten better and better. He's a very confident guy, but he's paid a big price each year to learn from his mistakes and to go work even harder to try to improve.

He's just been a steady work in progress, and really proud of how he has developed. He's still got it all in front of him, though. I think he's going to continue to develop this season and beyond, and he's a guy you're going to see play for many years to come.

**Q. At 3-0 what is one thing you still have to work on to have a perfect game during one of these games?**

DABO SWINNEY: Well, we've got a lot of things we've got to work on, but the biggest thing for us right now is just being a little more efficient offensively in some areas where we're kind of shooting ourselves in the foot with a critical error or somebody not being on the same page from a protection standpoint, some missed plays that we've got to make in order to have the kind of season that we want to have. We've left a little bit out there in all three games that -- and again, the good news is we've found a way to win games. So that's one thing offensively that we've got to do.

And then over on the defensive side we've got to continue to improve our tackling. I think we've improved in a lot of areas, but we've got to continue to improve our tackling, especially containing and leveraging the football, not letting people get outside us.

## JIMBO FISHER FLORIDA STATE

JIMBO FISHER: Very pleased with our team's performance against Bethune. Went out and did the things we had to do in the game, got better in a lot of little areas, still always looking to improve, have room to improve in everything, but knowing we have to get back into conference play.

Going to play Boston College who's 2-1, having a very good year, very well-coached, play very hard, very sound, very tough, have a lot of good players, very tough place to play. Any time you have to play in this league on the road it's very tough, and we're going to have to bring our "A" game, be ready to play. I know they will. They've had an off week and two weeks to prepare. We'll definitely have to bring our "A" game to play, and it should be one heck of a ballgame.

**Q. Talk about playing up in Boston College, up in Chestnut Hill, how difficult is it to play at that stadium?**

JIMBO FISHER: It's very tough. They've got a great atmosphere, good environment. They take a lot of pride. That's a very physical, tough team, and they play well at home, always have. Have always battled us extremely tough there.

**Q. Talk about their offense and defense. What do you guys have to work on to get a win over Boston College?**

JIMBO FISHER: Well, Boston College obviously has a great runner. Mr. Williams is a very physical, strong guy, big back, going to have to tackle well, can't let him push yards. The line is very physical and strong. The receiver has great -- 83 does a very good job of running routes, double-move guy. You see at quarterback great arm strength, gets it to all parts of the field.

I think on our side of the ball, as far as offensively, they have to -- we have to be able to control the line of scrimmage. They give multiple looks. They blitz and bring tons of pressure packages, different coverages in the secondary. Brown does a great job, always has, and they're very well-coached, so we're going to have to be sound for three-down, four-down, two-down, no-down, backers, different nickel-dime packages. They're a very well-schooled team, and special

teams are very sound. Kickoff guy, very rarely do you ever get a kickoff; he kicks it out of the end zone about every time.

I mean, they do a great job.

**Q. There were quite a few really lopsided games Saturday, Ohio State, Miami, you guys, playing really outmatched opponents, created some kind of debate I was listening to on the radio coming in today, should that kind of game be played when it's really for the little team just for money. Do you accomplish a whole lot in a game like that?**

JIMBO FISHER: I think you do because you get experience. Let me ask you this: The 10 1-AA teams that beat 1-A teams, do you think they thought the same thing? There's been 10 victories. We've said that. There's been as many victories as there has been blowouts. I think there's a lot of quality opponents, and I think for those guys, anytime you play a game and play live -- we didn't expect our game to be like that, we just happened to do some good things, but that was a very good team. And you get guys experience, get guys playing time, you get them on the field.

And I say this, too, at the other end of that, it really helps their athletic departments and the financial part of it to support their programs, which is all part of college football is to help the student athlete and to help other sports and kids.

**Q. When a game does turn out to be over the course of the game lopsided, at what point do you start thinking about doing things to avoid running up the score?**

JIMBO FISHER: Well, I think any time, you never want to embarrass your opponent, but at the same time your kids practice very hard, so when they get a chance to play you want to be able to do the things they do. There's a way to do it and still let them execute in the game and you get your starters out and you let your backups play. I think that's a very critical part of it. That's something we definitely did, because we had Jamison and those guys out by the first drive of the second half. We were fortunate to be able to do that. Sometimes you have to do that from a health standpoint, also. You play 11 big-time games every year, or 12, sometimes you don't have enough healthy guys by the end of the year.

**Q. In terms of your defense, what's the biggest reason the defense has been so effective this season so far?**

JIMBO FISHER: I think we have a lot of diversity in what we do. I think we have good players and I think we're coached very well. I think our coaches and players have been very sound in the schemes they have. We've played very hard and been very fundamentally sound.

And when you go back to look at it, it gets back to being fundamentally sound, well-coached and having good players. I think we could say all the other things we want, but that's the core of everything you have in football.

**Q. Would you say a few words about Robert Aguayo, started out perfect and is obviously looking pretty good? He's obviously on pace to break the single-season scoring record.**

JIMBO FISHER: Dadgum it, don't jinx the guy.

**Q. What is he doing so well?**

JIMBO FISHER: Well, I think being consistent, not trying to do too much. He's just being Roberto. Everybody kept talking about Dustin and all that. I think he's just doing a great job of being Roberto, which is a guy that's extremely talented, he has good leg strength and he practices with great intensity and great consistency and has all camp and has since he's been here.

I think being able to watch Dustin perform and prepare I think has really helped him, and I think he's got a great head on his shoulders, and I think he's just been very consistent for us, and very proud of him.

**Q. He comes into a program with a lot of tradition at that position. Is that something that's ever been talked about, or is it just --**

JIMBO FISHER: I think he knows people have kicked there before, and especially the guy before him and the other guy. I think he definitely does. I think he feels a responsibility to try and perform well. But at the same time, I tell him don't worry about that. You can't be Sebastian Janikowski or Graham Gano or Dustin Hopkins; you just have to be yourself; Gary Siplin. You just have to be yourself and do what Roberto does, which is plenty good enough, which is why we recruited you here.

You appreciate that, but you can't dwell on that and let that be a pressure thing. You've just got to be yourself and do what you do.

**Q. I was curious, do you have any plans to address the all players movement with your team, and what would you kind of tell guys that are interested in joining a silent protest against the NCAA in the middle of the year?**

RANDY EDSALL: Honestly I'm not aware of all the things that are going on. I guess I've kind of got my head in the sand. I can't answer that question because I don't have enough information or sources, and probably if it's something -- I'll have our people look at it for me, but I don't have enough knowledge of that situation to even bring up an answer. I'm sorry.

## RANDY EDSALL MARYLAND

RANDY EDSALL: Well, we're here on a bye week this week and feel good about being 4-0 at this point in time, and hopefully we'll get some guys healed up this week and get on the practice field today and continue to work on getting better with our fundamentals and techniques and start to do a little preparation for Florida State.

**Q. Your team received some votes in the AP Poll and you guys are starting to get a little bit of national attention. Is that something you need to kind of rein them in or is it premature for the team to get a little overconfident?**

RANDY EDSALL: Well, first of all, I don't think we should be ranking any teams until you get to the middle of October to see how anything comes out. You know, 4-0, we haven't accomplished anything yet. We just kind of -- we don't look at those things, we just take it with a grain of salt and know that we've just got to continue to get better because we still have a lot of things to work on and to improve upon. That's kind of been our mindset. You just take one at a time. At the end of the year we'll see where we're at, so we really don't concern ourselves with that because it's where you're at at the end of the year, not where you're at after four games in.

**Q. I was just curious if you have any plans to address the all players united movement with your team and what you would tell guys if they were interested in joining it during the middle of the season.**

RANDY EDSALL: I think that's a -- I don't have any opinion on it one way or the other. I did read about that. But again, I'm sure that if our players had anything in regards to that, they would come in and sit down and talk about it. But the one thing I would say is that if players are going to -- on a team are going to be involved, then really everybody should be involved because if everybody supports it, then fine, but if it's just a few individuals, then I don't think that's, in my opinion, in terms of -- that's the team concept. Either everybody is in or you don't support that.

But again, it's great that players have that ability to express their opinions for what they might believe in.

**Q. Talk about what you guys do during a bye week. What do you do as coaches? Do you guys still go out and recruit like some other schools do, or what do you do?**

RANDY EDSALL: Well, we brought the guys in on Sunday, and they lifted weights and we watched the film, and then the players were off Monday and Tuesday. We're going to practice Wednesday and Thursday and then they're off Friday and Saturday and we'll get back into our routine on Sunday. As coaches, guys -- we had some guys out on Monday, some guys out on Tuesday. We're here with the team today and tomorrow. We'll go out recruiting on Friday, and I'll be out on Friday and Saturday watching games.

So we get a chance to self-scout ourselves after the first four games and get us an opportunity to get ahead on the game plan with Florida State, as well.

**Q. Playing at M&T Bank Stadium last Saturday, do you think there's going to be more games in the future when we move into the Big 10 next year?**

RANDY EDSALL: Well, I think what everybody has to understand, contractually we're obligated to play six games here at Byrd Stadium every year. The only chance that we would have an opportunity to take a game away from Byrd was when we would have seven home games. That's a challenge to be able to get seven, but again, I think that's something that our administration would

really like to do if we have the opportunity to do that because it was just a great day and a great atmosphere.

**Q. After the game on Saturday, a bunch of the defensive guys were extremely complimentary of Coach Stew and the job he's done. I was curious just from your standpoint, what has he brought since he's come into the program and now entering his second year?**

RANDY EDSALL: Well, I think, first of all, that Brian does a tremendous job, and also Greg Gattuso and Lyndon Johnson and Keith Dudzinski are excellent coaches, as well. It's all part of the team concept that we have, and we've got -- those guys are playing well, and they're running to the ball and doing the things that Brian as a coordinator is asking them to do and then doing the things that the position coaches are asking them to do.

When guys do their job and they listen to what they're being taught, then you have a chance for success.

**Q. I didn't get to see it obviously, but is it fair to characterize the West Virginia game as a defensive victory? It looks like in your first three games your offense really was over 500 yards plus. You didn't do that but you forced six turnovers, you held them to under 200 yards. Seemed like it really was a defense-dominated game.**

RANDY EDSALL: We did. We played very well defensively. You know, we scored a touchdown on defense, and we also gave the offense some short field to drive the ball on special teams and defense. But no, I thought our defense played well. We gave up a couple runs late in the game that we weren't happy with, but again, I think as long as guys just continue to really work hard and do the things they're supposed to, we can be very productive.

Offensively we just had -- we shot ourselves in the foot. We had six penalties on offense. We had some false starts and did some things that I didn't like, but we took a drive at the end of the game, 12 plays over eight minutes. I thought that was good.

But no, our defense played very well on Saturday.

**Q. And can you just address, West**

**Virginia has been kind of Maryland's bugaboo for a few years, even before you got there. It's been a tough series for you. To turn it around with such a decisive victory, how satisfying is that?**

RANDY EDSALL: You know, the players did a great job and the assistant coaches. They went out and executed the plans we had. They played hard throughout the game. Any time you can get six turnovers, that's a definite advantage, and you should have success if you do that.

But again, our guys are just -- they're playing hard. They're playing with confidence, and hopefully we can continue that.

**Q. You talked about your defense a little bit and you touched on that, but is there anything specific about the scheme itself that kind of has led you guys to be so successful the last few years?**

RANDY EDSALL: You know, I think it's guys understanding exactly what their roles are, what their job is, and it's guys going out and executing. They're playing with confidence. They know -- they do a good job of the coaching preparing them in terms of what they're going to see and how to react to it, and so I think it's a great effort amongst the players first and foremost, and then it's a good job by the assistant coaches getting them prepared and getting them ready to go out and do their jobs.

Again, it's a team thing with our defense. We've just got a lot of guys that want to play well, want to do their job, and fortunately for us that's what's happening right now.

**Q. Just wanted to ask you about the whole mantra that you've had since day one: Do your job. With a team that has so many young guys, just the challenges of getting everybody to buy into just doing what's required of them and not trying to do too much. As we know, things can backfire when they do that.**

RANDY EDSALL: Well, again, I think one of the things is sometimes people try to make this game a little bit too complex. I think the simpler that you can keep it where you have guys that have athletic ability and intelligence and you keep it where they can go out and play fast and do the things that you want them to do, I think that's to your advantage.

And again, we've gotten the guys to buy in to say, hey, you do your job. You're 1/11 of what's

going on out there, so just do your job, and if we get everybody else doing their job, we're going to be successful. That's one of the things that's happening, and we've got guys -- I think we're very athletic on defense, and we've got guys who can run.

You put all that together, and it allows you to have the kind of success that we've had through four games, but we know we still haven't played as good as we possibly can, and we're striving each and every day to get better and improve where we're at.

**Q. You guys have been extremely effective on special teams this year. Can you just talk about how that helps you either offensively or defensively, how that contributes to your success?**

RANDY EDSALL: Well, I think that from a special teams standpoint, Brad Craddock is a year older, a year more mature, a year stronger, and he's worked extremely hard to perfect his craft since last year, and he's kicking with much more confidence than he did a year ago, and I would say the same for Nate Renfrow.

When you start with special teams, you start with the two specialists, and then plus we've got a snapper in Greg Parcher who gets overlooked but who's done a great job. Again, it gets back to I think athletically we have some really good athletes, and guys have bought into special teams as important. Not everybody can be a starter on offense or defense, but there's a way to contribute to the success of the team through special teams.

And again, it's a credit to the players but also with Andre Powell, special teams coordinator, for getting those guys to understand what their job is and then for those guys to go out and do their job, and everybody is just working together so we can create field position for our offense or our defense through special teams.

## **SCOTT SHAFER SYRACUSE**

SCOTT SHAFER: Had a good victory against Tulane. I felt like all three phases came to play, and now we have a bye week, a chance to get reconditioned and healthy as we have with a

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little bit of time here, and then prepare for a big game against Clemson.

**Q. I wanted to ask you first and foremost about this ACC game and how much you've been looking into Clemson moving forward and how excited you are as a coach to be part of this history for Syracuse.**

SCOTT SHAFER: Yeah, first off, it's just great to be in the conference. I think that it was a great move for us in house, and hopefully the ACC feels great about having Syracuse in the conference as much as we do.

And then starting off arguably the best team in the conference in Clemson will be a heck of a challenge for us and a great opportunity for us and the students and the community out here to see some of the best players in the conference that play for Clemson.

**Q. Also looking at this game and moving forward, special teams has been big for you, and it's something that Syracuse has struggled with in the past. What's going right on special teams, and what coaches do you really credit with being able to teach the right things and have that success like the three blocks you had last week?**

SCOTT SHAFER: Yeah. Well, we try to structure our practice time this summer in summer camp, and we doubled how much time we put into it from the previous year. So we really felt like it was a big focus point. Coach Doust is in charge of coordinating all the special teams, and he's done a great job getting the kids and the coaches prepared with good plans, good targeting as we go into each game, and more specifically last week it was a great job by Fred Reid coaching the punt block and return team, and I thought we got good pressure obviously with the one in the coming-out zone, got the ball to our offense inside the 10-yard line with a nice block by Durrell Eskridge, I think it was maybe even inside the 5. It was a great job by Coach Reid preparing them. We felt like there were some areas that we could exploit, and the kids did a nice job with that. And then I was pleased with our field goal block team, as well when John Raymon got the block in that one, and then we were in a punt safe situation defensively, and it was just a good effort by Eric Crume coming up and trying to play through the field, and he got his hand on it, and all three of those blocks led to 21 points. You credit the punt block team of Coach Reid and the defense, as well, with giving

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our offense an opportunity, and then the offense did a nice job taking the ball in those sudden-change situations and turning them into points.

**Q. There's been quite a few high scoring games in the ACC. What do you make of that? Are you surprised by it?**

SCOTT SHAFER: I think it's a lightning-quick conference with a lot of skilled athletes on the perimeter, and it's a lot of high potency schemes that give those schools opportunities to make plays in space, and that's what you see when you watch the videotape. They're a very exciting conference to watch from an offensive point of view especially with some of the best players in the country with the ball in their hands, and I think a combination of good coaching, with very adequate schemes, coupled with exceptional athletes is probably the biggest result in all the high scores.

**Q. What does Christopher Clark bring to this team? He's been so good in the last few games?**

SCOTT SHAFER: Yeah, Chris had a good off-season. He really worked hard, put a lot of extra time in catching balls on his own, running routes. After all the practice sessions he was always out there getting extra work in, and he's done a nice job learning the offense Coach McDonald has implemented and understanding his role, and when the opportunities have come, he's done a nice job making plays for us.

I think you can credit Chris's success with all of his hard work and all the work ethic he's put into it the last few months.

**Q. It really doesn't matter how big you are, I guess, in this game.**

SCOTT SHAFER: No, especially with the advent of spreading people out, and you can play an undersized guy and get him the ball in space, and if they catch the ball well and can make plays with their feet, then they have a place in the game, in the college game. They're really doing a good job, not just Chris but all the kids, understanding the scheme and progressively getting better from week one to week four now.

**Q. I was wondering if there was an update on a few guys who had been banged**

**up: Brandon Reddish, Robert Welsh particularly, and then also Kyle Knapp, I still haven't seen him out. Is he all right?**

SCOTT SHAFER: Yeah, Kyle will be back practicing -- this week we're really not having practice with gear on. We're doing a lot of running, a lot of lifting and some drill work, and Kyle is cleared to come out and practice this week. Robby Welsh is doing well. We had a scare with him, but he's back and ready to go, as well and lifting and running already. And then Brandon Reddish will probably be questionable for Clemson. He's got a lower leg injury, but it'll be one of those things where we monitor it every day and see how he's coming around. But I see all three of those kids eventually getting back on the field for us.

**Q. I was wondering, you talked about after the game how this was an important week, not only for the team to rest up a little bit but also for the coaches recruiting. How do you kind of balance that this week and are there any specific recruiting goals you want to accomplish in a bye week?**

SCOTT SHAFER: Well, the biggest goal from a recruiting standpoint is just to get out and continue doing some effective evaluations. You know, getting out on the road in different areas and seeing the high schools that have the kids that we're evaluating and getting -- really picking up transcripts, paperwork, making sure kids are on track with their course work and watching videotape in the coaches' offices at those schools if we have a chance watching them practice. But it's a big evaluation time and an opportunity to get out there and solidify feeling good about the kids that we have offered and seeing if there are any other kids out there that fit the mold into our recruiting.

Big evaluation time. And then with our players in house, to me it's a week to get healthy, get strong, and recondition the kids. You know, once you get four games in in the season, the kids are banged up a little bit, and it's a good opportunity to try to work the soreness out of their muscles and out of their joints and try to get them back on track with their conditioning, get their legs back, that sort of thing.

So what we're doing is we've been having heavy lifting days and heavy run days starting today. We'll get some good running in after they lift today, Thursday, Friday, and then we'll also have the lifting stuff continue, as well as they'll get out there and work on drill work that are position

specific this week. And then we'll ramp it up and start back with the Clemson game planning as we get into the weekend.

**Q. Just looking forward to next week a little bit, how are you planning to prep your defense for a quarterback like Boyd that can throw the ball downfield so effectively and yet has not thrown an interception this year?**

SCOTT SHAFER: Yeah, well, it's a difficult task. He's a very good football player. You could argue he's the best quarterback in the country. He's played a lot of football, obviously, and he's a legitimate Heisman Trophy type of guy.

You know, he understands Dabo's offense extremely well. He gets the ball out quick to a very talented wide receiver corps. He also has some tight ends that do a great job blocking on the perimeter as well as catching the ball. And then when things aren't there, he does a nice job not forcing it and lets his feet take over to try to move the sticks with his legs. You've got a seasoned veteran that's played very good football for them and understands the offense inside and out.

**Q. You did a nice job with some premier quarterbacks last year with Bridgewater and Geno Smith. Any of the same game planning going to be used for Boyd?**

SCOTT SHAFER: Well, we're still working on it. There will be some similarities, some different things. The offenses are -- there's some characteristics in the Clemson offense that are quite a bit different than those schools that we played against, so the game plan will be such that it matches up against what their personnel groupings are and the way they try to attack the different looks that teams have given them.

There are some similarities, but there's a lot of differences, as well.

## JIM GROBE WAKE FOREST

JIM GROBE: We were glad to get home from West Point with a win. A tough place to play, and I thought West Point's kids played really hard in a real physical game. We were glad to come home with a win.

Big, big challenge this week down in Death

Valley, very talented Clemson team, very well-coached football team, a team that we'll have to play great for four quarters to have a chance. But we're looking forward to the challenge, so we'll see what happens. But certainly one of the better teams in the whole country right now.

**Q. I just wanted to ask you about numbers have to be looked at in context. Statistically you gave up more rushing yards Saturday than you'd given up all year, but considering who you were playing and the offense they run, was that a good performance?**

JIM GROBE: I think so. You know, it's the first time really that we've had that kind of success stopping a wishbone team. We've played Navy several times, Army last year ran for a bunch of yards against us, and that's kind of what they do. I think if you look at it on paper, it looks like we didn't have a very good day stopping the run, but when you know that that's their bread and butter and really what they do almost exclusively, it makes it seem a little better.

**Q. When you look at film of what NC State did to slow Clemson down a little bit, is there anything you can take from that or emulate, or did they expose a weakness?**

JIM GROBE: Well, I think we try to take a little bit from every game. Most teams throughout the season do some good things and some things you kind of like, some things you don't like. But yeah, there's no question that NC State did some good things.

In the same breath I would tell you I know how tough it is to go to Raleigh and play football, so I think Clemson got a really good win. I think sometimes they don't get the credit they deserve for beating the Wolfpack team in Raleigh because that's a really tough environment. But yeah, no question we try not only from NC State but from all their opponents, try to figure out if there's anything you can do to slow them down. But in the end they're just an awful talented offense that can run it and throw it, and I think that's what gives you so many problems with Clemson right now is that they could probably beat you either way, running or throwing, and of course those are the scariest teams to face.

**Q. Talk about how difficult it is to play at Memorial Stadium there at Clemson. Is it a difficult place to play?**



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JIM GROBE: Yeah, it's really difficult. They have a great fan base. They have great attendance. They really support the Tigers, and I think Clemson plays especially good at home. You know, I think they're glad to come home from Raleigh I know with a win and to get back home in front of their crowd. But you get 80-plus thousand fans in there, and there aren't many of them for the opposing teams. They're all for Clemson, and it's an intimidating environment. You have to really not only go in and play good football against one of the most talented teams in the country and a very well-coached team, but you've got to fight the distractions of being in a hostile environment.

**Q. I know your defense has been up and down this year. What do you guys have to do with Boyd? I know he's a scrambler, and if he finds a hole he's gone pretty much.**

JIM GROBE: Well, you know, the thing is you've got to have help from the offensive side and special teams has to play good. We talk a lot about defensive football and what defenses are good and whatnot, but really most of the really, really good defenses that I've ever been a part of or seen had a little bit of balance on the offensive side of the ball, so they didn't spend all their time on the field. If your offense is three-and-out a lot, you're going to have problems, and that's especially true with this Clemson team with Tajh Boyd and all the talent that he has around him. You'd like to think that your defense is going to play hard and they're going to fly around and try to do the best they can, but if you don't have a little bit of possession time from your offense, it can be a long day.

**Q. At this point in the season have you kind of got a handle yet in terms of how much offensively you want to be an option running team or how much you want to be a throwing team? Have you kind of figured out what you want to hang your hat on the rest of the day?**

JIM GROBE: I think we're getting closer. I don't think we really feel comfortable yet. I think we're figuring out that some kids do obviously some things better than others, but I do think that we've got to continue to fight the fight because with the people that we're playing against, Clemson is a great example, if you're one-dimensional, you're in trouble. If we just go in there and try to throw the football and let these guys rush the passer, it's

going to be really a long day, and vice versa, if you just try to sit the ball on the ground and run it all the time, they're going to hunker down and beat you up.

I think you've got to have a little bit of balance, and quite frankly, we haven't thrown the ball as well as we need to and we certainly haven't run it as well as we want to. I think we've got to keep chipping away at it. We're obviously not where we need to be yet, but I felt we've improved a little bit against Army last week, and we're going to have to improve quite a bit before we get down to Death Valley.

**Q. Your defense hasn't allowed more than 24 points in a game this year. What's the biggest thing your defense needs to do to hold Clemson in the 20s?**

JIM GROBE: Oh, I think the key for us and any defense against this Clemson offense that's so talented and so well-coached that they try to get you in a lot of different ways, and I think last year what really hurt us is we gave up a bunch of big plays, big chunks of yardage. So they're going to get some of those, but if you give them too many, then you just can't-- you don't have a chance to win.

I think the big part of it is you certainly want to try to stop what they do, and that's run and throw the football. They do both of them really, really well. But I think the key is if you give up too many big plays, you're not going to have a very good day.

## PAUL JOHNSON GEORGIA TECH

PAUL JOHNSON: Good morning. Clearly we've got a quick turnaround for this game. Both teams do. It's been an important game every year that I've been in it at Georgia Tech. It seems like either Virginia Tech or Georgia Tech has represented the Coastal Division in the Conference Championship game, so we know how big a game it is.

Great deal of respect for what Frank has done there and the program he has, and we've had some great games the last few years. Just hoping that we can do enough to come out on the right end of it this time.

**Q. I just wonder if you can talk a little bit about what you see from their defense. Although they've struggled some on offense, their defense has been pretty impressive so far this year leading the league in rushing defense. How big a problem is that and what's the biggest problem?**

PAUL JOHNSON: Yeah, I think they're always good on defense. You have to give Bud Foster a lot of credit. He does a great job. They'll have a good plan. They've got good athletes. I think that against most people they play a lot of man free and really get after the quarterback and blitz a lot. It's a little bit different for us sometimes. But they always have a great plan. They know what they're doing. They run well, and they tackle well.

When you combine all those things together, you're usually pretty good on defense, and that's what they are.

**Q. Contrast to that is offensively they have struggled. Is there anything that concerns you about -- that you have to do to continue that struggle?**

PAUL JOHNSON: Well, yeah, they've got a lot that concerns me. Their quarterback is a very explosive guy. He can beat you at any given time. Two years ago when we played down here we couldn't tackle the guy. He must have averaged about seven yards on quarterback sneaks.

But they'll have some talented players. I'm sure they haven't executed as well as they would have liked so far this year offensively, but it's not because there's not talent there. They're very capable.

**Q. Talk about playing these Thursday night games. How difficult are these games, getting yourselves ready to play after a short week?**

PAUL JOHNSON: Well, it's difficult. I mean, I'm sure it's going to be difficult on both teams, just the turnaround. We're coming out of a really physical game with North Carolina, and I'm sure they had a lot of plays going into triple overtime. They had a physical game, as well.

It's just tough on the young men involved. You know, the Thursday night games are great as far as exposure if you've got time to get ready and play. It's just really tough to come off of five days' rest, and it's hard on the kids.

**Q. Talk about Coach Beamer, what type of coach he's been throughout his career. Talk about your battles against him.**

PAUL JOHNSON: Well, I think we've had some great games. Clearly all you have to do is look at Frank's record to see what kind of coach he's been. He's had an outstanding program for a long time. I think that he's got a philosophy and some basic beliefs, and he's very good at sticking to it and coaching and adhering to those principles, and that's what's made him successful.

You know, he's done a remarkable job, and I'm sure that he's had a Hall of Fame career there at Virginia Tech.

**Q. I just wanted to ask, you guys, North Carolina got off to a pretty good start against you Saturday, and you guys had to match them. First time this year I thought maybe you'd faced some adversity. I just wonder, can you talk about the resiliency your team showed in a game that was at least tough early?**

PAUL JOHNSON: Yeah, I was proud of our guys. I thought that they came back and we played a little better in the second half. The first half you have to give North Carolina credit, but we didn't play very well. That's two weeks in a row we've kind of sputtered coming out, and we won't be able to do that as the competition level increases.

It's a concern. We've got to be able to show up and play right from the start, and hopefully we can do that.

But I was proud of our guys to come back from down 20-7 and found a way to come back and score 21 unanswered points.

**Q. You mentioned in your opening statement just how important this series has been to the Coastal Division race. Is there anything from your perspective that you can pinpoint as to why these two programs have been able to separate and made it such a special series?**

PAUL JOHNSON: No, I don't know. I think that if you look just since I've been here, sometimes the programs get overlooked a little bit. But if you take Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech, they're probably in the top three or four in total conference wins over the whole span that I've been here. It's just kind of worked that way. So it's always a big game and a game that has a lot of meaning in the Coastal Division race.



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**Q. Do you have an update on Crenshaw, Jamal or Chris?**

PAUL JOHNSON: Yeah, we released the injury report, and that's kind of where they are, what we released last night. So we'll see.

## LARRY FEDORA NORTH CAROLINA

LARRY FEDORA: We are looking forward to getting back to Kenan Stadium and playing in front of our home crowd. I know Ruffin McNeill will bring in a very hungry and talented East Carolina team, so we know that we have our work cut out for us.

**Q. I was wondering, what do you feel like are the good characteristics of a great offensive coordinator, and when did you kind of start noticing those in Blake?**

LARRY FEDORA: Well, I think it's a guy that first of all has a great presence with a unit, and I think that's very important, a guy that can handle an entire unit and can motivate an entire unit. Then the philosophy has to fit. That's very important. And then I think a lot of the personality of the guy is very critical and how he relates with players.

And then as far as a play caller, I mean, that's always -- I think play calling is overrated a lot of times. I think most of the work is done throughout the week in the game plan and put together a good game plan, and then from there you get a feel about a person.

Blake and I have been together for a long time, and I have complete confidence in him.

**Q. In terms of your offensive emphasis in practice this week, where are you hoping the offense to improve this week?**

LARRY FEDORA: Well, shoot, I hope we improve in every area because I don't think there's any area on the offensive side of the ball where I feel like we've arrived. I mean, if you look at -- go back and look at that second half, I mean, we were inept in every situation we were put in offensively. We've got to -- we've just got to play harder. We have got to execute. We can't shoot ourselves in the foot. And every guy on that field, all 11, have

to give a little bit more on each and every snap.

**Q. Did you privately fear before the season that with Gio gone this might not be as productive an offense as it was last year?**

LARRY FEDORA: No, I didn't. I really expected our offense to be more productive this year just going into our second year, and I still believe that. I still believe we're going to be, and I'm going to expect us to be.

**Q. How well do you know Lincoln Riley over at East Carolina? I guess you guys are all cut from the same Texas cloth there, so to speak.**

LARRY FEDORA: Yeah, I knew Lincoln when he was out at Texas Tech and did a nice job out there, and then actually visited with him a little bit when I was at Southern Miss, and then he joined up with Ruffin. So I've known Lincoln. I know he's a young coach that started out there in Mike Leach's system and really did a nice job for them, and then he's brought it now to East Carolina and is doing a heck of a job over there.

**Q. Did you guys interview him for a job at Southern Miss at one point?**

LARRY FEDORA: Yeah, actually did, sure did. Brought him in there at one point and thought about hiring him. Actually did.

**Q. Was it a position --**

LARRY FEDORA: Yeah, it was just a position.

**Q. Just talk about playing against East Carolina this year. On film, on TV, it seems like they have a high-powered offense. What do you have to do on Saturday?**

LARRY FEDORA: Well, we're going to have to play really well on defense. Obviously it starts with getting pressure on the quarterback. We're going to have to get some pressure on the quarterback. But you've really got to stop the run. You've got to stop the run and make them one divisional, and then you've got to get pressure on the quarterback, and then after that it's tackling in the open field. I mean, they're going to get the ball out in space, and you're going to be in one-on-one situations a lot of times. We have got to get a lot of guys running to the football, playing hard, and if we do that, we've got a chance.

**Q. Talk about this rivalry between East Carolina and North Carolina. It's a non-conference game but you guys are literally 15 minutes away from each other.**

LARRY FEDORA: Yeah, when you play an in-state team, you've got guys on your team that played with guys on their team or played against guys on their team in high school, and so they have relationships. Anytime you have that scenario, it's going to be a little bit more intense. You're going to have guys that have history with each other.

Then you've got the fans. You've got the fans on the eastern side of the state that are obviously the East Carolina fans, and they're sprinkled around, so there's a lot of bragging rights that come into play.

**Q. I know Eric Ebron caught 40 passes last year and played very well, but I guess I'm mesmerized by the one-handed TD catch on Saturday. Can you talk about how he's playing this year? Has he upped his game a little bit or are you using him better?**

LARRY FEDORA: I think, first of all, the guy is really talented. I mean, he really is. He can make plays like that, and unfortunately there was a couple more that he had later in the game that he could have made those plays, and probably a little bit of that is we played him too much because of the situation. We needed to get him rested a little bit better so he could have played better towards the end of the game.

But he is so talented. I mean, he can block at the point of attack, so he's physical enough to do that, but he runs really good routes, and he's got great hands, he really does. He has a knack for making that catch that seems to be really hard, and when he's making those catches, he's usually getting the tar knocked out of him, and he does a great job of concentrating on the ball and not worrying about his body.

He's definitely a threat in every situation that we're in.

**Q. Obviously last year Gio carried most of the load, was your big-play guy, the running back. Can you talk about your running back situation now and what you're doing to make up for his absence?**

LARRY FEDORA: Yeah, well, we're -- it's been -- it really hasn't changed. The philosophy

has been whoever is the hot guy, that's the guy that's going to go. Unfortunately we just haven't got anybody that's gotten hot. Now, part of that is a combination of the offensive line, blocking on the perimeter, backs seeing the reads, seeing the cuts, all those things. So we have our combination of problems there that we've got to get solved, and then somebody needs to start making those plays so they can stay out on the field longer. If not, we're looking for somebody to do it, and it's hard to do that when you start playing multiple guys, you know.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**

**September 25, 2013**



An interview with:

## **PITTSBURGH COACH PAUL CHRYST**

COACH CHRYST: It was certainly good last week. It was a strange game, but going to Duke and being able to come away with the victory. Really looking forward to this week's game against Virginia. I think each game you find out more about who you are, but I think this one will be a big test for us and looking forward to playing.

**Q. It's obviously a good day for you guys offensively. What do you see from Virginia on film in terms of defensive challenges that they might present for you guys?**

COACH CHRYST: Yeah, I think they've got a lot of -- they're playing well on defense and certainly it starts with a good scheme and good players. I think that we'll truly be challenged. Be challenged in the run game and also in the throw game. That's where I'm looking forward to finding out more about our guys and how we play. But I think they do a nice job of changing up and presenting you with different looks. I think they're doing it with good players. I think we'll be challenged.

**Q. What specifically have you guys been working on defensively this week?**

COACH CHRYST: Well, I think when you look the big plays hurt us last week, and what are the things that cause big plays? It's guys not being in position. Certainly when you face these teams that spread you out and you have fewer guys that can overlap. So you've got to tackle well. Everyone's got to do their job and trust that the other guys. We had a couple plays where guys were trying to make up for someone else and then they put themselves in a bad situation.

So I think it's just truly being confident in what you're doing and doing it the best you can, but also confidence -- certainly, we did a lot of good things in that game, but you don't feel real good when you give up that number of big plays which results in one of those games that is a track meet.

I've liked the way the guys took ownership of the film and of their spots. Yesterday was our first real practice day, but I like their approach. We've got to get better there obviously.

**Q. Did you have any inkling last week before the game that you would have, as you just described it, a track meet? What are the possibilities for another track meet this week?**

COACH CHRYST: Well, I didn't have an inkling. I think you have to prepare for any type of game and kind of for different reasons they play out. I think it's one of the good things and bad things maybe, but you don't really know what to expect. You can kind of make an educated guess. But often times maybe just not smart enough, but they play out different. You've just got to be prepared.

Prepare all your units to be ready if it's a throw game, a run game, a high scoring and low scoring and kind of play accordingly. There are so many different factors that factor into it that can sway a game into a certain way or another. I think you've just got to try to prepare for it all and try to have a plan or be able to adjust as the game flows.

**Q. If I might follow-up, what's been the development of Savage from game one to now heading into game four?**

COACH CHRYST: I think Tom keeps gaining experience again. He's a guy that's a fifth year guy, but hasn't played a lot of football. So I think he's gaining comfort and just playing. Each game will present different situations and you just get used to handling those.

I think he is getting better. I think that he's certainly got things that they continue to work on, don't get me wrong. But I think Tom is getting

more comfortable in playing and also that helps him play a little bit better.

**Q. You've obviously gotten good production from your top two receivers so far this year. But do you see the tight ends becoming more part of the passing game as the season progresses?**

COACH CHRYST: Yeah, I think there will be guys that certainly have an impact in it. I don't know off the top of my head how many they had the other day. It was, as you know, people are wondering about the third receiver, is Kevin Weatherspoon or whoever, were going to get involved. The games kind of take care of it, and Spoon was obviously a big part of what we did last week. So I think had Manasseh had a catch, Scottie had one for a touchdown.

Yeah, at the end of the year they're going to be a part of it, and how it plays out game to game, a lot of it depends on how teams are defending you or a lot of different things. But we have a lot of confidence in them, and we're going to need them as the season goes.

**Q. Any updates on the guys that got sort of banged up and injured Saturday?**

COACH CHRYST: No.

**Q. I know it's early in the season, and Savage hasn't played in many games as you mentioned a moment ago. But did you envision that he would be this successful this early? Just talk about his game and what you like about what his strengths are?**

COACH CHRYST: Well, you never quite know how a guy's going to perform. That's part of the beauty of it. But I think Tommy does a great job. He's certainly a talented player. I mean, he's got a major college arm, certainly, and he's a competitor. I love the way that he's approached his preparation and work ethic. I think he's a guy that when football had been in some ways taken away as far as being able to play the games. I also think he's a guy that's enjoying that whole process and comes out and enjoys practice in the summer and the off-season, enjoys that preparation. So I think it's a guy that certainly has some God-given abilities and works at being the best he can in all the different ways that you have. So that's where as a coach he's enjoyable to be around because he's trying to make the most of the opportunity that's in front of him this year.

That's all you can really ask for is a guy trying to be the best he can be and it's our job to help.

**Q. I was just wondering in your meetings this week and in practices, have you seen the defense, especially the secondary, maybe practicing with more of a chip on their shoulders after what happened in Durham?**

COACH CHRYST: You know, I think if you say, boy, no one's pleased with that, but I haven't had a problem with the way they practiced before. You know what I mean? So to say that there is a marked difference, I thought guys in particular in the secondary try to go out and practice every day with a purpose. So I think that certainly you don't want that to come off like they've accepted something or are happy with it. I don't get that sense at all.

But when you say a marked difference or chip on their shoulder, the one thing is I think that there are enough guys on defense that like any competitor, they're proud and they're not satisfied with what happened.

I wouldn't say all of a sudden there's been a huge spike because I didn't think that they approached it bad previously.

**Q. Talk about your quarterback Tom Savage? What have you seen the last couple games since his first game of the year, his growth and maturity as a quarterback?**

COACH CHRYST: Well, kind of like with the previous, I think that he's continuing to gain comfort in playing the games. I think he's been better. Last week he was better than game one just on some of the game management issues. He's putting himself in position where he does a great job of preparing during the week and in practice. On the field, off the field, he's doing all the things that you want from your quarterback. So he's given himself a chance and another challenge and another opportunity this week to continue to grow. I've liked the way that he's approached it from the time he got here. We've just got to keep progressing each week hopefully.

**Q. Talking about Virginia, what type of team would you see on film? They're up-and-down, they beat BYU, lost to Oregon, and blew out VMI. What have you seen on film?**

COACH CHRYST: Certainly you see a lot

of things that concern you when you're playing them that week. I think BYU is a really good football team. I've been involved with games, you know when you play Oregon and how that score to me isn't reflective of problems, necessarily, as much as it's a good team and in a hurry it can get out of hand. They certainly looked impressive against VMI. I've got a ton of respect for what they're doing schematically and their coaches. I think they've got some really good players that present some problems for us.

## VIRGINIA TECH COACH FRANK BEAMER

COACH BEAMER: We're playing a football team that's, I think, playing extremely well, ranked in the country defensively, giving up very few points. Offensively, just tough to prepare for and certainly in a short number of days tough to prepare for. Then the fact that at 32 of our 69 people traveling, are first or second-year players, you're going into a place like that with a young football team, we've got our work cut out for us. We understand that, so got to be ready to play the best we can.

**Q. I was just noticing with Trey Edmunds with his hip, how cautious are you guys with his hip or is that anything you're really -- I guess, is it very serious in your mind?**

COACH BEAMER: Well, it's bothering him. He practiced yesterday, but you could tell it was a problem. But we'll see how he is tomorrow night.

**Q. With Cody Journell, with the struggles he had at East Carolina, it's looking like he worked through that, whatever the issues were, mechanics or mental or whatever it was?**

COACH BEAMER: Yeah, yeah, I think Cody will be fine.

**Q. What is the toughest part about coming back after this tight turn around? A lot of times when you've had these Thursday night games in the past, you've had that bye week right before. Instead you have a Saturday game that goes to triple overtime and now you're going on the road in just a couple of days?**

COACH BEAMER: Well, as you can imagine, your whole week is just sped up. Trying to cover a lot of things in a short period of time. Then you throw on top of that a completely different offense. If you're playing an offense similar to Marshall, then there is carryover. But now you're playing a completely different offense and a different offense than you won't see it again this year.

So you put all those things together and things are moving fast around here. We're trying to practice fast, learn fast, look at film fast, the whole deal. Fast week.

**Q. What makes this option offense so difficult to prepare for?**

COACH BEAMER: Well, it's different, number one. I think if you face it every week you certainly become better at it and become more experienced with it. But if you've faced it one time and you are trying to get your players to adjust to that, then it is another thing, the options at the line of scrimmage. There is a difference there than having the option be three yards or four yards off the line of scrimmage.

You know, the first part of the option the dive part hits right there at the line of scrimmage. So you've got to be exact on your responsibilities.

**Q. What's it like coaching in this game just knowing history of how important it's been to the Coastal Division race?**

COACH BEAMER: Well, we don't know about this year. It's early in the year. You don't know how good we are. How good they are. How many games they're going to win. How many games we're going to win. But it's certainly being on national TV on Thursday night that's different for your kids. So I know they'll come out and play extremely hard and hopefully we can well.

**Q. So because it's earlier in the year, it doesn't feel as much of a sense of urgency?**

COACH BEAMER: I think it's a sense of urgency. Any time you play in the conference and play your team on your side of the conference, there is certainly a sense of urgency. But to say, hey, this game's going to determine our season, I don't think we can say that right now.

**Q. Frank Logan has had such good success against Georgia Tech, I think it's five**

**touchdowns, no picks and running it effectively. Even though you guys are in a new offense, did you go back and show him any of that tape and how he's done against Georgia Tech in the past?**

COACH BEAMER: Well, certainly he would have seen that. But, again, I think it helps to see successful situations. But this is a new defensive coordinator. Defense is ranked 11th, I think, in total defense in the country, given up very few points. It's a different situation this year and what we've got to be concerned about is how we play against them this time around.

**Q. He remarked on Monday that he thought it was time to open up the offense a little bit. Do you concur?**

COACH BEAMER: Well, I think we've studied it quite a bit, we've talked about it quite a bit and hopefully we'll be more consistent here tomorrow night.

I will say this, this week you've got to really depend on your scout teams. Our guys, T.J. Shaw on offense has been the quarterback and Corey Marshall and Andrew Motuapuaka is on defense, and Corey, of course, is red-shirting. But, boy, those two guys have been kind of the leaders. They're giving us great looks. You don't get as many reps as you normally get. To get good reps and fast speed reps I've got to commend my scout team for doing a great job this week.

## VIRGINIA COACH MIKE LONDON

**Q. Paul Chryst called it a track meet last week. What are the keys for your defense to avoid getting into one of those this week?**

COACH LONDON: I tell you, you look at the film and see a lot of points scored quickly, a lot of quick plays and lot of dynamic plays. Obviously, we're the type of defense that wants to apply pressure and not allow long throws or long runs.

So it's important for us to limit their explosive plays. They do a great job of running the ball and running the play action off of that, so you can see why the passing game has opened up and been almost prolific for them against Duke. But we just had to play our style of defense, being aggressive trying to create those long third down situations and pressure the ball when applicable.

But definitely, you watch the game and there are a lot of points going on and both sides enjoyed quick plays, long drives, and dynamic play by some really good players?

**Q. How do you feel you match-up against them?**

COACH LONDON: When you look at both teams, you look at they like to run the ball. Coach Chryst has brought his style of influence from Wisconsin. Although the Duke game, they did a great -- the quarterback Savage did a great job with the six touchdown passes you know, we are designed to stop the run.

You look at two teams like that, and I think it's one of the games that our defense will have to play well against their offense. Our offense will have to do what they need to do against their defense, and I believe special teams will probably be the key in this particular game when you see some similarities as far as statistically as far as the style of system that's we play.

**Q. Two of your players said the other day that you placed an emphasis on scoring off of turnovers, which obviously hadn't happened a whole lot. How do you make that happen? It's not as if your guys are intercepting passes and falling down or anything. So is it just a matter of getting more turnovers?**

COACH LONDON: It's a matter of just keep preaching the fact that if you get multiple hats to the ball, as much pressure is being applied, then the opportunities for the ball to be elevated a little bit more than normally and have a safety or corner underneath of it. More hats to the ball, more tackles for a loss applies that getting the ball out and trying to strip the ball from the runner.

So I think it's just more of the concept of you always want to try to score on defense. Or you want to try to set up a score on defense by field position you give the offense. Fourth down stops, or third down big plays or plays after sudden change. It's more of a mindset to keep talking about, guys rallying to the ball. The more you're aggressive in that manner, the more good things that can happen to you.

**Q. Why do you think the team hasn't intercepted more passes over the last two years?**

COACH LONDON: Well, I can only go for

what's going on right now with this year. It's a different style. So after a couple games here, if you saw last week there were a couple that hit our hands, so you've got to make those plays. I think as the season goes on and you start looking at who is doing what, that you'll see guys that are in position and they keep learning the defense. They're in better position. We just keep improving and I believe the turnovers will come.

**Q. I wish you'd talk a little about the two Pitt receivers. Street came into the year with a big reputation and has played well, but they found the freshman in Boyd that seems to complement him very well. Is that how you see it?**

COACH LONDON: Yeah, when you look at they,, they are two dynamic players. Obviously, 166 yards, two touchdowns, second straight game the boys had over 100 yards in receptions. Street is a tall athletic receiver. Boyd is very athletic. He's a freshman that gets out there and gets it done. You look at the yards per reception, almost 20 yards -- above 20 for Street and almost 20 for Boyd.

You see their style of offense, run the power, run, run, run, then just when you set that safety down or the corners or whatever you do, and all of a sudden they play action pass off of that, those guys get behind you. So that is our job.

One of the things you want to make sure, you want to stop the run. But at the same time, you have to be cognizant of two wide receivers like those guys are, so that will be a challenge for us for sure.

**Q. You mentioned stopping the run. They've been giving to a freshman named Conner. What do you see from him?**

COACH LONDON: Well, you see a guy that right now is averaging 6.9 yards per rush, and that is pretty good. Over 100 yards a game. So they're a young team that has found some young players to fill in key spots for them to be productive. That is kind of like what we're trying to do as well. So Coach Chryst's young guys have really stepped up, and guys like Tom Savage, a veteran and older guy that's facilitated the ball to those guys and he's done a good job of that.

**Q. Were you with the team when the Cavaliers played up in Pittsburgh previously?**

COACH LONDON: Yes, I believe I was on the staff on three different occasions when they

came here, when we played them here and we played them in the bowl game, the Continental Tire Bowl when Larry Fitzgerald was there.

**Q. What was it like playing up there in Pittsburgh? It's a nice place for college football and NFL football combined in one stadium.**

COACH LONDON: When you look at it, the players are excited. That's where a historic football franchise, the Steelers play. Pittsburgh also has the benefit of playing in a great stadium. So the venue is something the players all know, they all talk about. I'm quite sure it's our first travel game on the road, so all those things that we'll have in dealing with those things. But we're excited about coming up and playing.

**Q. A quick question about your defense. You guys lined up in the nickel lot the first three games. Is that based off the teams you're playing or something we're going to be seeing more coming here?**

COACH LONDON: Based off kind of a personnel match-up that we like. We try to match the style of player that can go on the field and address whatever issues that the offense lines up in. So there are several team that's we have, nickel, dime, dollar, so many different things. We try to match player's individual talents versus the personnel that teams have on the field.

## BOSTON COLLEGE COACH STEVE ADDAZIO

COACH ADDAZIO: It's great to be back at it playing again this week. We had a bye week. Those bye weeks usually are good for you in terms of getting back to work and fixing some of the things you need to work on and getting a little jump start in your preparation. But we're anxious to get back playing again. We're certainly excited that we have a chance to play home, and we realize we have a great opponent coming in here. A top 8 ranked opponent in America and justifiably so.

Florida State has got a very dynamic offense, as we all know, averaging over 266 yards rushing per game, 280 yards passing per game. Their quarterback, Jameis Winston is a heck of a player. Dual-threat guy, he's got size, he breaks

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tackles. He eludes sacks and throws darts. They have a couple running backs, Wilder and Devonta Freeman. Both those guys are dynamic players. Rashad Greene is a wide receiver and Kenny Shaw. So we've got our work cut out for us on defense defending that.

On their defense they've got some big, stout guys inside obviously led by Timmy Jernigan, also some great linebacker players with great speed. They can rush the quarterback, sack you, and accelerate to the ball on defense. So we've got our work cut out for us. We've been working really hard to develop our team, to improve our team. I think the fact that we had to fly out to California in week three and play USC, which is one of the top ranked defenses in the country can help you from that standpoint getting used to speed. So here we are getting ready to play this game and looking forward to it.

**Q. To keep that dynamic, as you said, Florida State offense in check, what are the thing that's you need to do to keep this game competitive?**

COACH ADDAZIO: Well, what we need to do is create pressure on the quarterback and penetrate up front and create a disturbance in the run game and disrupt the flow of the offense. That's what you need to do then get off the field. You don't want to leave that offense on the field. So that's what we're striving to do.

**Q. Do you need offensive improvement from your last game or how much of that is you're playing a great Southern California defense?**

COACH ADDAZIO: Well, I think obviously we need to have improvement in execution. What we've got to do is not play in the long field. That's not going to help you. So we've got to not do that. We've got to be able to convert first downs when we have an opportunity to and get the ball in the end zone. That's what we're working on. We need to play physically and play with a high level of execution.

**Q. Talking about the Florida State quarterback, Winston. What do you see from him? Does he remind you of a quarterback you've already faced this season?**

COACH ADDAZIO: No. He's a guy that's got a tremendous arm. He's always got his eyes down the field, and he's a guy that you've got to tackle strong if you have a come at him, because

he's strong, he's powerful, he breaks tackles. You can't arm tackle this guy. You've got to get him on the ground, or he'll come out of the tackle, set his feet and throw it down the field on you. So he's a strong arm, he's a competitive guy, a strong runner and I've seen tremendous things out of him.

**Q. Talk about your quarterback. How is his growth during the first three games?**

COACH ADDAZIO: Well, I mean, I think Chase has improved each week. What we've worked on a lot with him is the ability to take what the defense gives you. If you have a chance to move the chains on third down, you can do that with your feet as well as with your arm. The goal is just to move the chains. He's been doing that and working on that development and working on being a great leader with our team. So those are things that have to happen. Don't force plays, and I think he's worked really hard at that.

It will be a great task for him and a great opportunity for him here at home.

**Q. I wanted to ask you about something I noticed. You guys are leading the nation, the least penalized team in college football. What goes into that? How do you achieve that? Are you teaching something or how does that work?**

COACH ADDAZIO: You don't want to be a highly penalized team. You don't want to be a mistake team. You want to be a well-conditioned team and control the things that are within your control. I think fundamentally it starts with not creating penalties, not turning the ball over. So we've got an emphasis on ball security. We've got an emphasis on trying to strip the ball on defense. We had the officials a lot during preseason camp to make sure we worked on keeping our hands inside on the perimeter inside.

When you try to come in and build a program and you're trying to start with those important things first, building those things, building toughness, and then, of course you're recruiting and trying to bring in more play makers. But there's been a conscious effort to try to control the things of that nature.

**Q. Is it difficult sometimes though to walk a fine line between being aggressive and avoiding penalties? I remember the great Florida State teams of the 90s were always**

**offsides defensively because they were attacking so much and they led the league in penalties for that reason. Is that something you have to walk a fine line? You want to be aggressive, you want to attack, you don't want penalties? Is that tough to balance?**

COACH ADDAZIO: Yeah, I don't have a problem with aggressive penalties. So if we get a penalty because the guy is blocking down the field or we get a penalty from a guy flying to the ball, I just don't get upset about those things. Those kind of aggressive penalties are fine. But to be offside on offense or even on defense when you're on the ball and holding penalties or personal foul penalties, those things, I don't see that. We work hard and talked a lot about that. For a team like us in our infancy right now is we can ill-afford to hurt ourselves.

**Q. I know the bye week enabled you guys to kind of get some guys back. In terms of what you've seen from Jake Sinkovec, how excited are you and what kind of impact do you think he might make coming back this week?**

COACH ADDAZIO: Well, we were laughing about it at practice the other day. It's like fresh legs. He looks fast. He looks good, he's had a good week of practice. We're excited to have him back. He's a big, tall guy that he's got a great set of hands on him, he's good at receiving the ball and he's got decent speed. So it kind of stuck out a little bit how fresh he looked.

**Q. Did that mean that Bobby Wolford may be stepping back in terms of the number of touches and reps he got?**

COACH ADDAZIO: I would say that Bobby is a little dinged up too on top of it. So I would think that those guys will -- yeah, Jake's going to take a number of those reps, and Bobby has done a great job. We need them both. We run kind of a physical style of run game and those guys take a lot of shots.

**Q. Just a follow up with what Hal was asking you with the number of penalties. You look at Southern Cal they had ten penalties for 100 yards and you guys had 1 for 5. When you have an opportunity like that is it imperative to seize upon those opportunities that those penalties might create?**

COACH ADDAZIO: Yeah, that is the thing that we've got to do a much better job on. When they have those kind of penalties and it puts them

in third and long situations you've got to get them off the field and capitalize on that. Right now to be able to play a field position game. It's one of those things that I think people don't look at enough. Field position is critical to winning a college football game especially depending on the style of team that you are.

So we've got to complement each other, and that is critically important whether you're talking about offense or talking about defense. I mean the teams complement each other. It's so important to your overall philosophy.

## **DUKE COACH DAVID CUTCLIFFE**

COACH CUTCLIFFE: I've been really pleased with our team's approach to practice this week. After a couple of disappointing losses I felt like we've been going back and worked extremely hard of Brandon Connette, tremendous leader. He's putting a lot into what we're doing and the rest of our squad seems to be following.

It's another opportunity for us to keep growing. We're going to be a team that has a chance to get better every week, and we certainly need that this week. Very impressed with Troy, and I've known a lot about him, and no question that Larry Blakeney is one of the better coaches that I've been around or known for a long time, so it should be a very interesting and challenging football game.

**Q. I wanted to ask you about Parker Boehme. In the two weeks he's been the back-up quarterback, you still haven't used him. I just wonder if you're hoping to be able to hold him out if the opportunity presents itself and still red-shirt him or has it just not worked out in games?**

COACH CUTCLIFFE: Maybe in a perfect world we'd be able to red-shirt him. Obviously we've been beaten twice and our best chance to win is with Brandon Connette in the ballgame. So it just hasn't been a situation that you felt good about just going and playing Parker. We've been biting and scratching and clawing right down to the wire with Brandon. So there is nothing that we've made any decision on either way or another.

We're not afraid to play him, if need be.

We're just trying to help him get one week better, every week. He's got to continue that path because he's the next guy. If we go to one, it's going to be Parker. I didn't think it was necessary to get his feet wet in a situation where every snap is so important to us right now, and every snap we have, Brandon Connette is our best chance of winning the game at this point. So that's kind of what we're staying with.

**Q. A week ago you sounded a little optimistic about Thomas Sirk coming back at a reasonable time. Any progress on that front?**

COACH CUTCLIFFE: He's getting some work throwing and moving. I don't know about getting back. Still, when I ask them, they won't give me a time line, and he's certainly not well. I can see that with my naked eye, but he's actually throwing the ball really well right now. He's not taking snaps, but he's doing drills. We'll see, again, how quickly he progresses. The one thing I can tell you is we're not going to bring him back too soon.

He's such a gifted athlete in regards to being able to run. He's so fast that I do not want to bring him back too soon from the achilles and compromise his speed at all. We're going to get him well, but he is getting better pretty rapidly right now.

**Q. I wanted to ask you what your analysis was of Pitt's offense? I know it was a track meet for both teams, but did they do anything that surprised you guys?**

COACH CUTCLIFFE: No, there was no surprise. I knew going in. I think Savage is extremely accurate, big, throws just a really nice ball, big offensive front. I like what Paul Chryst and them do. He's been around it a long time. It's what we used to do a lot myself back in the day. He's got a big pro-style quarterback with a big offensive line, two outstanding receivers and a good, hard-nosed, solid running back. They take care of the football by doing that and they have big play potential, as long as they can find a way to run the ball. Those two guys, those two receivers, Street and Boyd become a threat.

We just, without the explosives, we played okay. We had 17 snaps that they gained 423 yards on. The other 62 snaps they had in the game, they gained 175 yards. So they used their ability to run it early to turn it into some big plays. Second half they played a little better, and they've got some threats and that helps them.

**Q. What is the emphasis for you in practice this week in terms of getting your defense to obviously improve some?**

COACH CUTCLIFFE: Well, I think there were a lot of little things. It wasn't just tackling. It was just being where you're supposed to be consistently, read your keys. We've got to get more people to the football. Then, obviously, the obvious one. The focus has been on avoiding giving up big plays, which was a nemesis a year ago when we started the year. We did a nice job in the first two games of playing in that regard in that manner. It wasn't horrible against Georgia Tech, and then it got horrific against Pitt. We just can't fall back in that mode. We have to play the way we're coached to play and get people to the ball.

This day and time it's hard to stop people, but you just can't give up chunks of yardage. You cannot give up explosives. That is the number one priority coming into the week.

**Q. Easier said than done or what do you do as a coach to coach people not to give up those explosive plays?**

COACH CUTCLIFFE: Well, you play the scheme that called and you play the technique, it's how. You're coaching the how to not what to do. So we've got to take that to a whole other level. We drill it. It's never easy because the opponent is executing well and doing things well. You have to work like crazy at it, and you have to have a mentality defensively that you're just not going to give up the big, easy play. You know?

There are some people, some quarterbacks, some offenses that can put 15, 16 play drives together successfully and then score. But there are not a lot of them. I'm not talking about bend but not break. I'm talking about we try like crazy not to bend, but you never try to break. You never give up the big one. You have to stay on top of routes when you're told and coached to stay on top of routes. Then we've got to work better at how that's going to happen in a ballgame. If it was easy, everybody would do it, but you've just got to work at it.

**Q. Talk about your quarterback. Where have you seen him your freshman quarterback or red-shirt freshman replacing Boone? What have you seen so far?**

COACH CUTCLIFFE: Well, we have a

junior, Brandon Connette, and Boone is our guy. Our red-shirt freshman, Thomas Sirk is also out, our number two guy, with an Achilles tear from the spring. So Brandon has played some, and he's continuing to get more and more comfortable back there. He had four touchdown passes, and unfortunately four interceptions. He's seeing the field. He's gaining. He's a fierce competitor and a great young man. He's always been a big part of our program. He's an outstanding athlete that's played a lot of places for us. But right now he's focusing on becoming the best quarterback he can become. He literally gets better every day in practice.

**Q. Talk about Troy. What do you see on film from them?**

COACH CUTCLIFFE: Troy is a good football team. They obviously didn't play very well in the Starkville. But Troy, if you follow football, they've got two different but outstanding quarterbacks. They're a spread offense, but they mix a lot of other problems in with it. Defensively all of Larry Blakeney's teams at Troy have been athletic, aggressive. They can run.

This is a fast football team that Troy puts on the field every year, and they're no different this year. They have a lot of skill, and ability in a lot of places. It's a very difficult team to match up with speedwise.

## MIAMI COACH AL GOLDEN

COACH GOLDEN: Good afternoon. Yeah, we're excited about the opportunity to go to Tampa and play South Florida. We'll be facing one of the best defenses we'll see all year, for sure. I think they're No. 11 in pass defense and top 40 in third down. I think they're in the top 25 in total defense.

So a veteran defense led by their middle linebacker, DeDe Lattimore, and a host of veterans. A great challenge for us on that side of the ball. On the other side of the ball, big play threats from Davis that we have to be concerned about. Marcus Shaw is one of the best running backs in the country. His yards per carry is what's alarming to us. 7.0 I think he is, somewhere around there.

Sean Price, the big league tight end. It's an age that can get vertical, and obviously with coach they're trying to run the ball and be physical. They had a bye week, so we have to be cautious about what changes they've made on that and what they're doing in terms of which quarterback they're going to go with.

A great test for our team, a lot of challenges, a lot of individual challenges in addition to what we have to have happen in the game for us to be successful. But we know what we're getting ourselves into at 12 o'clock up in Tampa.

**Q. I wanted to ask a little about Tyrig McCord. Good freshman year last year. He seems to be more of an impact player this year. Can you talk about his improvement a little bit?**

COACH GOLDEN: Yeah, he's got a toolbox now. His skills have developed. He wasn't in condition at any point last year. He's in better condition. He certainly has benefited from the increase in weight. So his strength and conditioning and his weight are dramatically improved from a year ago. He's playing with a lot more poise.

He's playing Sam for us on first and second down, then he's an excellent pass-rusher on long yardage situations. So I'm very pleased with his development and excited about the attitude and the energy that he brings to our defense every day.

**Q. Curious from your perspective with USF, a couple years ago they played you guys really close. They won a few years back, but last year things got away from them and they are off to a slow start this year. Wonder if you've seen anything from them about maybe why they've had some struggles here the last few years?**

COACH GOLDEN: Well, again, I can't speak for coach. But I think the reality of it is they've turned the ball over. But I don't think anybody's talking about last year. We know particularly on defense this is a unit that last time we went up there we won 6-3. This is a unit that went to South Bend and won. This is a team that beat Miami three years ago. I don't think there's any question that they have our guys attention, and most particularly their defense. Take away the McNeese game, which is obviously an opening

game in a transitional year for a coaching staff and the team. Take that away, and really nobody's scoring on them. Two defensive touchdowns from Michigan State, another one from FAU, so there haven't been a lot of points scored on.

They're coming off a bye week, they're going to be fresh and that's a concern for us as well.

**Q. Talk about last week's game. You had a running clock in the fourth quarter or switched in the 12th minute. Can you explain what happened?**

COACH GOLDEN: Nothing, just that it was mutually agreed upon by both coaches, both staffs, and it was really what was best in that situation. We've been on that side of it. When we went to Temple, we were 120 out of 120 in the country. Our first year we lost 11 games by an average of 30 points a game. I've been on that side of it.

I think we operated with integrity and class throughout the game. We did not try to score within in the first quarter, and certainly I don't think we scored in the fourth quarter. I think I might be wrong on that, but I don't believe we did. We tried to slow it up and do that. So it's difficult to do that too when you have a lot of guy that's don't play a lot and they want to get in there and show you what they can do. So it was just out of mutual respect and clear and open communication and best interest of everybody involved to do that.

**Q. How is Morris this week? Is he ready to go for South Florida?**

COACH GOLDEN: Well, he'll be ready to go by certainly Saturday. But I expect him to be as close to a hundred percent as possible by tomorrow. He made a lot of progress Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and he's getting markedly better every day. It's really just has to loosen up and fight through the pain a little bit. But there is no danger of reinjuring it or anything like that.

So he's getting treatment. He's a conscientious young man, and he's throwing the ball really well. So I don't really have a concern relative to that.

**Q. When you play other teams from in state. The big three have dominated so long with Miami and Florida and Florida State. When you play the other teams, is there an edge there? If they're from the same high**

**schools, I know a lot of them are probably frustrated that they didn't get the scholarship offers from the big three. Can you address that? Does that add a little emotion to the game?**

COACH GOLDEN: Yeah, I can't speak to the scholarship offer of the thing because certainly South Florida has produced a lot of NFL talent in the last five to ten years. I don't want to own that part of your question or that quote. But what I will say to you is there is an edge. These kids do know each other. Whether it was us playing FAU or FAU playing USF. Don't forget now this South Florida team beat Miami three years ago, we won 6-3 two years ago, and I think during that span too this team went to Florida State and won.

It's really one of those deals. There is a lot of pride. There is a lot of energy. There will be a lot of passion. Again, it should be a great environment.

Last time we went up to Tampa there was a great crowd and it's a game that we have to really gear up and get in the right frame of mind and be ready for.

**Q. I'm wondering, is Shane McDermott out for the game against USF?**

COACH GOLDEN: He is not out for the game. We're monitoring it every day. As I said to the group after practice today, I just think he's the kind of guy that he's got so many reps built up and he's so smart that as long as he continues to make progress, he's going to be part of the travel unit and have an opportunity to play. Not where he wants to be yet, but we're still three days out. So I'm hopeful that I'll have an opportunity.

## NORTH CAROLINA STATE COACH DAVE DOEREN

COACH DOEREN: Looking forward to playing against Central Michigan this week. Obviously, we had a spirited game last week with Clemson. Really was impressed with our crowd and student section, and glad our players came to play. Very tight game against a very good football team, lot of big plays both ways in that game, and really just impressed with the way that our team competed against Clemson.

There are a lot of things we've got to do to improve and move forward. We're a young football

team that made some mental mistakes that cost us in that game. So we put ourselves in position for four quarters to play against a very good team. Now get to gauge our progress after three performances and get ready for a Central Michigan team that last year upset Iowa at Iowa, won a bowl game, and had some young players and some injuries like we do. But I know they'll come in here poised and ready to try to play with us and do what they can to get a victory.

**Q. Obviously you coached against Coach Enos the last two years at Northern Illinois. Do you feel like you have a good idea of his game plan going into this game?**

COACH DOEREN: Well, I mean, he's got to use the parts he has, and the parts are different than what he had a year ago. Obviously, the tailback, quarterback and receiver that they've lost through injury and graduation, but to answer your question, I know what Dan likes to do. I coached against him when I was at Wisconsin and he was at Michigan State. He's a good football coach and he understands what defenses do and how to try to attack defenses.

I know that he believes in running the football and play-action pass and screens and taking shots. He's a good football coach. Our guys will have to understand the strengths of our defenses and weaknesses of them and be ready to play.

**Q. Is the key to beating him kind of making them one dimensional?**

COACH DOEREN: I could say that for any coach you coach against. I think for us it's about not giving up big plays and stopping the run. Those are two things defensively we pride ourselves on is not giving up explosive plays and stopping the run game, and being opportunistic with takeaways. Whoever we play against, that's going to be our goal.

**Q. Where do you stand in terms of games that feature BCS bowl schools versus non-BCS schools? I know there was talk about the most competitive games between BCS schools. So what are your thoughts on that?**

COACH DOEREN: I think you have to play some non-conference games against non-BCS schools. I think it's good for both the team you're playing against and for yourself. I'm going to tell you, some of the non-BCS games you're talking about are tougher opponents than

the BCS teams. It just depends on who you end up with on your schedule and who they have at quarterback any given year. But I'm in favor of it.

**Q. How do these kind of games benefit you when you're at Northern Illinois, the games that were against BCS schools?**

COACH DOEREN: At that school they have a long-standing tradition of knocking off BCS teams. It's something that the university took pride in doing. There was a lot that went into it before I got there in Coach Novak and Coach Mallory when they started the Bone Yard and those were games we had a chip on our shoulder and were out to prove that we belonged. That is the mantra that most teams will take in that position.

**Q. Most coaches will say a win is a win. But when you're at Northern Illinois, did you think it was worth kind of more when you pull off an upset you get national attention and stuff like that?**

COACH DOEREN: It makes you relevant. It makes you more relevant at the end of the year for conversations if you're undefeated and you knock off BCS teams. It does matter a lot when it comes down to the end of the season voting if you're a relevant team.

**Q. How much does the familiarity that their staff has of your staff kind of make them even more of a dangerous opponent? Conversely, does that help you prepare and make it easier to prepare for them?**

COACH DOEREN: I'm sure both sides feel the same way as far as knowing each other a little bit. But we're a different team than we were at Northern personnel-wise. We don't have a running quarterback like we did there. So we're different.

Coach Canada wasn't with me last year. He was the first year, and Dave Huxtable calls defenses a lot different than (indiscernible) did. So even though we're a 4-3 team, the tendencies are different, and some of the cover schemes that Dave likes are different.

So there is some game management familiarity, maybe. On our side we probably have a little bit better advantage than they do just because of the number of different coaches I have with me this year. But their staff has been together and caused the play. So I have a little more familiarity, maybe, with what he's doing.

**Q. The fact that you played them and know how tough they are, didn't they beat you a couple years ago?**

COACH DOEREN: They did. It was the only conference loss I had at Northern. Central Michigan when Chip Kelly was there and Butch was are there, they were the best team in that conference for a long time. There are still kids on that team that were championship players. It's a very proud program. They're big, strong, and they're going to look like a Big Ten team on the line of scrimmage. They're big. Their fullback will be really muscular. Their linebackers are tough. They're going to be a physical group.

**Q. Does that knowledge kind of help you convince your kids not to take these kids lightly?**

COACH DOEREN: Oh, yeah, absolutely. Our kids will not take them lightly, I guarantee you that, because of Richmond. We've had injuries just like everybody this time of year. The Clemson game was a physical game. So our biggest challenge was overcoming the injuries we sustained in that game more than overlooking them, because I think our guys learned a tough lesson and got away with it against Richmond.

**Q. I wanted to ask you a little about Robert Caldwell. Am I right, he was mostly a special teams player in the past and he's stepped up and put up some big tackle numbers in the last few weeks?**

COACH DOEREN: He was a late junior college signee for the last half last season. So he got here pretty late and didn't really learn the defense is what I'm told. That's about all they could use him for because he got here late. For us, when I got here, we had to get his grades. We didn't have him on the field the whole spring every practice because we were trying to get him back to where he needed to be from a graduation standpoint.

He's done a great job buying into the strength and conditioning program, lost a bunch of weight, learned the defense during the summer and fall camp and has earned the starting position. So my hat's off to him for his work ethic and how much he's changed since we've gotten here.

**Q. Can you talk about what he brings as a linebacker now?**

COACH DOEREN: Yeah, he's a downhill player. He's very quick for a big guy. He's one of those guys I call contact players. When he hits you, he hits you. He doesn't drag people down to the ground. He knocks them back. He does have good vision. He'll see misdirection and linebacker vision, which isn't easy to coach, he does have it.

He's just got to work on the details of where he needs to be in formations and certain odds and ends that we're getting.

Clemson ran a lot of unorthodox things that were hard for Robert that I think he learned a lot from and he'll be better from it.

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