

Notre Dame Football
Head Coach Brian Kelly Q&A Highlights
Notre Dame game presser
Oct. 9, 2021

Opening statement:

“I’ve been in a lot of games, coached a lot of games, but I don’t know that I’ve ever coached a group of guys that had such resolve and mental toughness that regardless of the situation they just kept playing. [They were] unphased by the circumstances. In particular, you take Jack Coan out of the game, who is the first one to pick up Tyler Buchner on the field when he’s hurt, and he’s prepared himself mentally to go back in the game and lead two drives. [...] that doesn’t happen very often. As a coach, what I take from these games is watching a guy like Jack Coan come in under those circumstances and rise above it. It was incredibly enjoyable to watch him play.”

On Jack Coan’s response in the game’s last two drives after struggling early:

“It’s a combination of things. Things start to slow down, guys get a little bit tired and he sees the game a little bit differently. He settles down a little bit. It’s a combination, but you still have to make those throws. You still have to be decisive. You watched what I watched. He was decisive, the ball came out of his hands, the reads were correct and it looked like it was shooting fish in the barrel with the timeliness of the ball coming out of his hand compared to what it was earlier [in the game].”

On getting freshmen like Tyler Buchner, Logan Diggs, Mitchell Evans and Lorenzo Styles significant experience in a tough road environment

“On the road, in this environment, we were poised to get them this experience. This is what we talked about this week. We’re reaching the halfway point [of the season]. We’re going to be who we are. We got to get these guys in the game and get this experience if we want to win the rest of the games that we play – they got to get in this game, they got to feel it, they got to be part of it and they got to contribute.”

On the maturation of Tyler Buchner throughout the game:

“He did some really good things. And then he did some things that are inexperienced. You don’t throw the ball into the boundary versus Cover Eight without knowing that the corners not squatting. There are technical things that he is still seeing. We had a trap corner to the field. He knew it was a trap corner, he just pitches the ball out there. [Virginia Tech] should’ve picked that ball off. He’s getting there, but he’s not there yet. The maturation process continues, but man is

he a gamer. He's tough, he's fast, he's competitive, he's unflappable, too. He just keeps coming back. I'm glad he's on our team."