

# Atlantic Coast Conference Football Kickoff

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

Virginia Tech Hokies

Antwaun Powell-Ryland

Press Conference



THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

**Q. What has it been like to have an off-season where people are loving on you guys? What is it like to tackle those expectations?**

ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND: It's always good to get exposure. We're not really looking for validation for nobody but us. So, yeah, it's definitely great. We still working the same way.

**Q. You were at Florida for a couple years. Enter the transfer portal. Came back home to Virginia Tech. What were the leading factors? Was it family? Coach Pry?**

ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND: Just for sure Coach Pry, having a defensive-minded coach is always good, especially for my position.

The scheme, I like the scheme. Being able to play more traditional defensive end, it's a better chance for me going to get sacks.

**Q. You've done such a lot of great stuff since your middle school years as a football player. Through high school, college, what have you not done yet?**

ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND: I want to score a touchdown (smiling). I got to. I don't know how I'm going to do it, but got to make a way.

**Q. Sack fumble.**

ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND: You got to make a way (smiling).

Yeah, that's definitely something I want to do. I haven't scored yet, so...

**Q. Down the stretch last season you won five of**

**seven. Defense stepped up. What was something that clicked for the defense, for the team as a whole, down the stretch?**

ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND: I would probably say, like, just the team chemistry. I think we got comfortable with each other. Being able to get those games in helped getting the reps in within the actual game setting. I think that was one of the main things.

**Q. You were a four-star recruit from Virginia in high school. Went to Florida, then came back. You had a ton of success. Do you think what you did bouncing back, coming from Florida, is maybe a trend?**

ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND: I'm sorry, can you repeat it for me?

**Q. Just you were a former four-star recruit, you came back to Tech. We're seeing guys follow the path. Do you think this is a trend going forward?**

ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND: Yeah, I think it should be because home is always better, in my opinion. That's coming from me because I realized it's always better to be home than trying to go somewhere else.

**Q. Talk about coming from the 7-5-7, how tough it is coming to college? What did you learn that makes your transition better into college?**

ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND: I would say the work, being able to go out every day and not complain about the work. I'd probably say being aggressive is definitely a hard-nosed sport.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

