

Virginia v. Illinois
September 11th, 2021
Charlottesville, Va. (Scott Stadium)

Quarterback Brennan Armstrong

On confusing defenses

"It just puts pressure on them to decide what they want to do and I know we had a good little tricky play with Wicksy (Dontayvion Wicks) to me today; but with just KTV (Keytaon Thompson) back there, you know, bounces it, breaks it for a touchdown. That stuff you don't know what's really going to happen, you don't know how they're going to address it. I mean it just puts a lot of pressure on the players out there to quickly make a decision on what they want to do."

On being focused on gameday

"See, I mean, I know like throughout the offseason, we put a lot of pressure on a lot of new things every day. So that gets guys dialed in each and every day."

Safety Joey Blount

On the perimeter defense:

"Yeah, so we kind of discussed that this week, just little formational things that we saw. It takes two to fly as we say, so once the guy motioned back and I knew he was coming back. I knew that was an alley run right there so you got to make that play."

On the offense's improved first half:

"When you see the offensive hot, you just wanna get the ball back to them as soon as possible. It's kind of just makes a defense more energetic, to get three and out quick and I think with offense playing well, the defense played really well; complimentary football's what we always hone in and try to aim towards every game. I think today was a really good example of the defense having a strong, strong output and the offense coming out hot. Hitting Jelani [Woods], hitting those receivers on a one on one matchup, I think they did a really good job."

On what DB transfer Anthony Johnson brings to the team:

"AJ brings a lot of personality, and coming from Louisville I understood his struggles and his story. He wanted to be wanted somewhere. He wanted to be used and that's all we're trying to do here at UVA, make sure he's felt wanted. He's being used to the best of his abilities playing within his playing style, that's one of my close friends on the team now. Another transfer, we kind of just gravitated towards each other, been really good friends and seeing him accomplish that goal as the first one [interception] the season was really happy for him. Coming over from Louisville, it's a big thing you get that first pick, in Scott Stadium as well, he was really happy about that"

Linebacker Noah Taylor

On losing the edge that Zane Zandier brought:

"I think everyone on the defense definitely plays with a little bit of edge, and you know you're not really in that circle that we have if you don't play with a little bit of edge."

Tight End Jelani Woods

On breaking the rock:

“That was just pretty much the best moment of my life right there, you know being able to have an outstanding performance and just be recognized for that. Just the history of the guys that previously before me broke the rock. I just feel honored to be able to hold the hammer and break the rock.”

On how much fun this offense is:

“Like I said preseason, this is crazy. I love it. Just the Scott Stadium atmosphere and with the design of the offense, it just brings out electricity in everybody. With the different options we have on offense, even though I might not get the ball, I’m just so happy that somebody else gets it. it’s just electricity that keeps going.”

Football Player Keytaon Thompson

On his touchdown run:

“I knew I needed to get about eight yards and when I initially read there was a guy sitting right in the hole and I knew that there wasn’t going to be a way to get eight yards. I just tried to fight my way into the end zone and it turned out very successful.”

On the playmakers on the offense:

“We just have a lot of playmakers all over the place and I really feel like we can be a special offense this year with the plethora of weapons that we have. We just have to you know clean things up, the little things, we started out fast, we put an emphasis on that this week, but after those first two drives we started to sputter a little bit. So if we can clean that up then I think we can be one of the most explosive offenses in the country.”