

Virginia Student-Athletes
Virginia – Postgame Press Conference Transcripts

Thurs., Sept. 30, 2021
Hard Rock Stadium

DE Mandy Alonso

On what the win means to him back home to Miami...

“It means a lot. I’m from down here, like you said. Just, I’ve never won down here, even in the Orange Bowl. It’s been frustrating the last three or four times. Just getting that one, it’s just refreshing. Especially at the time of the season that we are at now, where we were 2-2 and we were battling adversity coming off those two losses, it was amazing.”

On the safety...

“We knew they were pinned down to their own end zone and we were just trying to get after them. We knew they were probably going to try to run it out. And we just came in through the inside and I came free and I was lucky enough to make that play.”

On the field goal at the end of the game...

“It was a roller coaster of emotions. We knew by second down that we had to win on a field goal and probably block it or do something; it’ll come down to that. Just seeing the ball go up and hit the post, it was just crazy. It was honestly surreal for me.”

On what it meant to play in front of family and friends...

“It’s special. Got to get back on the bus and then to the plane and back to C-ville, but I love seeing my family in the stands and just all my friends from down here. Even some of them are Miami fans, but when I come down here, they put on a UVA shirt or a 91 shirt and they cheer me on. That’s really special to me.”

QB Brennan Armstrong

On the offensive play overall and not being able to put the game away ...

“A win is a win, especially after [losing two games in a row, it’s great] to get a win to get us back on track. Quick week, too, with the previous game and this game. But our defense played their tails off and they’re getting better and better every weekend. We got to stay on our grind and our rhythm. Like you said, we could have put the game out of its shoes early. Defense made a lot of stops and we were doing the same thing. Got to be smart with the ball. I tried to check into something and then they picked me off there right after the defense got off the field. That’s just bad timing. You just can’t throw the defense back on the field there. So that’s my fault. Lot of things to clean up, but like I said, a win is a win and I’m happy with it.”

On the emotional swing of the missed field goal...

“It’s huge. As an offensive guy, you can’t control it and everyone is just sitting there like, ‘This is totally out of our hands, there’s no control.’ It’s crazy. I’ve seen those plenty of times when I’m like watching football, but I don’t think I’ve ever been in one of those, either blocked or missed or one of those type of things. So, yeah, it was crazy. We just stormed the field, we were just running around. It was just kind of chaos. It’s really good. We just needed to get back on track. I thought we had a good week of practice. Like I said, it was a quick [week, but it’s good to] get back on track with some good morale running through the team.”

On whether there is room for this group to get better...

“Offensively, I played like crap tonight. I absolutely just played like crap. I wasn’t doing the little things right. And then the turnover, that alone—even though it was a turnover, it was the timing of the turnover that’s just a huge deal. I didn’t play well. I saw we ran the ball great. I thought we knew we could run the ball really well coming in, so that was nice to establish. Just, for me personally, I have a lot to improve. I think the guys—like I said, a win is a win, we’re happy about it, but we have a lot to work on. We’ve got a longer time period now to work on it. We get to come in, recover, relax, watch the film again and work on certain things.”