

**November 13, 2021**

**Virginia vs. Notre Dame**

**Charlottesville, Va. (Scott Stadium)**

## **Virginia Player Quotes**

### **Football Player Keyton Thompson**

#### ***On Jay Woolfolk's performance stepping in for Brennan Armstrong:***

"Jay is a young guy, not much experience yet. I have kind of been in his position; back in the earlier days in my career, being thrown in as a young guy with not much experience against a quality opponent. I think he did pretty well. He didn't get rattled. He made some great plays. I don't think we did a good enough job as receivers or as an offense as a whole just to help him out and take some of that pressure off of Jay. Brennan [Armstrong]'s a great player for us and he makes a lot of plays. I think tonight we should have, as an offense, taken some of that pressure off Jay and made some more plays for him."

#### ***On how previous road games prepare them for Pittsburgh:***

"It helps a lot, winning on the road is something we targeted this offseason. In past years we've struggled on the road and we look to get that turned around this year and I think we have been on the right track and we look to keep it going."

#### ***On Jay Woolfolk getting reps against a top 10 team:***

"It's very valuable. You can't coach it. You can't coach experience and you just have to go through it as a quarterback. All of our circumstances are different and Jay just so happened to be going up against a top-10 team. For the most part, I thought he did well."

### **DB Anthony Johnson**

#### ***On fixing the defensive issues early in the game:***

"I think it goes with the mindset. We have guys flying to the ball. We've got guys in position. We just have to concentrate a little bit more on wrapping guys up and bringing them to the ground. (We have to) do a better job in our pursuit, getting multiple hats on the ball so if one guy misses, the next guy is right there and it's not going for four or five extra yards after the play."

#### ***On how the fourth down stops will carry the team into the next two games:***

"It just adds more confidence knowing that we're capable, knowing that we got guys in position to make plays. Those two takeaways are big. Turnovers are big factors in the game and that's on our pillars, what we talked about in our goals is getting two turnovers and we met that goal tonight. The score did not come out our way, but getting those fourth down stops and those turnovers is really positive and something that we're gonna feed off of going into these next two weeks."

#### ***On looking at the next two weeks of games:***

"That was a great opportunity that we had for ourselves tonight but it just didn't go our way. I think that we're going to be focused and locked in for these next two weeks knowing what's at stake. We control our own destiny. Everything that we have is right in front of us and defensively, I think the second half of this game should give us a lot of confidence moving into these next two weeks."

### **OT Bobby Haskins**

#### ***On Notre Dame's defensive game plan and Jay Woolfolk's performance:***

"I think they did bring more pressure than they'd shown on film in the past and I definitely think that's because we had a freshman quarterback playing. I thought Jay did a great job making quick decisions when things weren't there running the football. I think he did a really great job of being decisive for us and taking the throws and taking the shots when he had them and then tucking it down and getting the hard yards when he needed to."

#### ***On Brennan Armstrong's presence on the sidelines:***

"[He was doing] everything. Brennan had a headset, he was helping Jay evaluate defenses and helping him with the looks he was getting, talking to receivers about the routes they were running, against the looks that they were getting. Also just keeping everybody together, keeping everybody motivated, keeping everybody's energy up. We love Brennan to death and even though he wasn't suiting up for us tonight he had an impact on the game for sure."

#### ***On Jay Woolfolk's improvements through the week and season:***

"Every day he took a clear step forward. He has got a lot of confidence, a lot of swagger, a lot of moxie, whatever you want to call it, he's got it in spades. We all love him to death and are really excited for what he's gonna do down the road as well. He's got a great arm and he's got the legs as well – a dual threat guy. He has improved every day in practice and he honestly has had the whole year from back in fall camp all the way through the season. He's consistently gotten better and he's consistently become more vocal with the offense and been a guy we can really trust."