

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022
VIRGINIA VS. ODU
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)

VIRGINIA PLAYER QUOTES

Quarterback Brennan Armstrong

On moving on from Illinois Loss

"I put it behind me quickly. But then today, I started thinking about it again a bit. It just made me think, when are we going to fix this, and when am I going to start figuring it out. When we have everything clicking on all cylinders it's going to be exciting. Right now, that just means settling down, and stop pressing so hard. I'm focusing on trying to make plays, being a hero out there, and knowing what my role is."

On building chemistry with the receivers

"I practice with them over and over again. We learn and try to get better together. There are mistakes that I'm making that I need to fix. But I'm a veteran and have played five years of college ball so I think they have some trust in me from my experience. There's some things I need to improve on, that might make their trust waver, but we're working on it."

On final game-winning drive

"It's huge. You practice so many drives, but you don't really get the opportunity to do them in a game. You never really know when they're going to arise but it's important to practice in game-like situations. We did a heck of a job managing the timeout and getting the ball where it needed to go. Keytaon (Thompson) made some really great plays, and overall, we managed it really well."

Safety Jonas Sanker

On the offense

"Giving up that last touchdown, mental mistakes, we kind of did that to ourselves. At the end of the day, it's very fixable. Put us in that situation again, I really think we're coming out victorious in that situation. It's frustrating for sure, but our offense is a very explosive offense. At the end of the day, we know it's time for offense."

On the game-winning field goal

"Being here last year, I don't know if he missed a field goal all year until maybe the last game. I really wasn't too worried about (Brendan) Farrell. I know he's money from 25 yards."

On the offense bailing out the defense at the end

"Definitely a sigh of relief. Definitely still stuck with us, giving up that last touchdown. You don't want to give up any points. But at the end of the day, a win is a win. We're going to use this week to get better, to make sure we never put them in that situation again"

On the defense's communication

"I think a lot of it just comes down to communication. Being in the role that we are now, just being vocal, and just helping each other out. Whether we were making a lot of plays, and we're all the way up here or, we make a mistake, just making sure we're level headed, not getting emotional and just holding each other accountable. We had a little thing last week, at least for me, where I struggled to talk a little bit. It was, you miss than more than two tackles, we're doing some kind of punishment on Monday. So hold each other accountable and just make sure that we're the best versions of ourselves."

On the advantage of not worrying about opposing quarterback running

"It definitely takes a little bit off, especially being over in man. It helps a lot just knowing that I'm more worried about, where he wants to throw the ball. But, even if he was running the ball, we've had a very effective D-line this year in terms of getting pressure on the quarterback. Our D-line has done a really good job of keeping the quarterback contained. Nick (Jackson) and Josh (Ahern), being able to go and get them off the field."

First Year Running Back Xavier Brown

On expanding participation week by week:

"I'm learning from the older guys, I got Mike [Hollins], Perris [Jones], Cody [Brown], and Ronnie [Walker Jr.] in front of me. So I'm learning from all of them and coaches with all their backgrounds and line backers helps me get up to speed a lot."

On offense "winging it":

"I think what Coach (Des) Kitchings puts on the field is going to be executed, we're taking advantage of what we can do and Brennan (Armstrong) does what he does; he's Brennan Armstrong."

On a winning drive motivating next game:

"This is going to give us a lot of motivation. We know we have a lot of things to work on. But I know offensively we know the things that we can do and that's just going to help us get better next week."

Graduate Student Defensive End Kam Butler

On his dislocated finger:

"That's the first time it's happened. Yea, it was not fun."

On final drive:

"All week we preached that we were going to be better this week. We had a great week of preparation, a great week of practice. We knew some of the stuff they like to do, and we knew there would be opportunities for us to get them in second-and-long, third-and-long be able to rush the passer, and that's what happened today."

On short distance defense:

"It's definitely about everyone doing their job just like it's any other down. Once they get to 3rd-and-1, 4th-and-1, you have an idea of what they are going to do. They're going to try to run down the middle or inside zone and run some kind of counter play."

On evolution of defense:

"Yeah, everybody's just getting more and more comfortable with one another. I think we're starting to play really good team defense. You don't get sacks unless people on the back end are covering, and you don't have the ability to really cover guys if the quarterback just sits back and holds onto the ball."

Fifth Year Wide Receiver Keytaon Thompson

On the absence of Billy Kemp IV:

"I had to play a lot more plays today. I had to play special teams. You have to make those adjustments. I think the tight ends did a good job coming in and being dominant and we found a way to make it work."

On running backs' performances:

"It's really impressive. It's really good to see early on that we have guys like Mike Hollins and Perris Jones as well. And now we have Xavier [Brown]. This is going to be fun; we have a really deep backfield"

On Brennan's message to the team in the last huddle:

"In the huddle we all just came together and said this is what it is all about. If we want to be the best group we have to secure these jobs, secure these games. Two-minute drills are something we rep a lot in practice."

Fourth Year Kicker Brendan Farrell

On the last kick:

"I have a thing where statistically my percentage is about 50, so I think I'm more likely to make it than miss it after missing. That helped me out a little, but it's all process oriented. You have to go through your process and stay locked in. I was able to do that. I'm kind of relieved."