

**Virginia vs. Richmond**  
**September 3, 2022**  
**Charlottesville, Va. (Scott Stadium)**

**Virginia Defensive Coordinator John Rudzinski**

***On preparation and expectations:***

"We were blessed that we have a great group of young men that we get to work with on a daily basis. Like you'd anticipate in a first game, there's a lot to learn. At the same time, these young men love football. They love to be here at the University of Virginia and it was good to see him compete today."

***On (Josh) Ahern's back-to-back stops:***

"Josh, coming back after having to sit out a half, it was great to see him make a bunch of plays. Unfortunately, we had that substitution as you should have had an interception, too. It's great to see Josh make a few plays."

***On defense against the run:***

"It's something that we're going to have to make sure that we're a lot better at next week. We know that we'll face a great opponent that will want to run the ball and so there's a lot to learn from it."

***On adjustments after Richmond's first scoring drive:***

"No, it's just guys had to fit some runs a little bit differently. And, again, it's just for our guys just saying, 'Okay, hey, we identify it, and we got to move on. 'And that's the thing in this game, we've got to have a short memory.'"

***On generating more pass rush:***

"Obviously, you can always throw more bodies at it. At the same time, as far as what you need to do, is you look at making sure that we're just really disciplined in our pass rush. Then it goes in the back end to make sure that we don't have a bunch of big windows to throw into."

***On Richmond going down the field with their passing game:***

"Well, that's what they've shown. And frankly, if they don't throw it over your head, it's tough to generate those chunk plays that a lot of those big offenses want."

***On cornerbacks dealing with one-on-one coverage against their receivers:***

"Yeah, you know, I'll have to watch the film, to really give you true, honest feedback."

***On sudden turnovers:***

"I would have loved to get a stop on third and five on the goal line. I thought that was manageable for us. But, we get a chance, they come out, we end up forcing a field goal. Great learning lessons. And that's the nature of defensive football. You just gotta love to go on the field, whatever that situation is."

***On depth as the game progressed:***

"Snap wise, we ended up right around 68, 70 snaps. It was in the first game. You try to be conditioned for it. But then once you have to play that number of snaps, you show your true colors. I was proud of our guys to finish solid there in the fourth quarter. There'll be a lot to learn from."

***On lessons:***

"I have not watched the film, but there's a lot of good things to learn from. Just especially seeing guys as they got extended and serious, finding a way to dig deep to be able to get off the field or force field goals."

***On Ahern joining in the second half:***

"It's a testament to that young man. He did a nice job of staying in tune. He does a great job preparing. The stage was definitely not too big for him."