

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

VIRGINIA VS. ODU

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)

VIRGINIA DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR JOHN RUDZINSKI

Opening Statement

“Our guys played hard. And shoot kudos to the offense, they bailed us out. I'll tell you that much. It was a hard fought game. You would have loved in that two minutes at the end of the game to get off the field and for some of those fourth downs situations. Some great learning moments and it's always nice to have learning moments when it's a win.”

On playing through fatigue

“Both sides are going to be fatigued. It comes down to who wants to win their one-on-one. It was not the way we wanted to end on defense, but it's the way we wanted to end as a team.”

On pressuring the quarterback

“It starts with us playing solid run defense. If we can be really good against the run, we can get to some manageable third downs. That's what we had a chance to do for most of the first half and then especially in the second.”

On development of Langston Long and Jonas Sanker

“Those guys, each and every week are getting better and better. What's fun with working with young guys is they don't know what they don't know. It's fun to see those guys continue to be great learners, super engaged. They're models as far as what you want here at the University of Virginia.”

On Josh Ahern's coverage during ODU's first passing touchdown

“Josh was in a great position. Probably not the best call matchup wise so I'll take full responsibility for that call.”

On playing with little time remaining

“The unique part, as far as the offense, is they forced footballs. That becomes a unique dynamic where a quarterback doesn't feel penalized because he knows that you have to go win the game. And so some balls that wouldn't necessarily have been thrown earlier in the game end up showing up. That's where it's so critical to win your one-on-one.”

On D'Sean Perry

“D'Sean did a really really nice job. We moved him this week to play more of an edge spot. What a great job he did starting on Tuesday of picking up that spot and going and executing at a high level.”

On the game-winning field goal

“I stood behind. It was nice to go through those uprights. Bailed out the defense and bailed out me.”

On Kam Butler playing through a finger injury

“That finger was going on a 45 degree angle. It is a fast, physical game. A testament to him, the toughness, that he showed. He came in on that last series, taped him up, and went back to work.”

On week-to-week improvements

“It's always incremental. You keep on trying to push forward, and you have some plateaus and push forward. And so hopefully we can just continue to move forward. But we know we've got a great test this weekend on a short week.”

On facing former UVA Offensive Coordinator Robert Anae and Quarterbacks Coach Jason Beck next week

“We've got the whole book. From what we've heard is that he has a system, and he trusts in the system. I know they've done a nice job there of scoring points. There's a lot to work on this week, schematically, and then we'll have to be great fundamentally to go up to someone else's house on a short week.”

On playing after quick turnovers

“That's something about playing defense. That's why we're the defenders of the team. Wherever that ball is, our guys are gonna have pride as far as going out on the field and finding a way to win.”

On Coen King returning

“Coen's back. He definitely gives us more depth. I was excited to see him run around and make some plays.”