

September 3rd, 2021
UVA vs. Richmond
Charlottesville, Va. (Scott Stadium)

VIRGINIA HEAD COACH TONY ELLIOTT QUOTES

Opening Statement:

“First thing I just want to say is, I’ve got to thank Carla Williams and President Ryan, for giving me this opportunity to be standing before you today. Having won my first game as a college head coach, I want to thank the players, all of the staff, every person that touches this program; for their belief in me and the hard work that they put in to have these guys ready to play today. I want to thank the student section, I really challenged them, I thank them for showing up. I’m gonna get after the rest of the folks, there were a lot of seats in the upper deck that weren’t that weren’t full, but hopefully they got a glimpse of where we’re taking this program and what we can be. But very, very appreciative and grateful for the opportunity to be the head coach at the University of Virginia and I just want to thank all those who believe in me and gave me an opportunity to be here today. So with that, I’ll be quiet and let you guys start firing away.”

On on his experience thus far and what it means to win his first game:

“Just confirmation, I think that in this profession, you can be fast and take the wrong job. But I believe I was patient and the Lord opened up the right door and I’m in the right place. The call to confirmation I needed was to see the joy in the locker room of those guys experiencing victory and just pure joy, emotion and appreciation for all the hard work that they put in. Also, pregame I thought the atmosphere was really, really good. We’re gonna continue to improve upon that. So all the pieces are here that I was looking for to build something special, and for me it was just building something special that everybody that’s a part of it can be proud of - not about not about myself, but about everybody that’s involved.”

On his relationship with Brennan Armstrong and his performance:

“Brennan [Armstrong], first and foremost, is the type of person that you want to be around and be associated with and because he’s so low maintenance, low key, a hard worker, blue collar, doesn’t care about what some people say you should care about. He cares about his teammates, I guarantee he’s not worried about the stats. I had to tell him ‘Hey, don’t take that hit. In some of those situations like buddy, it’s late in the game, get down.’ But [he said], ‘No coach. We weren’t playing to the standard.’ So you just love everything about what his DNA is. I’m just happy that he’s here for me to come alongside, because at the end of the day, what the vision I have is only going to come to life with the belief of those guys and he’s paramount in our success going forward.”

On his thoughts on the defense today:

“I thought they responded well in the first half. They were giving up a little bit too much in the run game, but then they found a way to get some stops. And then, in fairness to the defense, they got put in some tough situations in the second half. We had back-to-back sudden changes, in [an] unfavorable field position, they got into a long field goal that they missed, they had a couple of fourth down stops, short yardage stops. So there’s gonna be a lot to clean up, but I think the guys having a chance to see themselves being successful in situations is just going to help us going forward. I missed a timeout I should have called, I heard the substitution on the headset; I thought we were in good shape when we had the interception. So that’s on me. But (I’m) just proud of the guys for having them ready to play, being able to play a lot of people, and then being able to make adjustments in the game to give us some stops so that the offense can kind of flip the momentum.”