

UVA Post-Game Coordinator and Player Quotes

Virginia vs. Louisville

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022

Charlottesville, Va. (Scott Stadium)

VIRGINIA OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR DEZ KITCHINGS

On first half vs. second half offensive strategy:

"It's not about Louisville. We had a good plan coming in here, we executed at times but it's not consistent enough that's why we're not winning. We couldn't run the football in the first half. A first and 10 was a run to try to get something started, and we end up being a second-and-10 or a second-and-11, or second-and-eight and that's not fair, so screw the run. I mean, we just couldn't cover them up, couldn't run it and we had to throw a ball. And in the second half, that's what it became. Unfortunately, that one interception was critical."

On an intercepted throw to Lavel Davis:

"He's got to come back to the quarterback. I mean, [Brennan] threw in the spot where it's supposed to be. He's got to come back to the quarterback, you got to protect the ball right there."

On Brennan and ball security:

"We drill it every day. We coach it every day. And the guy is a competitor trying to make a play. He actually had the ball secured better than he'd ever had throughout the season [with] two hands on it. He's doing what we asked him to do and protecting the ball, he just can't get a break."

"Did you like the way the offense functioned today given the imbalance in the past?"

"I did. In the first three drafts, we...converted a couple of third downs. Then, once we had the fumble, we just have to be mentally tough, lock in, and not let it steam roll downhill. Because then, the next series of events that happens is drops, sacks, drop, drop, drop. As a fan, you're frustrated, I'm frustrated, we're all frustrated. But, we'll come back in here, we've got a bye week, get some guys healthy, mentally and physically, and get ready to go to Georgia Tech."

"What's missing in the run game?"

"We played too high. That was my initial thought. We just have to play with better leverage. Xavier [Brown] with a third down and two, you can't trip. We've got to make plays."

"Do you think the bye week will help?"

"I do, because as coaches we're competitive and we will keep coaching these guys up. And they have responded, every week coming to work and practice, but it's got to come together. It's been a quarter here, half here. You just have to put it all together because the margin of error is so small."

On Brennan during the bye week:

For Brennan, he just needs to keep progressing like he's doing, and playing like he does, and just keep throwing the ball where it's at, guys are gonna make plays for you, and don't try to do any more than that.

"Were you confident in the first half?"

"Very confident. We got the ball coming out...But still, even with that being said, knew we could move the ball on him...We can move the ball to anybody, but it's self inflicted wounds. That's what's killing us. Whether it's penalties, turnovers, drops, that's what's hurting us."

On Demick's third down catch miscommunicated as a first down:

"We have to win the game. Can't expect people to give us a game. And it's got to take four quarters of guys just relaxing and just playing football. Brennan has been doing that and I'm proud of him. For us, it was his best game today. Unfortunately, we didn't get the victory that we wanted. He obviously has some plays he wants back, but he was over 71% completion, and that's a win. We just have to play complimentary football with him."

VIRGINIA DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR JOHN RUDZINSKI

On the upcoming bye week

“We'll take advantage of it, continue to learn, continue to teach. We've got a bunch of young men that are hungry to win and now what we've got to do is put it together and do something.”

On no sacks or tackles for loss today

“It's a kudos to our opponent. They did a nice job protecting their quarterback. It always helps us as far as we keep it behind the sticks, that makes third down a lot more manageable.”

On Louisville using backup quarterback Brock Domann

“We spent a bunch of time with it, watching his high school stuff and the games that he's played in prior to this. We wanted to have a plan and he did a nice job executing.”

On not underestimating Louisville's offense despite losing starting quarterback

“They've got a nice offensive scheme. They've got a system, and that's what system teams do; they plug in the next guy to go execute.”

On center back Anthony Johnson

“This was an important game for him. I know how disappointed he is to lose to his undergraduate alma mater. At the same time, I know that he brings a lot of leadership.”

On Anthony Johnson's interception

“It was a great interception. Anytime we can create a short field, it should be advantageous for those.”

On difficulties with the pass rush

“They're a real experienced offensive line we faced. They did a nice job as far as mixing some draws and some screens to complement each other. We're more than capable to do so, but now we've got to put that on film.”

On younger players like Donovan Johnson Sr. and Bryce Carter getting playing time

“Those young men have earned every snap that they've gotten so it's good to see some other guys out there. We're now going to go to the film and see how productive they are.”

On no defensive tackle Aaron Faumui in the first half

“We just ended up going with Ben Smiley in the first half and then Aaron came in and did a nice job in the second half.”

On the long touchdown run

“Structurally, someone was assigned to the quarterback. We've just gotta be more disciplined with our execution.”

On being pleased with turnovers despite the final result

“We'll give ourselves a chance to win. If we can create some turnovers and take the ball off the field, then it creates extra possession. So, we're always gonna create more turnovers.”

On the defensive focus looking forward

“It's going to be just making sure that that we get a chance to go back and look at, schematically, who we are. See what we're executing well. Look at things that we need to do better here in the second half of the season.”

QB BRENNAN ARMSTRONG

On trying to do too much as Quarterback

"I just have to protect the ball. I talked about it earlier on, just trying to switch that mindset from trying to make every play to playing within the offense. The fumble was the fumble, and I've been struggling with that all year. And then the turnovers, I'm playing within the offense, but the execution part of it isn't there."

On trailing 13-10 at the half

"(It was a) 13-10 game and we gave them half the points. It wasn't anything they were doing, we were just trying to move the ball. At the start of the second half, I was just thinking we've got to come out and win at any cost. We didn't put the nail in the coffin like we could've early on, and we're trailing at the half by three, no big deal. It just didn't go our way after that. But going into halftime it was three points."

On Adversity

"Adversity hits and things happen. We never bounce back with a good drive once something happens. We aren't working together to get it done, and we're stalling out on the little things. There are definitely some things I could've done better."

CB Anthony Johnson

On what stopped Virginia's early success

"Just being complacent. Not keeping the foot on the pedal on defense. The defense came out in the first two drives with really big stops. We kind of got complacent, so just keeping that intensity and fire up throughout the course of the game."

On the benefit of the bye week

"We need some guys back to get back healthy, get over these injuries, and just really need to lock in on our details and the small things. Just really come together and buy in. Like I said once earlier, we need to find our heart and just figure out what it is that we need to do collectively as a team to turn this thing around."

Safety Antonio Clary

On how quickly the game turned around

"I wouldn't say surprised, I would just say it changed. And we've got to be ready as a defense. What offense does, offense does. But if something happens, momentum changes, we've got to be ready. I think we left some plays out there as a defensive unit that could have changed the momentum of the game by guys just doing their job, being in the right fit. Just making the plays that you're supposed to make. But I wouldn't say it was surprising. That's just the game of football. Things happen. Momentum changes. We've just got to be prepared for that."

On what Louisville did to break down the defense

"It's just guys doing their jobs. Coach hits on it all the time, if you're supposed to be in this fit, you've got to be in this fit. If you're supposed to guard your man, you've got to guard your man. It's really just guys doing their job. That's all it is. It's nothing special."

LB Josh Ahern

On being midway through the season with unexpected record:

"Yeah, definitely not the position we thought we'd be in at all, but there's nothing else you can do other than wake up the next day and keep working. So that's the team mindset of the group. That's all we can do."

On the bye week:

"Yeah, a bye week is awesome. You get to rest your body a little bit. We're not exactly preparing for a game, but we do have a game in two weeks. So obviously, there's no preparation right away, but we're still getting ready. It's definitely a nice relaxing week both physically and mentally."

On Aaron Faumui sitting in the first half:

"Coach Elliott takes the core values of this program seriously and he's willing to uphold them. Everyone on the team understands that."

On the locker room environment:

"The guys were frustrated. No doubt, we were definitely frustrated. We lost the game. That is nothing to be excited about. Like I said we have to live with it, think about it over the weekend, and get