

**NOVEMBER 12, 2022**  
**VIRGINIA VS. PITT**  
**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)**  
**VIRGINIA HEAD COACH TONY ELLIOTT**

***On the opening of the game and the mindset heading into the matchup:***

“We knew it was gonna be a challenge and they [Pitt] did a good job and they showed up with the right mindset and ready to play, and I didn't do a good job of having our guys have the right mindset. [Having them] understand the matchup that we had, the physicality that it was going to take, the intensity and enthusiasm that we needed to start the game with. So, it's not on the players, it's on me to make sure that I fully articulate and have them prepared to be able to play in a game like this.”

***On the performance of Malachi Fields:***

“He exceeded my expectation from the standpoint of I was thinking that maybe [he would play] 15 to 20 plays. Then late in the week, our medical folks did a great job of having him prepared and said we could push it to 30 maybe 40 plays. Malachi has worked extremely hard, he's a guy that loves the grind of football and I'm just so happy for him to have some success. But I didn't expect him to play as many snaps early in the week. But as we progress towards the later part of the week I felt a bit more comfortable with the suggestion to play him about 30 or 40 plays.”

***On if he expects a will from the players to finish the season strong:***

“I do. The guys had a good week of preparation, but you're learning, and if you just watch college football it's hard to win anywhere. Even for some of the blue bloods right now. It's hard to win because everybody wants the same thing. There's a small margin for error and really it's mental. I asked the guys in the locker room. ‘What's the difference between last week and this week?’ Well just because you give everything you have and come up short. You don't fear doing it again. You go challenge yourself to do it again. Then if you have success, you can't just assume that you're gonna have success the next time out. Every single day, everything that you do, you've got to be fully committed. Again, it's just teaching these guys the right way to think and we've got some work to do but we're gonna get there.”