

**NOVEMBER 12, 2022**

**VIRGINIA VS. PITT**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)**

**VIRGINIA PLAYER QUOTES**

**Second Year WR Malachi Fields**

***On his touchdown:***

“It was a routine play we do all the time in practice. So, we just go out there and execute.”

***On team support for his return:***

“It was really exciting. My boys were right there. They were happy for me and happy to see me out there. I could not do it without them pushing me every day. I was happy to see them happy for me.”

***On the first two pick-six plays:***

“It does not feel great, but I told the guys to stay in it and think about the next play. You can’t think about the past in football. You have to move on.”

***On building Tony Elliot’s program:***

“There is definitely a lot of progress. You can see what the team has made. You see that we can push forward. A lot of good things have come out of this. That’s how we’ll grow.”

**Senior Linebacker Nick Jackson**

***On his role as a leader helping the team move forward:***

“Just next play mentality. That’s all it is. Next game, next opportunity, and we’ve still got more opportunities to play more football. Shoot, five-year-old us would be ecstatic to be in the position we’re in right now. So, let’s keep that positive mindset and let everyone know that we have more opportunities.”

***On his faith in Coach [Tony] Elliott’s vision for the program and effect so far:***

“I think Coach Elliott has got unbelievable potential, unbelievable staff, and we’ve got a lot of people who are buying in. I think that the future is bright for the programs and for everyone on the staff. I mean, everybody knows how much I love Coach Bronco (Mendenhall), his first year he struggled, too. There’s a culture change, and environment change. Everyone’s just getting ready to play.”

**Senior Defensive Back Coen King**

***On the difficulties of fixing the defense after starting with down 14-0:***

“We’re supposed to have the same mindset all the way through, but it’s tough to get started like that. You can kind of see it on the faces of a lot of guys, but we definitely didn’t lose any hope even though they got out fast. It’s just natural to be kind of bummed out that they started that fast. But we came out just like we would have if it was zero to zero.”

***On adjusting to Pitt’s physicality on offense***

“Losing Kenny Pickett and Jordan Addison, they pretty much shifted their entire offense. We weren’t really expecting that. I personally wasn’t until I watched them on film. But that’s just real football in my opinion. I love playing against teams like that. I have a lot of respect for Pitt’s offensive line and their running backs. They run really hard. They’re really fundamentally sound and it did take a little bit to get adjusted to it. But we hit in practice every day with the scout team guys, so we were well adjusted to it.”