

**VIRGINIA VS. JAMES MADISON
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)
UVA HEAD COACH TONY ELLIOTT QUOTES**

OPENING STATEMENT:

“First of all, I want to take a second to acknowledge Simone and Lavel, Sr., Delena, Darren and Brandon. Brenda and Mike Hollins. Happy and Shaun Perry. Just want to take a second to acknowledge them, and the administration, and Carla and her staff, Rector Hardy, President Ryan for the unbelievable celebration prior to the start. Got to thank our fans for showing up, they really showed up to support our guys and so grateful and thankful for that. I thought it was an awesome moment done very, very well. Set of great example for honoring the lives of young men who were lost too soon. This one hurts, and it's going to hurt for a while. Got a football team in there that battled really, really, really hard for the last 10 months to get to this point. Do they deserve to win? I believe so. Because of the people that they are, and what they've been through. But unfortunately, the game of football, it's not a game of deserve. It's about what you earn. Today, unfortunately, we didn't make enough plays. We weren't a disciplined enough football team to win. I still believe that the young men laid it on the line and celebrated the lives of Lavel, Devin and D'Sean the best way that a football player knows how, to just leave it on the field. I love those three young men. Miss them daily. My heart goes out to their families because of the devastation that they live with on a daily basis. A lot of people to thank and hopefully I didn't miss anybody. But there were a lot of people that were involved in the ceremony and I thought it was done very, very well. I thank the other head coaches at the University for showing up in support of our football team.”

ON MANAGING A WEATHER DELAY:

“That's a challenging situation to manage because you don't know how long it is. You're trying to get the guys refueled and rested. You want them to stay locked in, so you're trying to keep them off their phones and keep them focused. But, you don't know how long you're going to be in there with the delay. But, we're not going to use that as an excuse. We had our opportunities and, as I told the team in the locker room, we had our opportunities on the field and we didn't make enough of the plays that we needed to make. Hats off to Coach Cignetti and JMU. Great program for winning the game, and their kids played hard and they battled. When we looked at it, there was some opportunities where we could have taken more advantage of the momentum swings in the game and we didn't quite do it.”

ON OFFENSIVE STRUGGLES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER:

“We weren't able to establish the run. With the pressures, there were a couple of times they took some chances and they had a good call. You're hoping that your quarterback can make your right call, but it's a young guy in there and he's got to learn on the job with on-the-job training. We couldn't establish the run to stay ahead of the chains. When you're not staying ahead of the chains, it's very difficult to convert long yardage. We had the penalties there at the end that when we tried to get some momentum, it called the back.”

ON FRESHMAN QUARTERBACK ANTHONY COLANDREA:

“Tough situation, but he was prepared. He was ready. He did what he showed us throughout the course of fall camp, which extended the competition you know way into fall camp between he and Tony [Muskett]. We knew that he's a guy that when the lights come on, the bigger the stage, he seems like he elevates. Thought he did a good job of managing the system, making throws. Then, he did what he does with the off-schedule plays where you think you got him and then next thing he pops out and he finds a guy on the run. There are still gonna be some opportunities for him to learn, but overall just really proud of the situation and the circumstances to step in there as a true freshman, considering obviously Tony going down and then everything else that he had to be a part of managing to get to this game.”

ON MOVING FORWARD FROM THIS IMPACTFUL OF A LOSS:

“We're going to hurt for the night and then we're going to get up in the morning and we're going to get ready for Maryland. That's the mindset that I'm trying to establish within the program. What I told them, prior to the game, is that this is a defining moment. This is the opportunity where we take the next step to having a true consistent winning mindset. Not winning when it's convenient, winning when you're playing a lesser opponent, but every day you wake up, you have that winning mindset. Every day you practice with that winning mindset. You're not necessarily playing to a scoreboard, but you're playing to a standard. There's going to be a lot to learn in this in this loss. We know it hurts, and

there's a lot of young people in that locker room that are hurting. It's my job to teach them how to process that hurt. I told them that we had our opportunities. We gotta go earn victory. Nobody's gonna give us anything. We have to earn victory, and we earn it every day in practice, we earn it every day going to class, we earn it every day in everything that we do so that when you're in a four-quarter ballgame, every play matters. We've still got some work to do there collectively. We're only going to be as good as our total commitment and our collective commitment as a team and as a program. If we've got one guy in there that doesn't have the same level of belief as everybody else, then we're only going to be as good as the 99 out of 100. My job is to make sure that I figure out who are the guys that may not be to that point, and then figure out how to get them up to the level where everybody is, so we can be consistent across the board and take advantage of opportunities like we have today."

ON THE FACTORS THAT WENT INTO TODAY'S OFFENSE:

"I think it's a combination of a lot of things. The play you saw with Kobe, Colandrea is flushed in the pocket. We have a breakdown in protection that forces him to flush the pocket and then he doesn't panic. He keeps his eyes down the field, he finds Kobe. It's a combination of the two of those guys. We weren't great in protection, and then the quarterback found a way to erase it and make it right. Then you see a couple plays Malik went up and got it, there was not perfect ball placement but he found a way to go up and get it. That's what a team does. When guys have cohesion and chemistry, they're able to make each other right. It's a combination of the individuals. It's a combination of the situation. And then also a better understanding of what we're trying to do. "

ON THE STARTING QUARTERBACK GOING FORWARD:

"My approach is that you don't lose your job for an injury. But, it gives us a tremendous amount of confidence in Colandrea. We'll assess Tony, see where he is. Today, he was available in an emergency situation. I anticipate that by the time we get ready to roll out next week, he should be back ready to go, but don't quote me on that yet. I gotta wait to see what the doctor says. My approach has been that you don't lose it, but we're gonna need both of them. I think that competition is great. I think healthy competition is really good because it makes each other better and then it helps our football team. It's a long season, we've got 10 more football games, and we're gonna play some physical football games. We've got to do a good job of balancing that competition, but we'll assess and see where Tony is, and then figure that out as we go through the week."

ON MIKE HOLLINS:

"He's a walking miracle. And I'm gonna say that every time I get asked about him. For him to be able to play today, I don't think people understand just the magnitude of him to be able to take the field. And I know it's been 10 months, and I know we've had the memorial service, but there's a lot of devastation that was caused on November 13 that will take years and years and years and years not to fix but to ease where people can get to the point to where they can move forward. For him to be able to play the way that I've seen him persevere and push through on the practice field day in and day out. And to play, not just play, but to play at a high level. That is a testament to his internal fortitude, who he is as a person, how much belief he has."

ON MANAGING HIS EMOTIONS:

"It's a tough deal because I'm the head coach. I got to figure it out. Everybody's watching me, all these kids are watching me, my staff's watching me. And I'm human, so there's gonna be moments where I am emotional, but I got to figure out the best way to channel those in the right direction to lead this football team, this football program, to where we all believe that we're capable of going."

ON THE GAME'S RESULT HAVING AN IMPACT ON PREGAME CELEBRATION:

"When you start talking about the legacies of Lavel, Devin and D'Sean, I won't ever put a record or scoreboard. These are human beings. These are lives. Two, three, four years from now, it's just a piece of paper when you talk about wins and losses and scores. I, personally, won't ever compare their legacy or make the impact of their legacy connected to the outcome of the game. Do I want to win? Do I want to honor them? You're darn right, I do. Do they deserve that? Is that my expectation? Yes. But at the end of the day, the real legacy is how these young men live their lives going forward. How they do things and share the smile of Devin and Lavel. The Renaissance man, how you share that with D'Sean. That's really what the legacy is. They're young, I've got to teach them. They're learning, they're willing, but unfortunately, we're having some tough learning experiences right now. It's not going to be for naught. It's going to be

for something beautiful. I still believe in tragedy and triumph. I don't care what anybody says. I don't care what the scoreboard is, no one's gonna change my mind. Even if we don't win another game, that's not going to change. And that's where we're headed as a program. And that's my challenge to everybody. Because when we all have that same mindset, then we're going to be able to do something very, very, very beautiful. And it won't be relative to the scoreboard. It'll be relative to the impact that we make on a daily basis."

ON WHETHER THE MENTAL IMPACTS OF THE LOSS WILL LINGER:

"That's my job to make sure that it doesn't. Immediately, in that locker room, I called everybody out. We're not gonna start getting in our own heads and listening to outside voices. Because what's the reality? The reality is we win the football game. Then what? Tomorrow morning, we wake up and we gotta go get ready for Maryland. And so your responsibility as a player is to pour everything you have in every game. Football is different than a lot of other sports. We only get 12 opportunities a year. We practice all year long for 12 opportunities. Every one of them is important. Every one of them is special. And you have a responsibility to your teammates to pour everything that you have into every single game. You're not doing it just because you want to win, you're doing it because you love the man next to you. That's why, going back to the last question, if they can look in the mirror and say 'I laid it on the line, then I honored the legacy of my brothers the right way'. Unfortunately, the score didn't go our way, but it will in due time. Then there's gonna be times when you do win and then you can say, "You know what, I got a lot of work to do to improve". It's that delicate balance, but it's my job to make sure that the staff and the players don't stop believing. I'm not gonna stop believing. I don't want people around me who don't want to believe."

ON YEAR-TO-YEAR DIFFERENCES IN OFFENSE AND DEFENSE:

"I was raised this way, and brought up this way in coaching, that touchdowns don't carry over from the previous year. Tackles don't carry over from the previous year. You've got to do it every single day. Until we tackle better, we're gonna have the results that we're having. Until everybody's in unison up front with the five guys. Or, the receivers in the right place. Until we do those things. Every team is different. They've got to earn their own right, so to speak. Last year is last year. We're not the same. Either way, like I know we got more veterans back defensively, but we're still not the same. We did lose some components that we have to get up to speed to get back to where we want to go. The biggest thing is we've got to tackle better. We've got to do our job when we're supposed to do our job. We've got to fit when we're supposed to fit. That's our job as coaches to clean that up. And that's what we'll go to work starting tonight to be honest with you. We'll start tonight and be back on the practice field tomorrow getting ready for Maryland and seeing if we can get those mistakes corrected."

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)
VIRGINIA PLAYER QUOTES**

ANTHONY COLANDREA

ON HOW IT FELT TO START THE GAME:

"It was awesome. It was something [that] I dreamed of as a little kid and going out there, especially [with] everything that happened, starting today, it was just a huge blessing."

ON IF HE WAS OPTIMISTIC IN THE LAST MINUTE OF THE GAME:

"One thousand percent. I thought we could have gone down there and scored. I made little mistakes, I made pressure mistakes that I shouldn't make, but next week, we bounce back."

ON HIS TOUCHDOWN PASS TO MALIK WASHINGTON:

"It was it was a huge confidence role just because that was like my first throw in college football and it being a touchdown, so that was pretty awesome."

KOBE PACE

ON THE SHIFT IN ENERGY AFTER THE LIGHTNING DELAY:

"I did not feel that energy but, at the same time, not playing for who all is in the stands. We are playing for who all that's to the right and to the left of us. The fans played a big part but, as a team, that's when we have to step up and just stay level headed. Just keep working. Just keep pushing out of those situations."

ON COLANDREA'S SKILLSET ON DISPLAY:

"Great game from him. I'm proud of the dude to come out here, handle this environment, the situation and go through all his progression. He seemed to make stuff happen and I'm excited to see what he does in the future."

ON ADDRESSING THE ISSUES IN THE RUN GAME:

"We'll go back to the basics, go to practice tomorrow and just keep striving to be to be great. We've just got to execute the plan that we had."

ON MIKE HOLLINS PERFORMANCE TODAY:

"I'm happy for my friend, that's my guy. He deserves everything that he has today. I'm very proud of him."

MALIK WASHINGTON

ON WHAT COLANDREA PROVIDED FOR THE OFFENSE:

"I trust in every single quarterback that's in that room. I know all of them can make plays. They're all talented. Colandrea came out and he did his job and that's all you can really ask for."

ON THE EXCITEMENT AROUND THE OFFENSE AFTER THE FIRST BREAKAWAY RUN:

"It's exciting, especially since last week we didn't get a chance to really showcase what we're about offensively. I think we're a really explosive offense. We talk about being a fit offense, fast, intelligent and tough and so today we really wanted to showcase that. Having those points go up on the first play of the game is exciting for us. Making those different plays is just showing our DNA and who we are as an offense."

TAYVONN KYLE

ON PLAYING THROUGH THE EMOTIONS OF TODAY'S GAME:

"It was an incredible game. I feel like the emotions lit a fire in us, actually. It was more constructive than destructive. We just got to be able to find a way to channel that energy and that's something that we kind of talked about and harped on all week because we knew it would be an emotional game; so, we just got to know how to handle that and channeled it towards the positive side."

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)
JMU HEAD COACH CURT CIGNETTI**

Opening Statement:

“This was a great win for JMU. I am really proud of our team and the way they bounced back after the break. I thought the break had the potential to help us being down, we could make a few adjustments, but also kind of fix what was going on between their ears. Whereas maybe Virginia with that two-score lead, maybe felt a little bit of relief. But regardless, our guys made the plays. I am proud of them. It was a game of momentum swings and it’s a great win.”

On Fixing Mentality:

“I saw them sort of taking it to us, and some frustration on our guys. Our guys were at one point a little tired, and you have to learn how to play well when you're tired. You can't have undisciplined penalties and make mistakes and miss assignments. So, this game, was a chance to sort of regroup a little bit, and I think was beneficial for us.”

On Jordan McCloud after Rain Delay:

“Well, when a quarterback has time to throw and his guys are open, he has a chance to do pretty well. However, when he doesn't have time to throw and when guys aren't separating, it always falls back on the quarterback and head coach.”

On Defense Today:

“It was pretty important. I mean, we held them to under 10 [rushing] yards, I think. However, we also let their freshman quarterback throw about 360 yards and at halftime he was 11-for-12 for 180. So, we got to tighten our pass cover too.”

On Comeback:

“I think this team has the chance to really come together, have a lot of character and do great things if we keep our feet on the ground one day at a time and take care of business. We need our seniors to play their best football. I don't think we're getting that right now from all of our seniors that have played here in the past. They need to do the things off the field too, so that they can play their best football. If we want to achieve the goals, I know all the guys have.”

On Special Teams:

“Special teams are a big part of the game, offense and defense. We blocked one last week, but now when this one came after it, got it, touchdown. We felt like that was an area we needed to improve on from last season. We have more depth on our team this year. So, we have a chance to be better at special teams and it was a winning edge today. (Camden) Wise’s field goal was important too.”