

**VIRGINIA VS. WILLIAM & MARY  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)  
VIRGINIA HEAD COACH TONY ELLIOTT**

***ON SATISFACTION WITH THE WIN***

“Yeah, there are a lot of things that that obviously, when you look back at it, when we evaluate the film, we're going to critique and say we could have done better. But man, let me tell you something. A win's a win, and they're hard to come by. And that's a good football team over there. They're very well coached. They're a prideful bunch and they came in here wanting to do everything they could to prevent us from victory.

“So, a lot to be proud of and just really, really proud of those young men in there. Man, it's been a long time coming. They've worked extremely hard. They've had to persevere through a ton of adversity. And I think that most people know what's on the surface. But you know, behind the scenes, just the things that these young men have had to persevere through. Just extremely proud of them. So, man, hey, I don't care if some people could say it might not be pretty, but a win's a win and we needed to win. We got a win. The guys found a way versus a team that came in here to challenge them.”

***ON QUARTERBACK TONY MUSKETT BATTLING THROUGH INJURY***

“You saw that guy out there and he's scrapping, he's battling. (We) didn't do a great job of protecting him. We got to work on that area; we got to get better. We got to quit getting our quarterback hit. But man, this is a guy that's playing with a shoulder injury. He's persevered and he's given everything that he has. He's running the football; he's trying to win the game. So, I think you saw just how tough and how much he cares about this football team.”

***ON RUNNING WITH PASSION***

“I thought he (Perris Jones) did. I thought Kobe did as well. Tony did when he pulled the ball down. But it starts up front, so when you can get the backs going and you get them through the line of scrimmage and onto the second level before they're touched. It's usually going to turn into longer games and then you can play a little bit more aggressively because you're in front of the sticks and not behind the sticks. So I thought in the first half we were aggressive trying to throw the ball, we missed on a couple shots right out the gate. First one in the game we had had him open, we had Malik open. We had a couple of shots that we didn't connect on. But it all started with being able to run the football.”

***ON THE OFFENSIVE LINE***

“We had 230 something yards rushing so obviously anytime, I don't care who you're playing against, anytime you rush for over 200 yards the big boys out front are doing something there, they're moving people around and giving you running lanes. Got to see what the situation is with the sacks, still giving away too many sacks. Some of it, is not all on the OL. Some of it is the quarterback stepping up too early or flushing the pocket a little bit too early. But that's where we got to get better. But (I'm) pleased with the run game. But, overall, not pleased with the fact that we got a quarterback hit too much.”

***ON TONY MUSKETT'S LEADERSHIP***

“He's a competitor. He's a warrior, man. He's a leader of the football team. A guy that's playing injured probably going to have to have surgery on that shoulder at the end of the season. Could easily have done the easy thing and said, “You know what, Coach, I need to go ahead and fix my shoulder now and get a head start”. But here's a guy that said “No coach, I'm playing”. And so he's practicing every single day with a hurt shoulder. He's playing with a hurt shoulder and to be honest with you, it's probably gonna hurt him the rest of the season. It's not one of those deals where it's going to fix itself. So just his toughness, his passion and his love for his teammates. He's a competitor. And what he shows is he's a guy that, it's not just wanting to win, he's a guy that needs to win. And that's why he does what he does.”

***ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS WIN***

“Oh, man, it's huge. Obviously, the record, I know nobody's, trust me, nobody in our locker room, in this organization feels excited or feels good about where we are. You got a group of folks that realize the opportunities we didn't take advantage of and we want to make sure that we capitalize on the ones going forward. But really it's just confirmation for those guys in there because they've worked extremely hard. As I said, there's a ton of adversity that they've been

through that has been seen publicly and then there's a lot of adversity that a lot of people don't don't realize, and the fact that they show up every single day. Also shout out to the student body. I thought they showed up, that's three home games where man they've showed up, they've been loud. They've been very supportive. So very, very appreciative of the other students and the fans as well for showing up. I know it's not what any of us desire or expect but I appreciate both of them showing up and that's what you guys got, a football team that shows up every single day.”

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)  
WILLIAM & MARY HEAD COACH MIKE LONDON**

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

First of all, hat goes off to Coach Elliot. They played a tough, gritty game and came out with the W. I know they were looking to kind of change their mindset a little bit, but I'll say right here, right now I'm very proud of my football team, our football team. When you're going toe-to-toe with an FBS, ACC opponent, and you're leading at some points and at the very end halftime they score and have that opportunity tied up. Then you come out third quarter, fourth quarter, they go with one score, and you're still going back and forth. I just thought our players played really, really well. I am very proud of them. Obviously, some things occurred that you don't want to happen. I think we weren't as efficient on third down offensively nor defensively. That's been one of our calling cards is to be pretty good on third downs and in total defense as well. So, without dissecting the stats, like I said, I think that when you're battling and competing against an ACC, FBS team and your players are fighting, my hat goes off to them. So, like I said, I'm proud of this team. We have a bye-week coming up and then we have an opportunity to get ready to go down the stretch with our CAA schedule. The next game is a home game so I'm very optimistic about where we're going from here.

***On Passing Offense:***

“Obviously, you look at the third down situation, it is probably not as good as what it needs to be and what we want it to be. That's got to improve; give Darius (Wilson) opportunities to get out of the pocket and play action passes. There were some things that we tried to do. They did a great job on setting the edges and not letting them get on the edge. In their coverage, they're fast, so we'll have to take advantage of the other teams we're playing and make sure we put our playmakers out there too. We can be successful.”

***On Defense:***

“Defensively the goal is to obviously not to put that many points up on the board. There were points in there that I thought we got after the passer. The sacks, the harassment of the passer, created the turnovers that give you an opportunity to win. It was about possessions for this game. You want to have the possessions and not give the ball back over to them. John Pius showed that he can play against any level and anybody. I'm glad he's on our team because he's truly one of the best in the country along with Nate Lynn. I believe that.”

***On Coming Back to Scott Stadium:***

Well, the human element of it is you make relationships with people and you move on, but you never forget. It was great just reconnecting with guys like Jake McGee, Mike Rocco, Quin Blanding because you had experiences with them. They come up and they hug and say, “Thanks, coach,”. I mean, that's why I'm a coach

and that's why you do it. It's one of those things that I'm on the opposite side of the field, but we're always going to be on the same page because we have had the same kind of values.

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

**Tony Muskett**

***On playing through his shoulder injury:***

"I love the game. I love these guys. It's just a little shoulder injury. I could be out there and put it on the line for my brothers and for all the people that came through for alumni weekend. All the people that built this program, I'm gonna do this for them because I truly want us to succeed. I'm going to continue to do that as long as I can or until someone says I can't."

***On what it took to win today:***

"Winning is everything. We felt like the past five weeks, we were 0-5, we wanted to win. But this week, [Coach Tony Elliott] told us that we *need* to win. I think there's different levels of commitment and passion. We truly need to win because, for a lot of guys in the locker room like myself, that need to win just makes you take that one extra step because that extra step makes the difference. I think you saw that today. We just trained a little harder and we pushed a little harder than the past five weeks. If we continue to do that next six weeks, we can have a good season and come out with a great year."

***On the feeling to win this game:***

"I'm definitely happy. It's hard to win a football game. [William and Mary] is a really good football team. I was at the FCS level and they won our conference last year. I've got a lot of respect for them. They have two defensive ends that will probably leave in a year or two, so we knew it was going to be a tough test. But we truly had that need to win this week. It's a lot to build off of because they're a great team and that was a great victory for us. Realistically we could have had two or three more touchdowns because you can't settle for field goals and can't have the turnover down there. I think we played really well. Fix a couple of things coming out the bye week, we're gonna be really sharp for UNC."

**PERRIS JONES**

***On the running backs aggressive run game:***

"Coach Kitchings challenged us and we knew from the start we had a very talented group, and we feel that we haven't been playing to our best capabilities. So, today there was a huge emphasis to go out and just be who we are. No pressure, no stress. Don't try to overdo it. I think that showed today. We had some great plays and credit to the O-Line. Those guys are working their tails off and made our job easy."

***On the O-Line's progression from the beginning of the season:***

"Yes, [the O-Line has made] huge strides. Those guys have put together complete games. Their hard work has come to fruition; they've gotten rewarded for it so I couldn't be happier for them. That's an excellent group of guys, they're coming together. They're working hard every single day and they're making the strides that they need to make for this team."

***On clocking 100 yards this game as a running back:***

"It's all of those guys. I'm thankful for those big guys up front. Whatever I could do to help the team is what I want to do. I'm grateful that I was in a position to help in that capacity, but credit to the O-Line, they did an amazing job today."

***On what made the run game work today:***

"I think it was a collection of the O-Line and RB room. We knew that we were underperforming and weren't playing to the capability that we could. So, between those two groups, we said from the beginning of the game, 'we're going to run the ball, and they're not going to stop us, and we're going to we're going to keep going' and I think that showed."

***On the emotions of the win:***

"It's huge. Being so close in the last couple games that we've had, as we said in the locker room, we're tired of saying we're so close, let's get there. And I think today we did that. So, it was huge for a confidence boost to say, 'We can play four quarters with anybody and we can do what we need to do and hold ourselves to a standard and reach that standard.'"