

**VIRGINIA VS. VIRGINIA TECH**  
**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (SCOTT STADIUM)**  
**VIRGINIA HEAD COACH TONY ELLIOTT**

***ON HOW THE GAME GOT AWAY FROM THEM***

“It starts with me. I have to do a better job of having the team ready to play week in and week out and evaluate that. I just didn't feel like we had the right look in our eye from the opening, from the time we ran out for the game. That's on me. Big plays got away, uncharacteristic big plays to give up that many. So, we'll watch the tape to see exactly what the breakdowns were. But they made the plays consistently. We didn't. All three phases, we just gave away some snaps and then, ultimately, it got to a point to where you're in such a deficit it's hard to come back from that.”

***ON IF THIS IMPACTS THE RIVALRY GOING FORWARD***

“No, not at all. If it's a rivalry, you throw the records out. Every game is its own, individual game. I gotta tip my hat to Brent [Pry]. They did a heck of a job today. They were ready to play. They took it to us early on. I didn't have my guys ready to play. But, I'm not gonna make this bigger than what it is. This is one game. We're gonna learn from it and we're gonna get better this offseason. We've got to wait, unfortunately, for 365 days to get another shot, but that's not how I view it. That's not how I think. I have to, in that locker room and in the program, change the mentality and mindset when it comes to viewing the rivalry. And this offseason, I'll spend time figuring out the right way to articulate that to everybody in the building. But I think, more importantly, what we're learning as a program is we've got to have the right mindset week in and week out where we're always chasing our best game. It doesn't matter how well you play the week before or how bad you play the week before, you're always chasing your best game. And I felt like, just overall, we thought some plays were going to carry over from last week. And touchdowns don't carry over. Blocks don't carry over. Tackles don't carry over. And you gotta go earn it every single week.”

***ON MALIK WASHINGTON'S SEASON***

“For the guy to come in here as a transfer, and now he's in esteemed company, he's one of six players in ACC history to go over 100 catches in a season. That's pretty special. But also speaks to his durability, his availability, the way that he prepares. He's a fierce competitor. He continues to find ways to push himself to get better. So, it's been awesome to watch him perform. And I'm just really grateful that he believed in Coach Kitch [Kitchings], myself and this offense to come in and show what can be done within this program.”

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**VIRGINIA TECH HEAD COACH BRENT PRY**

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

“First of all, I just want to thank our players and our coaches, their resilient effort. We went one and three, there was a ton of noise. There's been some inconsistency, but this group has really just hung together, and they've kept working. They've trusted the process. It wasn't easy to get to this point, to six and six, it's a testament to a lot of people. A ton of support, our fans have been unbelievable. They were unbelievable again here today in Charlottesville. I want to thank them for the effort the entire season. I want to thank the administration. I want to thank our Letterman, they poured a lot into this week, sending video messages we shared with our team. It's just an unbelievable effort by so many people. I want to thank my wife, Amy, my family for being supportive; it's not easy. All of our coaches' wives too. I have a ton of respect for Coach Elliot and UVA. What they've been through, I can't imagine. I consider him a friend. I'm fortunate that we got the group we got, and it was a great week of preparation, and it paid off. There's a lot going on at Virginia Tech, I think everybody understands it's a special place. I mean women's basketball, men's basketball; there's so many positive things going on. To add to that with a victory over UVA today couldn't make me more proud.”

***On the Start of the Game:***

“I think anytime you can start fast. The defense got to three and out, we went down, got a field goal. You could get a sense of how you're going to play, whether they make some plays or not. The look in your guy's eyes, and you feel good about the plan, and are confident. I thought we made plays where we needed to make plays and delivered the ball around to a couple different guys. When you can play good defense and earn a lot of three and outs, it makes it hard on the other groups defense. Whether it's Da'Quan (Felton) getting the ball, Kyron (Drones) running the ball, Bhayshul (Tuten) running the ball, you got a lot of different things going on out there. Jay (Jaylin) Lane, everybody giving great effort. I thought our strain and our finish was better today than had been all season.”

***On Bowl Eligibility:***

“First of all, it's an awesome opportunity for us to stay together again. To be together another month, with this group, with these coaches and these players. Then to capitalize on some momentum and go into the offseason. In recruiting, people see what we're what we're doing right now, what we're about, the momentum we have, the improvements we're making, that we're still in a rebuild, but we're making strides. I think today was a testament to that and going bowling is a testament to that, particularly the way the season started. There's nothing wrong with getting better as a year goes, especially with where we're at right now, and those extra practices are invaluable to us. We signed 50 high school players over the last two years. We need every practice we can get with those guys to keep improving, keep getting the guys better. We're a developmental program, these practices will be big. It's a chance for our team, coaches, fan base, and families to all celebrate, have a nice trip, and go win another game.”

***On Scoring 55 Points Against UVA:***

“It's awesome. I'm still mad about the seven we left on the one-yard line. But again, I think we got a lot of weapons. We played complementary ball. The defense was getting the ball back to the offense, we scored in the in the kicking game multiple times. I think we were hitting it on all cylinders today and when you do that you have the chance to score a lot.”

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**VIRGINIA PLAYER QUOTES**

**JONAS SANKER**

***ON GIVING UP BIG PLAYS:***

"[With] the big plays, all it takes is one person having bad eyes on that play, so, one person out of the 11 people on the field and they're not doing the job that play, sometimes that's just what it comes down to. Going into next year, we got to pride ourselves more on being a better execution-wise defense."

***ON HOW THIS GAME SET THE TONE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE RIVALRY:***

"[I'm] not [worried] at all. They're playing a game, you got to give them their props, but we got to learn from this. One thing Coach Elliot talked about at the end of this game [was that] the way Duke took care of us last year, they really punched us in the mouth. So, it's all about responding. Going into next year, it's going to be all about how we respond [and] that's going to say a lot about the program."

***ON IF THERE WAS A MENTAL BLOCK:***

"The only simple answer I can say to that is just learning from your mistakes and showing up to play. We got to do a better job of showing up to play. I think a big area we need to grow in is I think we need to be internally motivated more, and that's just going come down to guys looking themselves in the mirror, me included. I think a lot of people on the outside can put it on the coaches and find every reason to blame, but at the end of the day, the players are the ones on the field and we got to find our own 'why,' we got to find our own reasons to want to make the play, want to win the one-on-one's."

**MALIK WASHINGTON**

***On his record-setting season:***

"I'm happy with the season that I had; not completely satisfied but happy. I put in the work with my brothers. Each and every day we came with that attack mindset. I'm grateful for the season that I had but it could have gone better."

***On how to bounce back from a rivalry loss:***

"Not every Saturday are you going to be on the winning side. We just have to be better in the future. There's nothing we can do at this point but work for the next 365 days to come back out next year with a victory."

***On legacy with future wide receivers:***

"I've tried my best to help us come in here, help us grow together, as receivers and young men. I know that those guys look up to the leaders in the room, they'll follow in those footsteps."

**MALACHI FIELDS**

***On how today's loss impacts the team moving into the offseason:***

"It's not discouraging. This is just fuel going into next season hungry. Seeing that we didn't come out with the victory that we wanted, it just pushes us to next season."

***On Malik Washington's impact on the Wide Receiver room:***

"I've taken a lot away from him. Being able to take care of your body, taking every day like it's your last. He brings that older, wiser mindset to our group. That's been really good, especially with a lot of young guys. It's been a blessing. He's a great player."