

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

***ON THE LOSS:***

“It’s on me. I did not do a great job of having this football team prepared and ready to play at a high level. It’s the tale of football, how momentum can swing and how things in the game can change quickly. We weren't able to capture the momentum once it changed. For a little while, we were going back and forth and it was competitive football. And then we started making some critical mistakes and they found some answers and made some adjustments that we could not adjust back to.”

***ON THE QUARTERBACK PLAN GOING FORWARD:***

“We’ll discuss that as a staff. I don't know what the severity is with (Tony) Muscott. The preliminary is saying high ankle sprain, and so I don't know the timetable on that. I know that he got taped up and tried to go, and that's why you saw us go with Grady (Brosterhous) because they said “hey, we might be five minutes” and so let’s play Grady and until we knew for sure. Once he got taped up and put his shoe back on and tried to put pressure on it, he wasn't able to go. That's been the plan all along, and we articulated that to (Anthony) Colandrea and he was good with it and he understood. Going forward, we'll see what the health of Tony is and then make that determination.”

***ON COACHING COLANDREA THROUGH OVEREAGERNESS:***

“It’s a great question. You just try to coach him through it and a lot of times, he knows as soon as he does it. What we have to do, is we just have to coach him through it and get him to understand that doesn't take away from who you are. It actually makes you better and a more complete quarterback when you understand to just make the play required. And for a lot of quarterbacks, particularly young quarterbacks, the play required may be to check it down to the back and throw it away to avoid a negative play. But you see him, and he's such a competitor, the way he was running the ball. He’s trying to scrap for every inch. Coach Lamb, myself and Coach Des (Kitchings) will coach him through that. I saw a little bit of progress. We’ll just keep coaching him through it. I've been in a situation with a quarterback that threw a bunch of interceptions and you want to teeter on if you coach them down too much then you take away what makes them special. We’ve got to get him to understand the appropriate balance.”

***ON MAINTAINING A WINNING MINDSET:***

“We are gonna go back to understanding what generated the success that we had. I reminded the guys today in the locker room that what success we had was a function of the things that we did right in preparation. We have to learn from this situation. What we're not doing is we're not scrapping what we're doing. We're owning this one, taking accountability for it, we're gonna correct the mistakes and we're gonna continue to move forward. It's a part of the growth process. It's a part of football, you have to be able to compartmentalize it, put it in perspective and then focus on the next play.”

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**GEORGIA TECH HEAD COACH BRENT KEY**

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

"It was a good team win, it really was. First off, to have a win like we did last week, and then to come out and prepare, to have the right mindset and to put the work in this week to put us in a position to come out here today and to have a good team win, I thought, was important. I thought it was important that we were able to put one game behind us and prepare the way you're supposed to prepare, but also have the mindset, the right way to be able to play for four quarters. I thought that's what the guys did. I thought we were playing a team (in Virginia) - they've been playing really good football. They have been improving, playing with a lot of confidence. They've been doing a good job against the run, we're able to control the line of scrimmage on both sides. I thought the defense really came out and played much better today and they played faster. You can see the culmination of a couple of weeks now. They're starting to come together and play in the same calls and doing the execution of those things and getting the signals. I thought it was much cleaner with the substitutions on the sideline today. So, all in all, I thought it was a good win. Really good win for us to come up here to Charlottesville. This place has been, historically, a tough place for us to play. My first career win here, so I thought that was pretty cool too, but a lot of years of trying, a lot of years. I thought coming into the game they were playing as good of football as anybody in the conference, and for our guys to come out in that second half after getting a lead and then continue to put the pedal down. So, give credit to the coaching staff for putting together a good plan and credit to the players for executing. All around, just a good team win"

***ON THE RUN GAME:***

"I mean, of course it's going to make me happy, but I'm happy for those kids. I'm happy for the kids and I'm happy for those guys up front that are that are playing together. You know, we knew coming in this game there were going to be some minus-one, minus-two runs. We knew there was going to be some zero-to-one-yard gains, and we had to stay with it. With the running game comes the perimeter games - the perimeter screens, the passing game, some of the shot plays. All in all, it opens up everything and I think it allows the quarterback to sit back and really do what he does best - be the coach on the field, manage the game, put the ball where it needs to be and run the offense."

***ON SETTING THE TONE IN THE FIRST HALF:***

"Yeah, it was we talked at halftime about it. Our M.O. has been playing four quarters. We're playing four independent quarters every football game. You own quarters over, we play another. We see we played for 15 minutes and see who comes out on top. That's the way we're going about it. So really, the first half had nothing to do with the second half. I challenged the guys at half to stay in the moment, to play together, to lay it on the line. All that mattered was that moment. It wasn't the outcome of the game; it wasn't the outcome of those plays. We just stayed in the moment. I thought they did that."

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VIRGINIA PLAYER QUOTES**

**ANTHONY COLANDREA**

***On when to be aggressive versus when to be smart:***

"Coach Elliott always tells me, you've got to know when to press. You've got to know when to press and when to lay off. You don't always have to score on one play. You can just drive down the field and score."

***On his mentality stepping into the game mid-drive:***

"Just go down there and get points. That was my main goal. Just do whatever it takes, whatever Coach Kitchings calls. Just go down there and get points, and that's what we ended up doing."

***On his preparation for next week's game versus Louisville:***

"My approach every week is the same. Every Sunday, I'm watching film, it doesn't matter if I'm playing or not. So, I'm going to approach every week as if I'm playing."

**MALIK WASHINGTON**

***On how to help build Colandrea's confidence at quarterback:***

"First, I want to acknowledge that we played three quarterbacks today and I think all three of them were prepared. All three of them prepared throughout the season like they're the starter. So, I'm proud of those guys for coming in and stepping up when they needed to. With [Anthony] Colandrea being young, just practicing and taking a little bit more time with him. Getting in the film room throughout the week to just help build his confidence in us and what we have planned."

***On delivering on his potential after surpassing 1000 receiving yards this season:***

"I've tried my best to deliver. I think I still haven't played my best and I've gotta be able to put together my best game. Whether that's catching the ball, blocking or whatever the case may be."

**JONAS SANKER**

***On the impact of this loss for the defense:***

"It's definitely going to challenge a lot of guys, myself included. So, we're gonna be able to watch the film, see where, we need to improve, see where we need to play faster, win blocks. Our identity as a defense, we don't want to let a team just run on us. So, it's going challenge us to how we're gonna respond next week. [Are we going to] take this and just let that kill our confidence, or are we going to bounce back and keep fighting for the team and try to build that culture and this program?"

***On the impact of the loss for team momentum:***

"I think just understanding, regardless of a win or loss, just having that confidence beforehand I think is really important. Not letting the outcome determine who you are and I think that's just a personality thing -- playing football. You got all these eyes on you all the time but at the end of the day, you got to look yourself in the mirror and you got to figure out how you want to respond and how you want to take criticism. That's part of just growing up. This isn't high school football anymore. You didn't do your job, you got to correct it or else someone else is going to get the opportunity to."

***On the Georgia Tech quarterback, Haynes King:***

"Coming in, we knew he was a good quarterback. We knew he's been good on his legs, especially after watching last week. They did a good job. They pull guys, they got open holes. The D-line the linebackers, are not going to be able to fit everyone perfectly, that's kind of an expectation. But, the backends got to do a better job downing balls. Instead of

giving up [a] 40-yard touchdown run, down after 20 and give us another chance. We got to do a better job of that collectively."