

2022 MILITARY BOWL
UCF vs. Duke
December 28, 2022 | Annapolis, Md.
Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

Head Coach Mike Elko

Opening Statement:

“Couldn’t be more proud of this group. From where this team was and this program was walking off the field at the end of the 2021 season to walking off the field today as the 2022 Military Bowl champions. Nobody can understand the amount of work and the amount of character that went into that. This is not a day in age where people grind through hard times, where people stay and stick together. Everybody in our organization that ended the season showed up here today to be a part of this bowl, every coach and player and you don’t see that. This group is special and this program is special and what this university’s football team is going to be about in the future. I think today was just a testament to all of that. A lot of great culture, great character and then some really good football. I just appreciate everyone who has been a part of this thing from day one, couldn’t be more proud of this team and the guys in the locker room of where this has come. What a way to end this first story of Duke football but now it’s on to the next of bigger and better things. Appreciate everyone in our program and our locker room.”

Question 1

“I thought we understood how dangerous he (John Rhys Plumlee) was. We talked about it all week how (John Rys Plumlee) is an extremely athletic kid. He’s even faster than you think he is on film. I think we did a really good job of keeping him contained. We had a lot of guys spying him at different times and then a lot of the sacks came from that. We knew keeping him contained and controlled was going to be key to not allow him to get out and be explosive and for the most part I think we were able to do that today.”

Question 2

“I think playing and finishing halves is critical. The end of a half and the start are usually huge momentum swings. We were able to get the score to go up 17-7, which was obviously really big and for the defense to go and get a three and out, I thought that was huge and then we were able to execute the two minute drive and then Todd Pelino goes out and bangs a 47 yard field goal into the wind going into halftime so I thought the momentum of that was really huge and then to go up by 16 early in the second half, I thought that changed how the game was played.

Question 3

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Player 1: Riley Leonard, So. QB

Question 1

"I felt we controlled the game pretty well. They (UCF) have a really explosive offense so we wanted to keep their snap counts to a minimum. We executed pretty well on offense, did have a couple three and outs here and there but throughout the game we consistently ran the ball and we were able to find the holes in the defense."

Question 2

"Coach Elko always talks about the turnover margin being the biggest decider in a football game and it's true. Throughout the year we protected the ball and we knew going into this game if we can win the turnover margin we were going to come away with a win."

Question 3

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Player 2: Darius Joiner, Gr. Safety

Question 1

"I had no clue that when I came to Duke we were going to be what we are. I trusted the vision coach Elko had, it made me work hard every day. We're (Duke Football) are going to get better every day and set the standard even higher next year."

Question 2

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Question 3

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