

WEEK TWELVE

MIAMI AT VIRGINIA TECH

Perry, Davis carry Miami past reeling Virginia Tech, 38-14

BLACKSBURG, Va. -- One good performance seemed to make a month of bad ones disappear for Miami.

N'Kosi Perry threw for two touchdowns and ran for another, Cam'Ron Davis scored twice and Miami snapped a four-game losing streak with a 38-14 victory against Virginia Tech on Saturday.

"It was very sweet," Davis said. "We're very excited. All the stuff we went through, it all passed. Now we're on a new journey."

Davis scored on a 42-yard run and a 16-yard reception, both in the third quarter with a 51-yard punt return touchdown by Jeff Thomas sandwiched in between as Miami (6-5, 3-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) turned a 17-14 halftime lead into a comfortable victory.

"It was probably the most difficult thing I've been through as a coach," Mark Richt said of the losing streak. "We stopped the bleeding."

Ending the skid came with a bonus -- bowl eligibility.

"It meant so much to us," cornerback Trajan Bandy said. "We work so hard in practice. We knew coming into this game it was going to be a battle for us. ... We go out and play fast. I think we did a great job tonight."

The Hokies (4-6, 3-4) lost their fourth straight, and fourth straight at home, for the first time since they dropped four in a row at home spanning the 1973 season-finale and first the three of the 1974 season. Virginia Tech will have to beat Virginia on Friday -- something they have done in each of the last 14 meetings -- and then add a game on Dec. 1 and win that, too, to extend to 26 their streak of seasons ending in a bowl game. An announcement about a game to replace one against East Carolina lost to Hurricane Florence could come as early as Sunday.

University officials had no comment Saturday, but the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported Saturday that the Hokies have reached a contingency agreement to play Marshall at Lane Stadium, but only if bowl eligibility is available. Marshall also lost a game to the storm.

Cleaning up some defensive mistakes, defensive coordinator Bud Foster said, "We will give ourselves a chance to win, and hopefully we'll get an opportunity to go play one more, and then one more after that."

Virginia Tech led early after driving 76 yards in five plays following the opening kickoff with Ryan Willis finding Dalton Keene for a 15-yard touchdown, and they led 14-10 after Tre Turner ran 20 yards untouched early in the second quarter.

The offense stalled thereafter, and coach Justin Fuente blamed two drives that came up empty in the third quarter.

On the first, Brian Johnson was wide left on a 46-yard field goal try, and the Hurricanes then drove 71 yards in eight plays to Davis' long touchdown run. On the next, Damon Hazelton fumbled after a catch and Sheldrick Redwine recovered at the Virginia Tech 41. A third drive was hampered by a holding call that created a third-and-16, and "by then, the game was pretty far out of hand," Fuente said.

Miami also took a page from how the Hokies' recent opponents had found success and ran the ball. It produced a 71-yard drive to Perry's 1-yard scoring run 33 seconds before halftime, and another run-heavy 71-yard touchdown drive to Davis' run in the third quarter.

THE TAKEAWAY

Miami: The Hurricanes hardly tried to run the ball until their final drive of the first half when they gained 35 yards on the ground, giving them 40 for the half. Curious play-calling against a Virginia Tech team that had allowed an average of 392 yards on the ground in its past three games, all losses. In the first drive of the second half, they gained 62 of their 71 yards on the ground helped by Davis' 42-yard run to finish it.

Virginia Tech: The Hokies year of the injury continues as they got several of their injured defensive players back, but were without wide receivers Eric Kumah and Hezekiah Grimsley. They also remain inept after halftime at home, where the last three opponents had each outscored them 14-0 in the third quarter and Miami had a 21-0 edge.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MIAMI	3	14	21	0	38
VT	7	7	0	0	14

Scoring Summary -----

	MIAMI	VT
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
VT TD 12:59 Dalton Keene 15 Yd pass from Ryan Willis (Brian Johnson Kick) 5 plays, 76 yards, 2:01	0	7
MIAMI FG 6:29 Bubba Baxa 33 Yd Field Goal	3	7
13 plays, 60 yards, 6:30		
<b>second Quarter</b>		
MIAMI TD 14:28 Darrell Langham 3 Yd pass from N'Kosi Perry (Bubba Baxa Kick) 1 play, 3 yards, 0:05	10	7
VT TD 10:06 Tre Turner 20 Yd Run (Brian Johnson Kick)	10	14
10 plays, 75 yards, 4:22		
MIAMI TD 0:33 N'Kosi Perry 1 Yd Run (Bubba Baxa Kick)	17	14
10 plays, 71 yards, 2:36		
<b>third Quarter</b>		
MIAMI TD 9:40 Cam'Ron Davis 42 Yd Run (Bubba Baxa Kick)	24	14
8 plays, 71 yards, 2:18		
MIAMI TD 5:47 Jeff Thomas 51 Yd Punt Return (Bubba Baxa Kick)	31	14
3 plays, -5 yards, 1:32		
MIAMI TD 1:17 Cam'Ron Davis 16 Yd pass from N'Kosi Perry (Bubba Baxa Kick) 5 plays, 39 yards, 2:38	38	14

Team Stats	MIAMI	VT
First Downs	17	22
Total Yards	339	335
Total Plays	66	69
Avg Gain Per Play	5.1	4.9
Net Yards Rushing	168	119
Rushes	32	33
Yards Per Rush	5.3	3.6
Net Yards Passing	171	216
Comp-Att	21-34	18-36
Yards Per Pass	5.0	6.0
Times Sacked	4	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-32	-16
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	7	6
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	11	3
Penalty Yards	71	35
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
<b>Possession</b>	<b>31:19</b>	<b>28:41</b>

Individual Stats

RUSHING

MIAMI	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
23 Cam'ron Davis	7	77	11.0	42	1
24 Travis Homer	12	69	5.8	30	0
5 N'Kosi Perry	9	16	1.8	13	1
13 DeeJay Dallas	2	8	4.0	5	0
VT	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
32 Steven Peoples	10	40	4.0	10	0
13 Jalen Holston	6	33	5.5	26	0
11 Tre Turner	3	25	8.3	20	1
5 Ryan Willis	11	13	1.2	23	0
24 Terius Wheatley	2	10	5.0	9	0
16 Coleman Fox	1	-2	-2.0	0	0

PASSING

MIAMI	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
5 N'Kosi Perry	21	34	171	5.0	2	0	123.4
VT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
5 Ryan Willis	18	36	216	6.0	1	2	98.5

RECEIVING

MIAMI	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
18 Lawrence Cager	1	33	33.0	33	0
4 Jeff Thomas	4	32	8.0	11	0
85 Will Mallory	3	28	9.3	13	0
13 DeeJay Dallas	3	24	8.0	13	0
24 Travis Homer	2	21	10.5	11	0
23 Cam'ron Davis	1	16	16.0	16	1
6 Mark Pope	1	11	11.0	11	0
8 Dee Wiggins	1	9	9.0	9	0
9 Brevin Jordan	1	5	5.0	5	0
3 Mike Harley	2	4	2.0	6	0
81 Darrell Langham	1	3	3.0	3	1
5 N'Kosi Perry	1	-15	-15.0	0	0
VT	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
11 Tre Turner	4	80	20.0	45	0
14 Damon Hazelton	5	58	11.6	19	0
29 Dalton Keene	3	33	11.0	15	1
8 Phil Patterson	3	25	8.3	13	0
32 Steven Peoples	2	10	5.0	12	0
16 Coleman Fox	1	10	10.0	10	0