

WEEK THIRTEEN
PITTSBURGH at VIRGINIA TECH

Hooker's 2 TD passes lead No. 25 Virginia Tech over Pitt

BLACKSBURG, Va. -- There was little for Virginia Tech fans to be disappointed about on Saturday, but coach Justin Fuente put a damper on a festive day when he reaffirmed that Bud Foster planned to retire at season's end.

"I think his mind is pretty made up," Fuente said, smiling.

Such news was disappointing because the Hokies' defensive coordinator continues to prove his chops. Virginia Tech's defense put together a vintage performance Saturday, and Hendon Hooker threw for 153 yards and two touchdowns to lead No. 25 Virginia Tech to a 28-0 victory over Pittsburgh in a steady downpour.

Hooker threw touchdown passes to Tré Turner and Damon Hazelton, and Virginia Tech held Pittsburgh to under 200 yards and scored on a fumble return, as the Hokies (8-3, 5-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) notched their sixth win in their past seven games.

"I can't say enough good things about our guys," Fuente said. "I felt that way about them early in the year, too, though. I really did. I'm enjoying every moment with them. I think they're a special group of young men. They've been through special circumstances and stuck together."

The win sets up a showdown next weekend with rival Virginia, with the victor claiming the ACC's Coastal Division and an ACC championship game berth on Dec. 7.

Pittsburgh (7-4, 4-3 ACC) finished with a season-low 177 yards. Kenny Pickett completed 10 of 26 for 103 yards to lead the Panthers.

"Disappointing performance, obviously, today," Pittsburgh coach Pat Narduzzi said. "A lot of things I saw -- too many penalties, 0 for 3 on fourth downs ... We don't make any plays. Just a disappointing performance."

"I give Virginia Tech a lot of props for what they did out there today. Bud Foster's defense came to play, I can guarantee you that ... It's hard to win when you can't get in the end zone. We had some field position at times, but just didn't do anything with it."

Hooker's 71-yard pass to Tayvion Robinson led to James Mitchell's 1-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, giving the Hokies a 7-0 lead. Moments after that score, Norell Pollard returned a Pickett fumble 7 yards for a touchdown that pushed the lead to 14.

Virginia Tech basically put the game away with Hooker's 3-yard touchdown to Turner with 45 seconds left in the first half. Hooker completed 10 of 13 passes in moving to 6-0 as the starting quarterback.

"Everyone's just coming together as a family and just showing love and support," Hooker said. "At the same, everyone's expecting you to do your job."

TAKEAWAYS

Pittsburgh: Poor execution and especially penalties hurt Pittsburgh's offense, as the Panthers were flagged for two false starts and two illegal formations, and a third-quarter holding penalty negated a first-and-goal at the Virginia Tech 8 -- a drive that ended with a punt. Pittsburgh got into Tech territory just three times on 13 possessions.

Virginia Tech: The Hokies, who looked dead after a 0-2 start to ACC play, have played much better defense of late -- a big part of their resurgence. Virginia Tech hasn't allowed more than 301 total yards or more than 63 yards rushing in each of its past three games, and its back-to-back shutouts are the unit's first since 2005.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

A 28-point victory over a team in the mix for the ACC's Coastal Division crown -- a team that had won six of its past seven -- and losses by Texas A&M and SMU should propel the Hokies up a few spots in the next poll.

FOSTER FAREWELL

Foster is retiring after 33 years as an assistant coach at Virginia Tech, including the past 23 as the Hokies' defensive coordinator. Saturday's game marked his final appearance as a coach at Lane Stadium, and the Hokies fittingly sent him out with a shutout -- his 31st as the coordinator.

"You couldn't have scripted it any better, I don't think, when it's all said and done," Foster said. "As far as down the stretch, the Wake game (a 36-17 win), and then to go to Georgia Tech and play the way we did (a 45-0 victory) ... and then it was a playoff game today, basically. To play the way we did, we didn't play tight, we played with confidence, we executed, we made plays, and to see that from a coaching perspective is very gratifying."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PITT	0	0	0	0	0
VT	14	7	0	7	28

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER	PITT	VT
VT TD 3:16 James Mitchell 1 Yd Run (Brian Johnson Kick)		7
4 plays, 90 yards, 1:48	0	
VT TD 3:07 Norell Pollard 7 Yd Fumble Return (Brian Johnson Kick)		14
1 play, -18 yards, 0:09	0	
SECOND QUARTER	PITT	VT
VT TD 0:45 Tre Turner 3 Yd pass from Hendon Hooker (Brian Johnson Kick)		21
12 plays, 90 yards, 5:59	0	
FOURTH QUARTER	PITT	VT
VT TD 10:12 Damon Hazelton 2 Yd pass from Hendon Hooker (Brian Johnson Kick)		28
4 plays, 25 yards, 2:17	0	

Team Stats	PITT	VT
First Downs	8	16
Passes for First	4	4
Rushes for First	3	8
Penalties for First	1	4
Third Down Efficiency	3-15	3-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-3	0-1
Total Yards	177	263
Total Plays	55	62
Avg Gain Per Play	3.2	4.2
Net Yards Rushing	60	110
Rushes	27	48
Yards Per Rush	2.2	2.3
Net Yards Passing	117	153
Comp-Att	11-28	10-14
Yards Per Pass	4.2	10.9
Times Sacked	2	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-31	-26
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	9	7
Punt Average	42.8	38.6
Penalties	10	7
Penalty Yards	67	54
Fumbles	1	4
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Time of Poss	24:43	35:17

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
PITTSBURGH	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
V'Lique Carter	4	33	8.3	0	26		
A.J. Davis	8	24	3.0	0	7		
Vincent Davis	3	15	5.0	0	6		
Nick Patti	1	3	3.0	0	3		
Shocky Jacques-Louis	3	-3	-1.0	0	4		
Kenny Pickett	8	-12	-1.5	0	8		
VIRGINIA TECH	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Tayvion Robinson	1	32	32.0	0	32		
Deshawn McCleave	12	31	2.6	0	11		
Hendon Hooker	20	27	1.4	0	10		
Tre Turner	4	18	4.5	0	8		
Caleb Steward	4	17	4.3	0	7		
James Mitchell	1	1	1.0	1	1		
Keshawn King	3	0	0.0	0	1		
Team	3	-16	-5.3	0	0		
PASSING							
PITTSBURGH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kenny Pickett	10	26	103	4.0	0	0	3.3
Nick Patti	1	2	14	7.0	0	0	55.5
VIRGINIA TECH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Hendon Hooker	10	13	153	11.8	2	0	50.1
Quincy Patterson	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.2
RECEIVING							
PITTSBURGH	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jared Wayne	4	68	17.0	0	31		
Taysir Mack	3	18	6.0	0	19		
Aaron Mathews	1	14	14.0	0	14		
Shocky Jacques-Louis	1	8	8.0	0	8		
A.J. Davis	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Vincent Davis	1	2	2.0	0	2		
VIRGINIA TECH	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Tayvion Robinson	2	74	37.0	0	71		
Dalton Keene	2	45	22.5	0	27		
Tre Turner	3	30	10.0	1	17		
Damon Hazelton	1	2	2.0	1	2		
Deshawn McCleave	2	2	1.0	0	7		