

BELK BOWL
SOUTH CAROLINA VS VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Shortly after winning the Belk Bowl and earning Virginia its first bowl victory since 2005, quarterback Bryce Perkins raised the bar.

"This is the first step toward making big strides," Perkins said. "Next year we want the Coastal Division -- and the ACC championship."

That would mean knocking off perennial ACC power Clemson, which has won four straight conference titles.

For now though, the Cavaliers (8-5) will have to settle for savoring a 28-0 victory over South Carolina in the Belk Bowl, a win that snapped the longest bowl drought in the ACC.

Perkins threw three touchdown passes to Olamide Zaccheaus, the game's Most Outstanding Player, and Virginia's 14th-ranked pass defense dominated a South Carolina team that had averaged more than 38 points over its previous five games.

Perkins completed 22 of 31 passes for 208 yards and ran for 81 yards. Zaccheaus had 12 catches for 100 yards and Jordan Ellis ran for 106 yards and a touchdown as Virginia held more than a 24-minute edge in time of possession.

Perkins said he felt chemistry with Zaccheaus the first day he transferred in last year from Arizona Western Community College -- and his favorite target agreed.

"The biggest thing with me and Bryce is we get along so well off the field -- and that just carries over," Zaccheaus said. "Even when I might not make a play or he might not make a play, it's like, 'Who wants it on the next play?' We're the same that way."

Virginia's defense was relentless.

It put the clamps on quarterback Jake Bentley, who had thrown for 16 touchdowns over the previous five games, including a 510-yard, five-TD performance against Clemson earlier this month. Bentley was limited to 218 yards on 17-of-39 passing and was intercepted twice.

South Carolina (7-6) was 2 of 13 on third down conversions and 2 of 5 on fourth downs.

The Gamecocks clearly weren't the same playing without wide receiver Deebo Samuel, who bypassed the bowl game to begin preparing for the NFL draft.

Coach Will Muschamp said he was "disappointed" in the team's performance, adding "we didn't put on a good show and that's on me."

Bentley said he didn't play well at all.

"The interceptions especially and then not executing in the red zone is a tough thing to swallow," said Bentley, who added that he hasn't made a decision on whether he'll enter the NFL draft.

The Gamecocks were shut out for the first time since 2006, when they lost 18-0 to Georgia.

"That is huge," Virginia safety Joey Blount said. "I don't know of many teams that have done that in a bowl. That just shows our defense is for real."

THE TAKEAWAY

South Carolina: The first game of the post-Samuel era did not go well. That could be a troubling sign for next season for the Gamecocks, who had come into the game as five-point favorites. It would be a little surprising if Bentley turns pro, particularly after such a poor performance.

Virginia: Bronco Mendenhall's defense limited what the Gamecocks could muster on offense with a series of blitzes and strong coverage in the secondary. Most of that unit will return next season.

PERKINS SNUBBED?

South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said he felt Perkins should have been the game's MVP because of his ability to "keep plays alive with his feet on third downs" time and time again.

Ellis said having Perkins on the field is like playing a video game.

"You think he's going to get sacked and he ends up getting out it and running for 10 or 15 yards and getting a first down," Ellis said. "It's just crazy to watch him play. He gets out of trouble and can throw the ball down the field. It's just hard to stop him. He's going to be even better next year."

HALL TO RETURN

Virginia defensive back Bryce Hall announced he is returning for his senior season after contemplating entering the NFL draft. Hall leads the nation with 20 pass breakups during the regular season. That should bolster a secondary that is returning most of its players other than Tim Harris.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
SC	0	0	0	0	0
UVA	7	7	7	7	28

Scoring Summary -----

	SC	UVA
FIRST QUARTER		
UVA TD 3:30		7
Olamide Zaccheaus 6 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick)	0	7
13 plays, 77 yards, 6:31		
SECOND QUARTER		
UVA TD 0:42		14
Jordan Ellis 9 Yd Run (Brian Delaney Kick)	0	14
14 plays, 90 yards, 8:10		
THIRD QUARTER		
UVA TD 7:14		21
Olamide Zaccheaus 10 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick)	0	21
8 plays, 39 yards, 4:25		
FOURTH QUARTER		
TD 6:54		28
UVA Olamide Zaccheaus 12 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick)	0	28
8 plays, 64 yards, 5:00		

Team Stats	SC	UVA
First Downs	12	28
Total Yards	261	413
Total Plays	59	79
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	5.2
Net Yards Rushing	43	205
Rushes	19	48
Yards Per Rush	2.3	4.3
Net Yards Passing	218	208
Comp-Att	17-40	22-31
Yards Per Pass	5.5	6.7
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-17	-5
Interceptions	2	0
Punts	5	4
Punt Average	45.2	38.3
Penalties	5	3
Penalty Yards	45	30
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	17:25	42:35

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
SC					
5 Rico Dowdle	6	21	3.5	7	0
34 Mon Denson	3	15	5.0	15	0
27 Ty'Son Williams	4	9	2.3	6	0
19 Jake Bentley	6	-2	-0.3	9	0
UVA					
1 Jordan Ellis	26	106	4.1	9	1
3 Bryce Perkins	15	81	5.4	19	0
6 PK Kier	5	12	2.4	5	0
4 Olamide Zaccheaus	1	10	10.0	10	0
27 Tavares Kelly	1	-4	-4.0	0	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
SC							
19 Jake Bentley	17	40	218	5.5	0	2	78.3
UVA							
3 Bryce Perkins	22	31	208	6.7	3	0	159.3

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
SC					
13 Shi Smith	6	76	12.7	37	0
3 K.C. Crosby	3	48	16.0	31	0
89 Bryan Edwards	3	37	12.3	24	0
34 Mon Denson	2	35	17.5	23	0
83 Chavis Dawkins	1	13	13.0	13	0
5 Rico Dowdle	1	6	6.0	6	0
40 Jacob August	1	3	3.0	3	0
UVA					
4 Olamide Zaccheaus	12	100	8.3	13	3
8 Hasise Dubois	5	57	11.4	19	0
18 Ben Hogg	1	18	18.0	18	0
46 Evan Butts	1	12	12.0	12	0
31 Chris Sharp	1	10	10.0	10	0
2 Joe Reed	1	10	10.0	10	0
1 Jordan Ellis	1	1	1.0	1	0