

WEEK 1
Richmond at Virginia

Perkins stars as Virginia beats Richmond 42-13

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. Bryce Perkins said it felt good to be back, and it showed.

Virginia's junior college transfer quarterback ran for 108 yards and two touchdowns and passed for 185 yards and two more scores as the Cavaliers beat Richmond 42-13 in the opener for both teams on Saturday night.

"It felt good getting back into it and doing what I came here to do," Perkins said.

Perkins, who arrived last January, overcame a 72-yard interception return for a touchdown on the Cavaliers' first offensive series with his legs first. He ran 36 yards for a touchdown to end the next series and then 22 yards for a score on the third series, giving a crowd that waited through a 40-minute delay for threatening weather in the area a reason to cheer.

He was fine after that, leaving the Spiders at times baffled. They'd seen little tape of his dual-threat skills because he played in a run-oriented offense last season and had to adjust on the fly.

"It was tough and we were scrambling defensively trying to figure things out," Richmond coach Russ Huesman said. "The dude's quick. He's electric and they did a great job of putting him in position to utilize his legs."

The FCS-level Spiders, seeking a repeat of two years ago when they spoiled Bronco Mendenhall's first game at Virginia with a 37-20 victory, got an early boost when Dale Matthews Jr. stepped in front of Perkins' short pass and went 72 yards down the sideline for a touchdown. "Just trying to make a play, man," Perkins said of the interception. "I've just got to do a better job."

Richmond mustered only 143 yards on offense in the first half and trailed 28-10 at the break. By then, Perkins had run for two scores and thrown for another.

Jordan Ellis added 146 yards on 20 carries with touchdowns of 10 and 21 yards for Virginia. Olamide Zaccheaus caught six passes for 101 yards, including a 38-yard touchdown, and Hasise Dubois caught a 20-yard throw from Perkins early in the fourth quarter to give Virginia a 42-13 advantage.

Perkins, Ellis said, made it all possible. It opens up the whole offense because the linebackers, safeties, everybody has to account for him, he said of Perkins.

The Spiders, who gained 524 yards two years ago in manhandling the Cavaliers, finished with just 225. That included only 34 rushing yards on 18 carries and just nine first downs.

THE TAKEAWAY

Richmond: The Spiders got Kevin Johnson back behind center after he redshirted last year, but going against Virginia's veteran secondary was a tall order. Johnson guided the Spiders to two play-off victories in 2016 and should have an easier time making plays against other FCS-level opponents.

Virginia: Perkins played as advertised and showed off his not-going-to-be-caught speed on both touchdown runs. Zaccheaus also turned on the jets when he caught a short pass and beat the Spiders to the corner on his scoring play, and Ellis seemed to only get stronger as the game wore on.

YOUTH IS SERVED

Virginia has the third-most underclassmen on its roster in the nation with 88, and 11 made their college debuts against the Spiders. The freshmen included Brennan Armstrong, who relieved Perkins at quarterback in the fourth quarter, completed one of two pass attempts and ran three times for 11 yards. Five other true freshmen also saw action for the Cavaliers.

NOTABLE

Richmond quarterback Kevin Johnson was 11 for 28 for 194 yards with two interceptions. ... Virginia's Brian Delaney routinely launched kickoffs that landed outside the back of the end zone. ... The Cavaliers held the ball for 38:02 and gained 301 of their 492 yards on the ground, their first game with 200 or more yards rushing in third-year coach Bronco Mendenhall's tenure.

FINAL	1	2	3	4	T
RICH	10	0	3	0	13
UVA	14	14	7	7	42

Scoring Summary -----

first Quarter		RICH	UVA
RICH TD 8:50 Dale Matthews Jr. 72 Yd Interception Return (Griffin Trau Kick)	6 plays, 30 yards, 0:00	7	0
UVA TD 8:30 Bryce Perkins 36 Yd Run (A.J. Mejia Kick)	3 plays, 36 yards, 0:20	7	7
RICH FG 6:26 Griffin Trau 42 Yd Field Goal	6 plays, 50 yards, 2:04	10	7
UVA TD 1:38 Bryce Perkins 22 Yd Run (A.J. Mejia Kick)	10 plays, 68 yards, 4:48	10	14
second Quarter		RICH	UVA
UVA TD 12:20 Olamide Zaccheaus 38 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (A.J. Mejia Kick)	3 plays, 49 yards, 1:08	10	21
UVA TD 5:49 Jordan Ellis 10 Yd Run (A.J. Mejia Kick)	8 plays, 80 yards, 4:32	10	28
third Quarter		RICH	UVA
TD 10:45 Jordan Ellis 21 Yd Run (A.J. Mejia Kick)	8 plays, 65 yards, 4:15	10	35
RICH FG 2:52 Griffin Trau 38 Yd Field Goal	6 plays, 17 yards, 1:27	13	35
fourth Quarter		RICH	UVA
UVA TD 14:11 Hasise Dubois 20 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (A.J. Mejia Kick)	7 plays, 59 yards, 3:41	13	42

Team Stats

	RICH	UVA
First Downs	9	25
Total Yards	225	492
Total Plays	49	73
Avg Gain Per Play	4.1	7.1
Net Yards Rushing	16	333
Rushes	20	47
Yards Per Rush	0.8	7.1
Net Yards Passing	191	191
Comp-Att	14.4	14.4
Yards Per Pass	6.4	7.2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-15	-21
Punts	4-145	5-117
Punt Average	36.2	23.4
Penalty Yards	5-69	4-24
Fumbles Lost	0-0-0	0-0-0
Possession	21:58	38:02

Individual Stats

Rushing

Richmond	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Gordon Collins	4	23	5.8	17	0
Joe Mancuso	2	8	4.0	6	0
Kevin Johnson	8	3	0.4	8	0
Deontez Thompson	4	0	0.0	2	0
Virginia	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Jordan Ellis	20	146	7.3	21	2
Bryce Perkins	13	108	8.3	36	2
PK Kier	6	27	4.5	9	0
Brennan Armstrong	3	11	3.7	8	0
Joe Reed	1	9	9.0	9	0
Lamont Atkins	1	5	5.0	5	0
Tavares Kelly	1	4	4.0	4	0
Jamari Peacock	1	2	2.0	2	0
Olamide Zaccheaus	2	-11	-5.5	0	0

PASSING

Richmond	Comp	Att	Pct	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kevin Johnson	11	28	39.3	194	6.9	0	2	83.2
Joe Mancuso	1	1	100.0	-3	-3.0	0	0	74.8
Virginia	Comp	Att	Pct	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Bryce Perkins	13	24	54.2	185	7.7	2	1	38.1
Brennan Armstrong	1	2	50.0	6	3.0	0	0	75.2

RECEIVING

Richmond	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Tyler Wilkins	4	75	18.8	29	0
Cortelle Simpson	1	54	54.0	54	0
Will Geraghty	2	27	13.5	21	0
Dejon Brissett	3	22	7.3	12	0
Caleb Drake	1	16	16.0	16	0
Ben Maffe	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
Virginia	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Olamide Zaccheaus	6	101	16.8	38	1
Hasise Dubois	3	36	12.0	20	1
Joe Reed	2	34	17.0	19	0
Terrell Jana	1	10	10.0	10	0
Evan Butts	2	10	5.0	6	0
Tavares Kelly	0	0	-	-	0
Chuck Davis	0	0	-	-	0