

WEEK FOUR  
VIRGINIA TECH AT OLD DOMINION

NORFOLK, Va. -- Blake LaRussa came off the bench to throw for 495 yards and four touchdowns to lead Old Dominion to a 49-35 upset of No. 13 Virginia Tech on Saturday in the Hokies' first game at the cross-state school that restarted its football program in 2009.

LaRussa, who entered the game on ODU's second series, completed 30 of 49 and rushed for a touchdown to lead the 29-point underdog Monarchs (1-3) to a stunning win over the Hokies (2-1) from the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Jeremy Cox's 40-yard touchdown run with 1:34 remaining sealed the first win in program history against a team from a Power 5 conference. After the game, the ODU faithful stormed the field.

The Hokies (2-1) led 28-21 after a 72-yard touchdown pass from Josh Jackson to Damon Hazelton with 32 seconds left in the third quarter, but ODU scored on its next two possessions, taking a 35-28 lead on a 15-yard touchdown run by Cox with 9:57 to go -- the Monarchs first lead of the game.

Things got worse for Virginia Tech, as Jackson went down with a lower leg injury on the first play of the ensuing drive. Backup quarterback Ryan Willis led the Hokies on a 75-yard march that ended with a 13-yard touchdown pass to Chris Cunningham with 7:15 remaining, tying the game at 35.

But the Hokies simply had no answer for ODU. LaRussa polished off a 75-yard drive with a beautiful 29-yard fade pattern to Jonathan Duhart for a touchdown with 5:11 left that was the game winner.

Led by LaRussa and Cox, ODU finished with 632 yards of offense against a Virginia Tech team that has prided itself on defense for decades under coordinator Bud Foster. Cox rushed for 130 yards.

Steven Peoples paced the Hokies with a career-high 156 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Jackson, who threw two touchdown passes before leaving with the injury, was carted off the field and returned to the sideline on crutches. Michael Shroyer/Getty Images

**THE TAKEAWAY**  
Virginia Tech: The Hokies looked flat coming off an unscheduled open week courtesy of Hurricane Florence, which forced last Saturday's cancellation of Virginia Tech's game against East Carolina. The Hokies' defense looked nothing like the unit that had given up just 20 points combined in the first two games.

Foster will have to shore up a banged-up secondary, as Tech heads into ACC play.

ODU: The Monarch appear to have found a leader in LaRussa, who came into the game with 183 yards passing as a reserve, but surpassed that in the first half. The 5-foot-11 LaRussa showed uncanny accuracy against Virginia Tech's man coverage, taking advantage of the 6-foot-3 Duhart and 6-3 Travis Fulgham (188 yards). He may just be the spark that the Monarchs needed after getting off to a dismal 0-3 start that included losses to Liberty, FIU and Charlotte.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
VT	7	7	14	7	35
ODU	7	7	7	28	49

Scoring Summary -----

VT	ODU
FIRST QUARTER	
VT TD 10:14	
Steven Peoples 87 Yd Run (Brian Johnson Kick)	
1 play, 87 yards, 0:13	7 0
ODU TD 7:38	
Jonathan Duhart 14 Yd pass from Blake LaRussa (Nick Rice Kick)	
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:36	7 7
SECOND QUARTER	
VT TD 7:42	
Sean Savoy 28 Yd pass from Josh Jackson (Brian Johnson Kick)	
5 plays, 55 yards, 1:32	14 7
ODU TD 0:07	
Jonathan Duhart 4 Yd pass from Blake LaRussa (Nick Rice Kick)	
9 plays, 79 yards, 1:32	14 14
THIRD QUARTER	
VT TD 9:38	
Steven Peoples 1 Yd Run (Brian Johnson Kick)	
11 plays, 84 yards, 5:17	21 14
ODU TD 3:40	
Blake LaRussa 1 Yd Run (Nick Rice Kick)	
9 plays, 65 yards, 3:38	21 21
VT TD 0:32	
Damon Hazelton 72 Yd pass from Josh Jackson (Brian Johnson Kick)	
1 play, 72 yards, 0:11	28 21
FOURTH QUARTER	
ODU TD 12:55	
Travis Fulgham 25 Yd pass from Blake LaRussa (Nick Rice Kick)	
7 plays, 75 yards, 2:37	28 28
ODU TD 9:57	
Jeremy Cox 15 Yd Run (Nick Rice Kick)	
5 plays, 67 yards, 1:10	28 35
VT TD 7:15	
Chris Cunningham 13 Yd pass from Ryan Willis (Brian Johnson Kick)	
7 plays, 75 yards, 2:42	35 35
ODU TD 5:11	
Jonathan Duhart 29 Yd pass from Blake LaRussa (Nick Rice Kick)	
8 plays, 75 yards, 2:04	35 42
ODU TD 1:34	
Jeremy Cox 40 Yd Run (Nick Rice Kick)	
6 plays, 79 yards, 0:59	35 49

Team Stats	VT	ODU
First Downs	26	30
Total Yards	600	632
Total Plays	83	84
Avg Gain Per Play	7.2	7.5
Net Yards Rushing	318	137
Rushes	49	34
Yards Per Rush	6.5	4.0
Net Yards Passing	282	495
Comp-Att	17-34	30-50
Yards Per Pass	8.3	9.9
Times Sacked	4	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-23	-19
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	7	7
Punt Average	44.9	39.3
Penalties	7	2
Penalty Yards	95	10
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	30:31	29:29

Individual Stats

RUSHING

VT	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Steven Peoples	20	156	7.8	2	87
Deshawn McClease	12	75	6.3	0	27
Josh Jackson	11	58	5.3	0	24
Ryan Willis	4	30	7.5	0	23
Jalen Holston	1	1	1.0	0	1
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
ODU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Jeremy Cox	20	130	6.5	2	40
Blake LaRussa	8	6	0.8	1	20
Gemonta Jackson	1	2	2.0	0	2
Steven Williams	1	1	1.0	0	1
Lala Davis	4	-2	-0.5	0	2

PASSING

VT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Josh Jackson	8	16	151	9.4	2	1	61.5
Ryan Willis	9	18	131	7.3	1	0	86.8
ODU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Blake LaRussa	30	49	495	10.1	4	0	82.7
Steven Williams	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	2.3

RECEIVING

VT	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Damon Hazelton	5	154	30.8	1	72
Eric Kumah	3	35	11.7	0	16
Hezekiah Grimsley	3	31	10.3	0	16
Sean Savoy	2	28	14.0	1	28
Dalton Keene	1	16	16.0	0	16
Chris Cunningham	1	13	13.0	1	13
Phil Patterson	1	3	3.0	0	3
Deshawn McClease	1	2	2.0	0	2
ODU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Travis Fulgham	9	188	20.9	1	45
Jonathan Duhart	9	142	15.8	3	29
Hasaan Patterson	1	37	37.0	0	37
Isaiah Harper	3	37	12.3	0	22
Darrell Brown	2	34	17.0	0	23
Isaiah Spencer	2	32	16.0	0	27
Jeremy Cox	4	25	6.3	0	12