Virginia uses defense to beat No. 16 Miami, 19-13

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. -- All week long, Bronco Mendenhall said, he had a sense that Virginia was ready to perform on a big stage.

The Cavaliers proved their coach right Saturday night, getting a touchdown from Jordan Ellis, three field goals from Brian Delaney and a stout defensive performance in a 16-13 victory over No. 16 Miami.

"They're becoming resilient and they are becoming confident and they acknowledge and see that happening," said Mendenhall, in his third season at Virginia. "For me and my staff, it's just fun to watch them transforming."

Ellis scored on a 7-yard run in the first half and Delaney connected on kicks of 26, 46 and 32 for the Cavaliers (4-2, 2-1 Atlantic Coast Conference). Miami appeared to have stopped Virginia on a third-down run in the final minutes, but a personal foul call against Tito Odenigbo kept the drive alive and the Cavaliers ran out the clock.

Delaney kicked a fourth field goal with 30 seconds left, but was run into on the play, giving Virginia a first down.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock, fans streamed down the hill at one end of the stadium and onto the field.

"It woke everybody up," said safety Juan Thornhill, who had two interceptions. "It just shows that we have a shot to win this. We have a shot to win the ACC."

The Hurricanes (5-2, 2-1) scored on an 11-yard run by Malik Rosier with 3:04 left, pulling them to 16-13, but when they tried an onside kick, Virginia tight end Evan Butts fielded it and returned it 30 yards to the Miami 27. The Hurricanes used all three of their timeouts to stop the clock, but Odenigbo's personal foul after Bryce Perkins was stopped a yard short of a first down foiled their comeback bid.

"It's going to be a tough pill to swallow," Miami coach Mark Richt said. "It's going to be a long flight home."

Miami came in averaging 41.5 points and after an emotional victory last weekend over Florida State. In that game, the Hurricanes trailed 27-7 before N'Kosi Perry threw four touchdown passes in a 28-27 victory. Perry lasted only four series against the Cavaliers and was pulled after throwing his second interception.

The Hurricanes other best scoring chance came in the second quarter after Travis Homer's 70-yard run to the Cavaliers' 15, but two running plays netted just five yards and Malik Rosier threw incomplete on third down and they had to settle for a 28-yard field goal by Bubba Baxa. Baxa also connected from 47 yards earlier in the quarter.

On Homer's long run, Bryce Hall ran him down, knocking him out of bounds at the 15.

"That might have been my favorite play," Mendenhall said.

"I saw him break free. I literally just went into another zone," Hall said. "I put my head down, pumped my arms, pumped my legs and I just took off on a mission to try and get him."

Virginia's first against a ranked opponent in four years.

THE TAKEAWAY

Miami: One week after leading the Hurricanes to their biggest comeback victory in the history of their series with Florida State, Perry was removed after four series. Rosier played the rest of the way and was 12 of 23 for 170 yards with one interception. "I felt like we needed a more mature guy whose been through a lot more situations," Richt said. "I felt like it was time to give Malik a shot."

Virginia: The Cavaliers overcame three first-half interceptions by Bryce Perkins and may have stamped themselves as players in the Coastal Division race with the victory.

"We can't let off the gas," Perkins said. "We have to keep going to Duke and play just how we played tonight with the same aggression."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MIAMI	0	6	0	7	13
UVA	0	13	0	3	16

Scoring Summary ---------------

second Quarter		**MIAMI**	**UVA**
UVA FG 13:46 Brian Delaney 26 Yd Field Goal			
8 plays, 43 yards, 3:33		0	3
UVA TD 11:16 Jordan Ellis 7 Yd Run (Brian Delaney Kick)			
2 plays, 7 yards, 0:06		0	10
MIAMI FG 7:15 Bubba Baxa 47 Yd Field Goal			
6 plays, 23 yards, 2:52		3	10
MIAMI FG 3:11 Bubba Baxa 28 Yd Field Goal			
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:22		6	10
UVA FG 0:00 Brian Delaney 46 Yd Field Goal			
9 plays, 46 yards, 3:11		6	13
fourth Quarter		**MIAMI**	**UVA**
UVA FG 10:49 Brian Delaney 32 Yd Field Goal			
16 plays, 73 yards, 8:35		6	16
MIAMI TD 3:04 Malik Rosier 11 Yd Run (Bubba Baxa Kick)			
11 plays, 93 yards, 4:38		13	16

Team Stats	MIAMI	UVA
First Downs	16	18
Total Yards	339	231
Total Plays	58	62
Avg Gain Per Play	5.8	3.7
Net Yards Rushing	149	139
Rushes	29	41
Yards Per Rush	5.1	3.4
Net Yards Passing	190	92
Comp-Att	15-29	12-21
Yards Per Pass	6.6	4.4
Times Sacked	2	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-16	-26
Interceptions	3	3
Punts	3	4
Punt Average	43.7	37.5
Penalties	8	6
Penalty Yards	71	60
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	**28:10**	**31:50**

Individual Stats

RUSHING

MIAMI	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
24 Travis Homer	8	95	11.9	70	0
13 DeeJay Dallas	10	24	2.4	9	0
12 Malik Rosier	5	19	3.8	17	1
32 Trayone Gray	4	8	2.0	5	0
5 N'Kosi Perry	2	3	1.5	2	0
UVA	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
1 Jordan Ellis	18	86	4.8	14	1
3 Bryce Perkins	21	61	2.9	15	0
2 Joe Reed	1	-2	-2.0	0	0

PASSING

MIAMI	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
12 Malik Rosier	12	23	170	7.4	0	1	105.6
5 N'Kosi Perry	3	6	20	3.3	0	2	11.3
UVA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
3 Bryce Perkins	12	21	92	4.4	0	3	65.4

RECEIVING

MIAMI	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
18 Lawrence Cager	3	58	19.3	30	0
24 Travis Homer	3	50	16.7	24	0
9 Brevin Jordan	3	34	11.3	22	0
32 Trayone Gray	2	16	8.0	11	0
8 Dee Wiggins	2	16	8.0	12	0
13 DeeJay Dallas	1	11	11.0	11	0
4 Jeff Thomas	1	5	5.0	5	0
UVA	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Hasise Dubois	4	32	8.0	11	0
2 Joe Reed	2	32	16.0	24	0
4 Olamide Zaccheaus	3	15	5.0	9	0
46 Evan Butts	1	9	9.0	9	0
1 Jordan Ellis	1	3	3.0	3	0
31 Chris Sharp	1	1	1.0	1	0