

WEEK TWELVE

VIRGINIA AT GEORGIA TECH

Ga Tech wins fourth straight, beating Virginia 30-27 in OT

ATLANTA -- Georgia Tech relied on an unlikely formula to pull off its fourth straight victory.A brilliant catch for its only pass completion of the game.

Four field goals from a freshman who wasn't even the No. 1 kicker at the beginning of the season.

Wesley Wells booted a 40-yarder in overtime, the ball barely sliding through as it skimmed the right upright , and Virginia's Brian Delaney missed his attempt from 35 yards to give the Yellow Jackets a 30-27 victory Saturday.

"Sometimes the nerves get to you a little bit," Wells said. "It was a roller-coaster of emotions while the kick was up and the ball hitting the post and going in."

Wells booted the longest field goal of his career from 48 yards to push Georgia Tech to a 27-24 lead with 1:04 remaining in regulation. The Cavaliers drove for the tying field goal, with Delaney connecting from 31 yards on a do-over with 1 second left after Virginia was flagged for a false start on his first attempt.Neither team picked up a first down in overtime, so it came down to the kickers.

Wells made his attempt -- "my first game-winner," he said, even going back to high school.Delaney hooked his badly , his head dropping as soon as his right foot connected with the ball.

The Yellow Jackets (7-4, 5-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) clinched a winning season, quite a comeback from a 1/3 start.Coach Paul Johnson credited his seniors, who were honored before their final game at Bobby Dodd Stadium."They did a great job of keeping this team together," Johnson said.

Virginia (7-4, 4-3) was eliminated from the ACC Coastal Division race before it even took the field. Pittsburgh clinched a spot in the league championship game with its 34-13 victory at Wake Forest.

Georgia Tech only compounded the Cavaliers' misery. "It hurts," Virginia receiver Olamide Zaccheaus said. "This is real tough."

Brad Stewart stretched out as far as he could to haul in Georgia Tech's lone completion, a 37-yard pass from TaQuon Marshall on third down to set up Wells' go-ahead kick near the end of regulation. Stewart escaped cornerback Bryce Hall with a double move, leaped for a ball that appeared overthrown, and managed to hang on while crashing to the turf.

"That was my last catch ever at Bobby Dodd," Stewart said. "How crazy is that?"

Then Wells won it in overtime -- not bad for a walk-on who only took over the kicking job after two other kickers failed to hold down the job.

Virginia quarterback Bryce Perkins completed 21 of 26 passes for 217 yards, and also led the Cavaliers in rushing with 73 yards despite an injured left ankle that occurred when he was sacked for a safety in the first half. He was helped off the field by two teammates but missed only one series.

Marshall ran for 107 yards while completing 1 of 8 passes. That one was enough.

While Perkins was out, freshman Brennan Armstrong guided the Cavaliers to a touchdown in only the third career appearance. He threw a short pass near the sideline to Joe Reed, who shook off a defender and raced for a 56-yard touchdown .

WILD SEQUENCE

In the span of just 11 seconds, Georgia Tech turned an early 7-3 deficit into a 13-7 lead.

With Virginia backed up on its own 1 after a punt, Perkins took a snap in the end zone and rolled left to throw, only to be grabbed by Georgia Tech's Brant Mitchell and finished off by 325-pound nose tackle Brandon Adams for a safety. aking matters worse for the Cavaliers, Juanyeh Thomas returned the free kick 77 yards for a touchdown and Marshall ran for a 2-point conversion.

THE TAKEAWAY

Virginia: A brutal loss for the Cavaliers, who not only surrendered a safety and a special teams touchdown but also botched a punt return when the ball hit a Cavaliers player in the back while he was trying to get out of the way. The Yellow Jackets recovered the fumble, leading to their only offensive touchdown . "The story line is special teams' miscues," coach Bronco Mendenhall said.

Georgia Tech: A gutsy performance by a team that seemed headed for a dismal season, but has now put itself in decent position when bowl invitations go out.

DEFENDING THE TRIPLE OPTION

Virginia limited the nation's top rushing team to only a handful of big plays.

Georgia Tech had 268 yards on 52 carries -- nearly 100 yards below its season average and only the fourth time this season the Jack-ets have been limited to fewer than 300 yards.It was quite a contrast to the last time Virginia faced such an offense. In the 2017 Military Bowl, Navy ran for 452 yards and romped to a 49-7 victory.

Final	1	2	3	4	OT	T
UVA	14	7	0	6	0	27
GT	13	3	0	11	3	30

Scoring Summary -----

	UVA	GT
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
GT FG 10:38 Wesley Wells 28 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 65 yards, 4:22	0	3
UVA TD 6:49 Hasise Dubois 13 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick) 8 plays, 74 yards, 3:42	7	3
GT SF 3:24 Team Safety 2 plays, -1 yard, 0:52	7	5
GT TD 3:13 Juanyeh Thomas 77 Yd Kickoff Return (TaQuon Marshall Run for Two-Point Conversion) 0 plays, 0 yards, 0:00	7	13
UVA TD 0:37 Joe Reed 56 Yd pass from Brennan Armstrong (Brian Delaney Kick)6 plays, 75 yards, 2:36	14	13
<b>second Quarter</b>		
GT FG 8:51 Wesley Wells 28 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 65 yards, 6:46	14	16
UVA TD 3:03 Bryce Perkins 9 Yd Run (Brian Delaney Kick)		
10 plays, 77 yards, 5:44	21	16
<b>fourth Quarter</b>		
GT TD 12:30 Jerry Howard 3 Yd Run (Clinton Lynch Run for Two-Point Conversion)11 plays, 41 yards, 5:41	21	24
UVA FG 4:31 Brian Delaney 30 Yd Field Goal		
14 plays, 70 yards, 7:51	24	24
GT FG 1:04 Wesley Wells 48 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 44 yards, 3:27	24	27
UVA FG 0:01 Brian Delaney 32 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 52 yards, 0:55	27	27
<b>Overtime</b>		
GT FG Wesley Wells 40 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 0 yards, 15:00	27	30

Team Stats	UVA	GT
First Downs	24	13
Total Yards	403	305
Total Plays	61	60
Avg Gain Per Play	6.6	5.1
Net Yards Rushing	130	268
Rushes	33	52
Yards Per Rush	3.9	5.2
Net Yards Passing	273	37
Comp-Att	22-28	1-8
Yards Per Pass	9.8	4.6
Times Sacked	1	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	-14
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	2	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	4	3
Penalty Yards	35	25
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	28:47	31:13

Individual Stats

RUSHING

UVA	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
3 Bryce Perkins	16	73	4.6	15	1
1 Jordan Ellis	12	33	2.8	5	0
98 Brennan Armstrong	2	13	6.5	11	0
25 Lamont Atkins	1	7	7.0	7	0
4 Olamide Zaccheaus	1	4	4.0	4	0
31 Chris Sharp	1	0	0.0	0	0
GT	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
16 TaQuon Marshall	15	107	7.1	38	0
15 Jerry Howard	11	43	3.9	7	1
1 Qua Searcy	1	33	33.0	33	0
31 Nathan Cottrell	6	31	5.2	9	0
8 Tobias Oliver	9	27	3.0	6	0
22 Clinton Lynch	6	15	2.5	4	0
24 Jordan Mason	3	9	3.0	3	0
80 Jalen Camp	1	3	3.0	3	0

PASSING

UVA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Bryce Perkins	21	26	217	8.3	1	0	163.6
Brennan Armstrong	1	2	56	28.0	1	0	450.2
GT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
TaQuon Marshall	1	8	37	4.6	0	0	51.4

RECEIVING

UVA	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Olamide Zaccheaus	11	111	10.1	18	0
2 Joe Reed	2	78	39.0	56	1
8 Hasise Dubois	5	46	9.2	13	1
46 Evan Butts	2	21	10.5	11	0
84 Terrell Jana	2	17	8.5	10	0
GT	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
83 Brad Stewart	1	37	37.0	37	0