ORANGE BOWL
FLORIDA VS VIRGINIA

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. -- Lamical Perine scored on a 61-yard run in the opening minute and didn't stop until he climbed onto a platform for the postgame ceremony to receive the Orange Bowl's most valuable player trophy.

Perine totaled 181 yards rushing and receiving with three touchdowns Monday to help No. 6 Florida beat Virginia 36-28.

The win means the Gators (11-2) will likely finish in the Top 10 in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2008-09. Second-year coach Dan Mullen credited Perine and the rest of the senior class with leading the resurgence.

"They restored the Gator standards and are building what we want to build," said Mullen, who improved to 21-5 at Florida.

"My sophomore year, we were 4-7," Perine said. "We came back and had two double-digit win seasons. It's great, man."

Perine carried 13 times for a career-high 138 yards rushing at the end of a so-so senior season. He came into the game with only 538 yards rushing this year in the Gators' pass-oriented offense.

"He's one of the top running backs in the SEC," Mullen said. "People say, `The stats say this, the stats say that.' But every time we needed a big run this season, he came up with it."

Perine was too quick and speedy for the Cavaliers, as his dash through their secondary on the first series showed. He also scored on a 10-yard run and caught a 16-yard touchdown pass from Kyle Trask.

The Cavaliers (9-5) lost their final two games but still posted their highest win total since 2007.

Trask capped a storybook junior season by throwing for 305 yards. He was lightly recruited and in late September became a starter for the first time since ninth grade.

"This game is huge for this program," Trask said. "We just continued to grind every single week, and here we are winning the Orange Bowl. It's pretty incredible."

Florida totaled 549 yards, including a season-high 244 rushing, and didn't punt until midway through the third quarter. The Gators exposed the weaknesses in a Virginia defense that allowed more than 23 points per game and gave up 62 to Clemson in an Atlantic Coast Conference title game loss.

"Tonight we faced a team that they decided they were going to stop the pass and drop a lot of guys into coverage," Mullen said. "We were able to take what they were giving us."

The Cavaliers' offense tried valiantly to keep up. Senior Bryce Perkins threw for 323 yards and four scores in the final game of his career.

"I'm not into moral victories, but I'm proud of these guys and the culture we set," Perkins said. "Next year, these guys are going to be a force to reckoned with."

CLOSING IT OUT

Tanner Cowley's 52-yard catch-and-run led to a Cavaliers touchdown that cut their deficit to 27-21 early in the fourth quarter. The Gators answered with a touchdown set up by Perine's 23-yard run to the 1.

Virginia drove 75 yards for a touchdown with 38 seconds left, but Florida recovered the ensuing onside kick.

"We were a few plays short," Cavaliers coach Bronco Mendenhall said.

HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE

The Gators had the edge in crowd support playing in the Orange Bowl for the first time since 2001, when Steve Spurrier was their coach.

"Playing here at home in the state -- I mean, we are the University of Florida," Mullen told the crowd during the trophy ceremony. "It is our state."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FLA	14	10	3	9	36
UVA	7	7	0	14	28

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

FIRST QUARTER		FLA	UVA
FLA TD 14:20			
Lamical Perine 61 Yd Run (Evan McPherson Kick)			
3 plays, 75 yards, 0:40		7	0
UVA TD 11:27			
Terrell Jana 34 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick)			
1 play, 34 yards, 0:07		7	7
FLA TD 6:26			
Lamical Perine 16 Yd pass from Kyle Trask (Evan McPherson Kick)			
13 plays, 75 yards, 5:01		14	7
SECOND QUARTER		FLA	UVA
UVA TD 14:53			
Hasise Dubois 9 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick)			
14 plays, 88 yards, 6:33		14	14
FLA FG 9:39			
Evan McPherson 23 Yd Field Goal			
14 plays, 73 yards, 5:14		17	14
FLA TD 2:13			
Lamical Perine 10 Yd Run (Evan McPherson Kick)			
9 plays, 74 yards, 5:07		24	14
THIRD QUARTER		FLA	UVA
FLA FG 0:16			
Evan McPherson 49 Yd Field Goal			
8 plays, 58 yards, 2:56		27	14
FOURTH QUARTER		FLA	UVA
UVA TD 13:05			
Joe Reed 7 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick)			
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:11		27	21
FLA TD 9:33			
Kyle Trask 1 Yd Run (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)			
7 plays, 65 yards, 3:32		33	21
FLA FG 2:32			
Evan McPherson 42 Yd Field Goal			
7 plays, 72 yards, 2:39		36	21
UVA TD 0:38			
Hasise Dubois 2 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick)			
8 plays, 75 yards, 1:54		36	28

Team Stats	FLA	UVA
First Downs	25	20
Passes for First	13	19
Rushes for First	12	0
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	6-13	5-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-2	1-1
Total Yards	549	375
Total Plays	73	62
Avg Gain Per Play	7.5	6.0
Net Yards Rushing	244	52
Rushes	34	21
Yards Per Rush	7.2	2.5
Stat Name		
Net Yards Passing	305	323
Comp-Att	24-39	28-41
Yards Per Pass	7.8	7.9
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-14
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	2	6
Punt Average	33.0	48.2
Penalties	4	3
Penalty Yards	40	14
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	31:51	28:09

Individual Stats

RUSHING

FLA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Lamical Perine	13	138	10.6	2	61
Kyle Trask	8	37	4.6	1	16
Dameon Pierce	6	34	5.7	0	26
Emory Jones	4	32	8.0	0	17
Malik Davis	1	3	3.0	0	3
Kadarius Toney	1	1	1.0	0	1
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0

UVA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Bryce Perkins	14	24	1.7	0	10
Joe Reed	2	14	7.0	0	8
Wayne Taulapapa	5	14	2.8	0	7

PASSING

FLA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kyle Trask	24	39	305	7.8	1	1	69.0

UVA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Bryce Perkins	28	40	323	8.1	4	1	57.3
Team	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	--

RECEIVING

FLA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Van Jefferson	6	129	21.5	0	53
Tyrie Cleveland	3	51	17.0	0	30
Lamical Perine	5	43	8.6	1	19
Kyle Pitts	3	39	13.0	0	20
Freddie Swain	3	21	7.0	0	11
Malik Davis	1	9	9.0	0	9
Trevon Grimes	1	7	7.0	0	7
Jacob Copeland	1	7	7.0	0	7
Kadarius Toney	1	-1	-1.0	0	0

UVA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Terrell Jana	7	126	18.0	1	47
Hasise Dubois	10	83	8.3	2	23
Tanner Cowley	3	60	20.0	0	52
Joe Reed	7	52	7.4	1	13
Billy Kemp IV	1	2	2.0	0	2