

WEEK FOUR
OLD DOMINION at VIRGINIA

No. 21 Virginia rallies past Old Dominion to stay undefeated

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. -- Bronco Mendenhall isn't big on fiery half-time speeches. So, with his team trailing visiting Old Dominion by 10 points at halftime, the Virginia coach's message to his players was simple.

"All I said was, 'Now that that's over, we'll start playing,'" Mendenhall said.

His defense certainly did. Linebacker Zane Zandier returned an interception 22 yards for a touchdown, part of a dominant defensive second half, as the 21st-ranked Cavaliers rallied past the Monarchs 28-17 on Saturday night to remain undefeated.

Old Dominion's failed fourth-down try in its own territory set up Virginia's go-ahead score, a 7-yard touchdown run by Wayne Taulapapa with 10:16 to go for a 21-17 edge.

After the game, Monarchs coach Bobby Wilder defended the decision.

"We came in here to win and that is how we tried to play today," he said.

The Cavaliers (4-0) are off to their best start since opening 5-0 in 2004. The Monarchs (1-2) have lost two in a row, both to in-state ACC opponents. They lost to Virginia Tech two weekends ago, a year after stunning the Hokies in Norfolk.

Linebacker Charles Snowden finished with a game-high 15 tackles, including two of the five sacks on Old Dominion quarterback Stone Smartt. He echoed Mendenhall's sentiment that the halftime mood was more about getting reset than getting motivated.

"Just kind of gathering ourselves in the locker room, settling down, taking a breather," Snowden said. "Wasn't a lot of 'rah-rah.' It was just, 'go out and play the way we know we can play.'"

Virginia quarterback Bryce Perkins didn't have his best statistical game, but still ran for one score and threw for another. He left the game for a play on Virginia's final possession after taking a big hit from Old Dominion defensive end Keion White while trying to pick up an errant snap.

White had a big game, finishing with six tackles, including 3 1/2 for losses, and blocked a potential game-tying field goal in the second half.

"I was just trying to fight. Our team needed it," White said. "I was just trying to fight but obviously wasn't good enough."

Fueled by Virginia penalties and defensive miscues, Old Dominion jumped out to a 17-0 lead with 10:32 left in the first half. The Monarchs got an 8-yard scoring run from Smartt, and a 47-yard touchdown pass from Smartt to Matt Geiger against a busted coverage in the secondary by the Cavaliers.

"Old Dominion showed up ready and hungry and eager to play," Mendenhall said. "It took us, our program, my program, much longer to reach that same state."

A 57-yard kickoff return by Joe Reed gave Virginia the ball at the Old Dominion 33-yard line, the Cavaliers finally got going in the second quarter. It took one of Perkins' jaw-dropping runs -- a 10-yard scramble that saw him dodge a rusher, outrun another defender and sidestep a third -- to finally get Virginia on the board, pulling to 17-7 with 6:57 left in the first half.

The Cavaliers got their second touchdown when Smartt, under pressure, tried to force a short throw that was intercepted by Zandier and run back 22 yards for a touchdown with 10 minutes to go in the third.

"That sparks the whole team," Reed said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Old Dominion: Smartt's running ability will help keep Old Dominion in a lot of games. He's a dynamic playmaker who can be used on designed runs or to make something out of nothing when plays break down. But what really helped the Monarchs get off to a fast start in this one was Smartt's development throwing the ball. He hit on his first six throws, threw his first touchdown pass of the season and finished . His bad decision on his interception to Zandier helped turn the game, but overall, Smartt took a step forward in the throw game.

Virginia: After a shaky start, Virginia's defense took control in the second half, holding Old Dominion to just 46 total yards while shutting out the Monarchs after the break. Led by linebackers Jordan Mack and Charles Snowden, The Cavaliers forced two three-and-outs and twice stopped Old Dominion on fourth down. Virginia finished with five sacks.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ODU	10	7	0	0	17
UVA	0	7	7	14	28

Scoring Summary -----

	ODU	UVA
FIRST QUARTER		
ODU FG 7:22 Nick Rice 21 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 74 yards, 7:38	3	0
ODU TD 3:37 Stone Smartt 10 Yd Run (Nick Rice Kick)		
5 plays, 48 yards, 2:00	10	0
SECOND QUARTER		
ODU TD 10:32 Matt Geiger 47 Yd pass from Stone Smartt (Nick Rice Kick)		
9 plays, 89 yards, 4:50	17	0
UVA TD 6:57 Bryce Perkins 8 Yd Run (Brian Delaney Kick)		
6 plays, 33 yards, 3:35	17	7
THIRD QUARTER		
UVA TD 10:00 Zane Zandier 22 Yd Interception Return (Brian Delaney Kick)		
4 plays, 11 yards, 2:01	17	14
FOURTH QUARTER		
UVA TD 10:16 Wayne Taulapapa 7 Yd Run (Brian Delaney Kick)		
2 plays, 29 yards, 0:38	17	21
UVA TD 7:33 Joe Reed 25 Yd pass from Bryce Perkins (Brian Delaney Kick)		
3 plays, 58 yards, 1:26	17	28

Team Stats	ODU	UVA
First Downs	16	14
Passes for First	8	7
Rushes for First	6	5
Penalties for First	2	2
Third Down Efficiency	4-16	1-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	3-5	1-2
Total Yards	270	244
Total Plays	70	53
Avg Gain Per Play	3.9	4.6
Net Yards Rushing	64	69
Rushes	44	29
Yards Per Rush	1.5	2.4
Net Yards Passing	206	175
Comp-Att	16-26	15-24
Yards Per Pass	7.9	7.3
Times Sacked	6	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-34	-18
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	6	6
Punt Average	41.7	36.3
Penalties	5	7
Penalty Yards	40	70
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	35:16	24:44

Individual Stats

RUSHING						
OLD DOMINION	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Kesean Strong	13	39	3.0	0	14	
Lala Davis	4	15	3.8	0	6	
Blake Watson	6	13	2.2	0	6	
Matt Geiger	1	7	7.0	0	7	
Robert Washington	4	1	0.3	0	2	
Stone Smartt	16	-11	-0.7	1	10	
VIRGINIA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Bryce Perkins	14	35	2.5	1	15	
Wayne Taulapapa	11	33	3.0	1	8	
PK Kier	2	5	2.5	0	6	
Tavares Kelly Jr.	1	1	1.0	0	1	
Lindell Stone	1	-5	-5.0	0	0	
PASSING						
OLD DOMINION	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int
Stone Smartt	16	26	206	7.9	1	1
VIRGINIA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int
Bryce Perkins	15	24	175	7.3	1	0

RECEIVING						
OLD DOMINION	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Matt Geiger	1	47	47.0	1	47	
Kesean Strong	4	39	9.8	0	20	
Jake Herslow	2	34	17.0	0	28	
Marcus Joyner	3	32	10.7	0	22	
Chris Cunningham	1	26	26.0	0	26	
Blake Watson	1	25	25.0	0	25	
Donta Anthony Jr.	1	8	8.0	0	8	
Eric Kumah	1	4	4.0	0	4	
Lala Davis	2	-9	-4.5	0	0	
VIRGINIA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Joe Reed	4	40	10.0	1	25	
Lamont Atkins	1	34	34.0	0	34	
Terrell Jana	3	25	8.3	0	10	
Tavares Kelly Jr.	2	23	11.5	0	16	
Tanner Cowley	1	22	22.0	0	22	
Hasise Dubois	2	21	10.5	0	16	
Billy Kemp IV	2	10	5.0	0	7	