

WEEK SIX  
 VIRGINIA TECH at MIAMI, FL

**Hokies waste huge lead, then rally to top Miami 42-35**

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. -- Virginia Tech allowed a Hail Mary pass for a touchdown, got outgained by more than 200 yards, couldn't hold a 28-point lead and allowed three touchdowns in less than 4 minutes down the stretch.

And the Hokies won. Deshawn McCleave's 3-yard run with 1:03 remaining capped a wild back-and-forth final few minutes, Dalton Keene caught three touchdown passes and Virginia Tech held on to beat Miami 42-35 on Saturday -- a game where the Hokies forced turnovers on each of the Hurricanes' first four possessions yet still needed to deflect two passes in the final 5 seconds to escape with the win.

"I'm obviously very proud of our men," said Virginia Tech coach Justin Fuente, whose team was coming off a 45-10 home loss to Duke and gave Hendon Hooker his first career start at quarterback Saturday. "Battled back. Not just in the game, but through the week of preparation. It was a rough week for everybody. I think it says a lot about their character, their unity, their toughness, their commitment to Virginia Tech."

The Hokies (3-2, 1-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) led 21-0 after one quarter, 28-0 with 9:30 left in the first half and 35-14 midway through the fourth quarter. McCleave's gamewinning TD came on a play where Miami was trying to intentionally let him score in an effort to get the ball back with some time remaining, and even that almost didn't work.

"An absolutely insane football game," Miami coach Manny Diaz said.

He wasn't wrong. Miami nearly matched the biggest comeback to win in school history; it trailed Boston College 28-0 in 1999 before rallying to win. Jeff Thomas caught a pair of touchdown passes in a span of 2:08 to turn a 35-14 deficit into a 35-27 one, and instead of kicking the extra point after the second of those scores the Hurricanes went for two -- which DeeJay Dallas got on a busted play, somehow getting the ball over the pylon.

Miami got a stop on the ensuing possession, Dallas scored on a 62-yard run with 3:16 left to tie the game and Hurricanes kicker Bubba Baxa missed the extra point. The Hokies then marched 63 yards in five plays for the go-ahead score, with Keene hauling in a big 26-yard catch on third-and-5 from the 29.

"We were confident we would get the win," Keene said.

It still came down to the last second. Miami went to the Virginia Tech 10, and Hurricanes quarterback N'Kosi Perry -- who had a career-high 422 yards and a career-high-tying four touchdowns in relief of starter Jarren Williams -- had two throws to the end zone batted down to end the game.

"There are a lot of guys in that locker room that played good enough to pull off one of the most historic wins of all time," Diaz said. "And yet everybody in that locker room, coaches included, made enough mistakes execution-wise to really make us feel the way we feel right now -- which is pretty awful."

The Hurricanes outgained the Hokies 563-337, with Brevin Jordan having 136 receiving yards and a score. Hooker was 10 of 20 passing for 184 yards and three touchdowns for Virginia Tech, which faced former teammate Trevon Hill -- who had three tackles and a sack for the Hurricanes.

The Hokies were two-touchdown underdogs and had lost six of their last seven ACC games. No matter. They won the turnover battle 5-0, posted a season-high seven sacks, and had the 28-0 lead before Miami's Mark Pope caught a deflected pass in the end zone on the final play of the half.

"I'm proud of how Hendon handled the promotion, if you will," Fuente said.

The Hurricanes are off to their worst five-game start since also going 2/3 in 2011, Al Golden's first season at Miami.

"We're going to be good," Jordan said. "I'm still very confident in this team."

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Virginia Tech: The Hokies avoided their worst start in conference play since 1951 -- when they were in the Southern Conference. The win also gives a huge boost to the Hokies' bowl hopes; they've been to the postseason in 26 straight seasons, the nation's longest such streak, and will need to go 3-3 in their final six games (next week against Rhode Island is meaningless for bowl purposes) to continue.

Miami: The Hurricanes had turnovers on four consecutive possessions for the first time since the 2010 Sun Bowl against Notre Dame. Williams hadn't thrown an interception on any of his first 120 Miami passes (117 this season) before getting picked off on Miami's first drive, and finished 4 of 7; all three incompletions were interceptions. The last time Miami had more turnovers than Saturday was 2010, when it had six -- also against Virginia Tech.

**DEFENSE TRAVELS**

This was the seventh time since 2004 that Virginia Tech forced at least five turnovers. All seven were road games -- each of the last three in Florida (2010 at Miami, 2018 at Florida State).

Final	1	2	3	4	T
VT	21	7	0	14	42
MIA	0	7	7	21	35

**Scoring Summary -----**

	VT	MIA
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
VT TD 9:48 Hendon Hooker 12 Yd Run (Brian Johnson Kick)	7	0
8 plays, 48 yards, 3:54		
VT TD 3:19 Dalton Keene 20 Yd pass from Hendon Hooker (Brian Johnson Kick)	14	0
2 plays, 23 yards, 0:36		
VT TD 2:16 James Mitchell 1 Yd Run (Brian Johnson Kick)	21	0
4 plays, 20 yards, 1:00		
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
VT TD 9:30 Dalton Keene 17 Yd pass from Hendon Hooker (Brian Johnson Kick)	28	0
12 plays, 80 yards, 6:02		
MIA TD 0:00 Mark Pope 38 Yd pass from N'Kosi Perry (Bubba Baxa Kick)	28	7
5 plays, 84 yards, 0:52		
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
MIA TD 9:38 Brevin Jordan 6 Yd pass from N'Kosi Perry (Bubba Baxa Kick)	28	14
8 plays, 88 yards, 3:33		
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
VT TD 12:43 Dalton Keene 5 Yd pass from Hendon Hooker (Brian Johnson Kick)	35	14
4 plays, 80 yards, 1:35		
MIA TD 7:03 Jeff Thomas 13 Yd pass from N'Kosi Perry (Bubba Baxa Kick)	35	21
10 plays, 65 yards, 5:40		
MIA TD 4:55 Jeff Thomas 25 Yd pass from N'Kosi Perry (DeeJay Dallas Run for Two-Point Conversion)	35	29
6 plays, 61 yards, 1:12		
MIA TD 3:16 DeeJay Dallas 62 Yd Run (Bubba Baxa PAT failed)	35	35
2 plays, 69 yards, 0:50		
VT TD 1:03 Deshawn McCleave 3 Yd Run (Brian Johnson Kick)	42	35
5 plays, 63 yards, 2:13		

Team Stats	VT	MIA
First Downs	17	27
Passes for First	7	19
Rushes for First	7	5
Penalties for First	3	3
Third Down Efficiency	9-16	7-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	2-3
Total Yards	337	563
Total Plays	63	78
Avg Gain Per Play	5.3	7.2
Net Yards Rushing	153	94
Rushes	43	23
Yards Per Rush	3.6	4.1
Net Yards Passing	184	469
Comp-Att	10-20	32-55
Yards Per Pass	9.2	8.5
Times Sacked	7	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-52	-13
Interceptions	0	4
Punts	7	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	11
Penalty Yards	50	90
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	28:45	31:15

**Individual Stats**

<b>RUSHING</b>							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
<b>VIRGINIA TECH</b>							
Hendon Hooker	16	76	4.8	1	15		
Deshawn McCleave	14	57	4.1	1	26		
Keshawn King	12	19	1.6	0	5		
James Mitchell	1	1	1.0	1	1		
<b>MIAMI, FL</b>							
DeeJay Dallas	6	66	11.0	1	62		
Cam'Ron Harris	2	19	9.5	0	10		
Mike Harley	2	18	9.0	0	23		
Jeff Thomas	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Jimmy Murphy	1	1	1.0	0	1		
Jarren Williams	2	-2	-1.0	0	11		
N'Kosi Perry	9	-16	-1.8	0	9		
<b>PASSING</b>							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
<b>VIRGINIA TECH</b>							
Hendon Hooker	10	20	184	9.2	3	0	92.1
<b>MIAMI, FL</b>							
N'Kosi Perry	28	47	422	9.0	4	1	64.5
Jarren Williams	4	7	47	6.7	0	3	0.6
<b>RECEIVING</b>							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
<b>VIRGINIA TECH</b>							
James Mitchell	3	75	25.0	0	67		
Dalton Keene	5	73	14.6	3	26		
Damon Hazelton	1	29	29.0	0	29		
Tayvion Robinson	1	7	7.0	0	7		
<b>MIAMI, FL</b>							
Brevin Jordan	7	136	19.4	1	51		
Jeff Thomas	6	124	20.7	2	39		
Dee Wiggins	4	64	16.0	0	22		
Mark Pope	2	45	22.5	1	38		
K.J. Osborn	3	44	14.7	0	17		
Mike Harley	5	36	7.2	0	11		
DeeJay Dallas	3	12	4.0	0	5		
Cam'Ron Harris	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Michael Parrott	1	2	2.0	0	2		