

WEEK SEVEN
VIRGINIA at MIAMI,FL

Miami, new starting QB Perry hold off No. 20 UVA

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. -- Miami used its backup quarterback and a kicker whose name was a mystery to some of his own teammates.

And the Hurricanes might have saved their season. N’Kosi Perry threw for a touchdown on the opening drive and ran for another with 2:31 remaining, Turner Davidson was 3 for 3 on kicks to at least temporarily solve a Miami problem at that position, and the Hurricanes knocked off No. 20 Virginia 17-9 on Friday night.

“I think the neatest thing about our team this year is that we just don’t panic,” Miami coach Manny Diaz said. “When things are going poorly, our guys get back out there and continue to fight again.”

Deejay Dallas caught the touchdown pass for Miami (3-3, 1-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), plus rushed for 63 yards on 13 carries. Pat Bethel blocked a field goal for Miami and K.J. Osborn caught four passes for 60 yards.

The win kept the Hurricanes from falling to 0-3 in conference play -- any conference -- for what would have been the first time in school history. Perry, playing in place of injured starter Jarren Williams, finished 16 of 27 for 182 yards.

“Virginia is a tough nut to crack on defense,” Diaz said.

Bryce Perkins connected on his first nine passes and finished 24 for 41 for 244 yards for Virginia (4-2, 2-1). The Cavaliers entered ranked, yet were still 2 1/2 point underdogs at kickoff.

And apparently, those oddsmakers saw this coming.

Brian Delaney made three field goals for the Cavaliers, who were looking for their first 3-0 ACC start since 2007. They’re now tied with North Carolina for first place in the Coastal Division, and could be joined there by Duke if the Blue Devils beat Georgia Tech on Saturday.

Virginia has managed only 12 points -- all off field goals -- in its last six quarters.

“Red zone,” Perkins said. “We’ve got to score in the red zone. That’s plain and simple. We had multiple drives to the red zone and not a single touchdown. So that’s on us. That’s on the offense. Defense did its job holding the pillar, and we didn’t do ours.”

Miami went 78 yards in 11 plays on the game’s first possession, with Dallas taking a short pass from Perry and rumbling the rest of the way for a 17-yard score. The Hurricanes’ next six drives went nearly nowhere -- 33 yards on 23 plays, all six possessions ending in punts.

But the defense more than did its part. Virginia got inside the Miami 30 on six separate possessions, and came away with only the three field goals. Particularly costly: a blocked field goal in the second quarter and a fumble in the third quarter.

“Those two opportunities that we didn’t capitalize on hurt our team,” Virginia coach Bronco Mendenhall said.

And Miami finally got moving in the fourth, getting 147 of its 265 total yards on its final two drives -- turning them into a field goal and Perry’s straight-ahead 3-yard keeper for a score.

“What changed today is that the team that made the plays in the fourth quarter was the Miami Hurricanes,” Diaz said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Virginia: CB Bryce Hall, a preseason All-American and the national leader in pass breakups last season with 22, was taken off on a cart in the second quarter after a lower leg injury. He was hurt in punt coverage and the injury was quickly placed in an air cast, after trainers initially covered it with towels to shield others from seeing the severity. That will be a major blow to the Cavaliers.

Miami: Davidson won the kicker job for the night in warmups over two-year starter Bubba Baxa -- who missed a critical extra point that would have given Miami a late lead last week against Virginia Tech. Baxa missed three field goals of 30 yards or less so far this year, plus two PATs. Davidson last kicked in a game Nov. 11, 2016, making a field goal for San Antonio’s Ronald Reagan High. Asked if he knew Davidson’s name before Friday, Miami defensive back Trajan Bandy acknowledged “I definitely did not.”

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Virginia will likely fall from the AP Top 25 when the next poll is released Sunday, ending a run of five consecutive appearances. Virginia hasn’t had an appearance streak of six weeks or more since a 21-poll run spanning the 2004 and 2005 seasons.

YARDLESS SCORING DRIVE

Joe Reed had a 72-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter to get Virginia deep into Miami territory, but the Cavaliers settled for a field goal after what became a seven-play, zero-yard drive.

ODD SERIES

Miami safety Amari Carter was ejected for targeting in the third quarter, meaning he’ll miss the first half of next week’s game against Georgia Tech. When Virginia’s offense lined up to resume play, Carter was still on the field -- earning him another penalty for an illegal substitution.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UVA	0	3	0	6	9
MIA	7	0	0	10	17

Scoring Summary -----

	UVA	MIA
FIRST QUARTER		
MIA TD 8:55 DeeJay Dallas 17 Yd pass from N’Kosi Perry (Turner Davidson Kick)		
11 plays, 78 yards, 6:05	0	7
SECOND QUARTER		
UVA FG 0:00 Brian Delaney 25 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 57 yards, 1:33	3	7
FOURTH QUARTER		
UVA FG 14:28 Brian Delaney 21 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 64 yards, 6:35	6	7
MIA FG 10:06 Turner Davidson 19 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 72 yards, 4:22	6	10
UVA FG 7:39 Brian Delaney 44 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 0 yards, 2:27		9
MIA TD 2:31 N’Kosi Perry 3 Yd Run (Turner Davidson Kick)		10
10 plays, 75 yards, 5:08	9	17

Team Stats	UVA	MIA
First Downs	21	14
Passes for First	11	9
Rushes for First	7	5
Penalties for First	3	0
Third Down Efficiency	9-18	2-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	1-1
Total Yards	318	265
Total Plays	72	52
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	5.1
Net Yards Rushing	74	83
Rushes	31	25
Yards Per Rush	2.4	3.3
Net Yards Passing	244	182
Comp-Att	24-41	16-27
Yards Per Pass	6.0	6.7
Times Sacked	5	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-28	-13
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	3	6
Punt Average	44.3	45.8
Penalties	3	4
Penalty Yards	20	32
Fumbles	2	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	34:19	25:41

Individual Stats

RUSHING						
VIRGINIA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Wayne Taulapapa	8	27	3.4	0	13	
Bryce Perkins	17	27	1.6	0	13	
PK Kier	3	14	4.7	0	7	
Mike Hollins	2	7	3.5	0	3	
Lamont Atkins	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	
MIAMI, FL	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
DeeJay Dallas	13	63	4.8	0	17	
N’Kosi Perry	9	18	2.0	1	11	
Cam’Ron Harris	2	2	1.0	0	4	
Brevin Jordan	1	0	0.0	0	0	

PASSING							
VIRGINIA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Bryce Perkins	25	42	252	6.0	0	0	59.6
MIAMI, FL	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
N’Kosi Perry	16	27	182	6.7	1	0	59.9

RECEIVING					
VIRGINIA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Hasise Dubois	7	93	13.3	0	49
Terrell Jana	5	47	9.4	0	12
Tavares Kelly Jr.	2	35	17.5	0	23
Joe Reed	5	33	6.6	0	10
Billy Kemp IV	2	20	10.0	0	14
Dejon Brissett	1	15	15.0	0	15
Tanner Cowley	2	8	4.0	0	6
Lamont Atkins	1	1	1.0	0	1
MIAMI, FL	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
K.J. Osborn	4	60	15.0	0	27
Brevin Jordan	2	48	24.0	0	35
Mark Pope	2	30	15.0	0	24
Mike Harley	3	16	5.3	0	9
DeeJay Dallas	2	14	7.0	1	17
Jeff Thomas	3	14	4.7	0	10