

Virginia Postgame Notes – SMU (11/23/24)

Virginia Team Notes

- At 5-6 overall, UVA enters its final game of the season one win away from becoming bowl eligible for the first time since 2021.
- UVA is now 2-6 against ranked opponents under head coach Tony Elliott.
- For the first time since 2021 and sixth time in program history (1949, 1996, 2002, 2005, 2019, 2021, 2024), the Cavaliers played their third consecutive game against a ranked opponent.
- In its last six home games against top-25 opponents (dating back to 2018), Virginia is 3-3.
- The Cavaliers held SMU to 111 rushing yards, its lowest output in an ACC game this season and second-lowest overall.
- UVA scored its lone touchdown in the fourth quarter. The Cavaliers are outscoring their opponents 91-59 in the fourth quarter this season.
- Virginia is the Mustangs' second opponent in their last 10 games to not give the ball away. SMU entered Saturday's game 10th in FBS and third in the ACC in turnovers gained per game (2.0).
- UVA is 2-2 when winning the turnover battle this season, dropping contests against Louisville and SMU.
- With the victory, SMU clinched a spot in the ACC Championship game on Dec. 7 in Charlotte. SMU is 7-0 in ACC play in its first season in the conference. The Mustangs have won 16 straight conference games dating back to their time in the American Athletic Conference.
- SMU has won 10 straight road games, the second-longest streak in program history.

Virginia Individual Player Notes

- Malachi Fields (4 receptions, 42 yards, 1 TD) has caught at least one pass in 26 consecutive games.
- UVA's only TD of the game was a Fields' reception in the end zone in the fourth quarter. It marked his fifth touchdown of the season and 11th of his career.
- With 127 career receptions, Fields needs only two more to crack UVA's top-10 career leaders list.
- Fields now has 1,830 career receiving yards, still good for ninth all-time in program history.
- Noah Vaughn rushed for career highs in both rushing attempts (10) and rushing yards (44).
- Jam Jackson tied his career high with nine tackles, including six solo. Jackson also had nine takedowns against Maryland (9/14) earlier this season.
- Kempton Shine has now made 36 consecutive starts dating back to his tenure at Eastern Michigan, the sixth most amongst active FBS secondary players.
- With one successful PAT, Will Bettridge tied fellow placekicker Wayne Morrison (1979-92) for 13th on UVA's career points list. In 30 career games, Bettridge has 193 career points with 67 PATs and 42 field goals made.
- Daniel Sparks recorded a season-high 333 total yards punting and tied his season high of seven punts.

Offensive Starters: QB #10 Anthony Colandrea, #5 RB Kobe Pace, WR #8 Malachi Fields, WR #2 Andre Greene Jr., TE #44 Sackett Wood, TE #16 Tyler Neville, LT #52 McKale Boley, LG #77 Noah Josey, C #55 Brian Stevens, RG #51 Ty Furnish, RT #54 Blake Steen.

Defensive Starters: DE #82 Kam Butler, NT #55 Anthony Britton, DT #90 Jahmeer Carter, DE #15 Chico Bennett Jr., LB #8 Trey McDonald, LB #11 Dorian Jones, CB #29 Kempton Shine, CB #9 Jam Jackson, NB #4 Kendren Smith, S #20 Jonas Sanker, S #3 Corey Thomas Jr.

Game Captains: #55 Brian Stevens, #44 Sackett Wood, #15 Chico Bennett Jr., #90 Jahmeer Carter