Virginia Postgame Notes – Virginia Tech (11/29/25)

Virginia Team Notes

• Virginia clinched its second-ever berth in the ACC Championship game (est. 2005) and will play Duke on Dec. 6 in Charlotte. The only other time UVA played in the conference title game was in 2019.

• UVA matched the program's single season record of 10 wins. The 1989 team is the only other team in program history to achieve a 10-win season.

• For the first time in program history, UVA (7-1) finished the regular season in sole possession of first place in the ACC standings.

• Tony Elliott, who's in his fourth season at UVA, became the fastest UVA head football coach to clinch at least a share of first place in the final ACC standings.

• The Cavaliers we co-ACC champions in 1989 and 1995.

• UVA's 7-1 record in ACC play also tied with the 1995 Cavaliers' best record in ACC play in school history.

• Virginia's six home victories this season mark just the third time in the past 34 years that UVA has recorded at least six wins at Scott Stadium. Entering Saturday's game, UVA has achieved six or more home wins in a season 13 times: 2025, 2019, 2002, 1991, 1989, 1951, 1925, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, 1910, and 1902.

• Elliott is now 6-0 as UVA head coach in games following a bye week.

• Virginia forced two turnovers and improved to 9-0 this season when forcing a turnover.

• Saturday marked the first time UVA has held Virginia Tech to single-digit points since the 1991 meeting, a 38-0 victory in Charlottesville.

• Virginia has held its last five opponents, all ACC contests, to an average of 15.4 points per game.

• UVA achieved its largest overall win improvement from year to year since 1986 (3-8) to 1987 (8-4). The only other time in program history that UVA improved by five games from one season to the next was in 1892 (3-2-1) to 1893 (8-3). The Cavaliers finished 5-7 overall in 2024.

• Virginia recorded the program's 698th all-time win. UVA's first season of football was 1888.

• The Cavaliers earned their second victory of the series with Virginia Tech for only the second time in the last 21 meetings, dating back to 2004.

• The Cavaliers held the Hokies scoreless in the first half. It marked the third team they held scoreless in a half this season.

• Prior to Virginia Tech's fourth-quarter touchdown, UVA's defense had allowed only one offensive touchdown in the previous 11 quarters (4th quarter at Duke).

• UVA now has 12 interceptions on the season, its most in a season since 2019. With Maddox Marcellus' first quarter interception, eight different Cavaliers have picked off a pass this season.

• The Cavaliers held the Hokies to four completed passes. The last time they held a team with five or less was in 2018 against Georgia Tech, when the Yellow Jackets had only one completion.

• Virginia held the Hokies to six first downs, the fewest by a UVA opponent since Akron's six on Sept. 18, 2004.

• Virginia Tech was 2-for-14 (14.3%) on third-down conversions, the lowest by a UVA opponent since Notre Dame was 1-for-12 on Nov. 16, 2024. The Cavaliers came into the contest ranked third in the country in third down defense.

• Virginia secured its sixth victory of the season while ranked in the AP poll. It marked the first time since 2004 that UVA recorded six or more wins in a year in which it appeared in every AP Top 25.

• UVA earned its second straight victory over the Hokies on Nov. 29. The previous time the Cavaliers defeated Virginia Tech on that date was Nov. 29, 2019, at Scott Stadium.

Virginia Individual Player Notes

• Making his first start of the season and first since playing for Eastern Kentucky last season, linebacker Maddox Marcellus led the Cavaliers with nine tackles (3 solo) and recorded his first interception as a Cavalier and third of his career. He was also credited with a half sack and one tackle for loss.

• Tailback J'Mari Taylor played in his 50th college game and finished with 80 yards on 20 carries and scored his 14th touchdown of the season. He is three yards shy of 1,000 for the season and leads the ACC with 997.

• Taylor is the seventh UVA player to rush for 14 touchdowns in season and the first since Keith Payne in 2010. The UVA single-season record is 17 posted by Wali Lundy (2004) and Bill Dudley (1941).

• Taylor also was credited with his first career touchdown pass with a 1-yard pass to Sage Ennis in the second quarter. He is the first non-QB to throw a TD pass for UVA since Olamide Zaccheaus vs. Duke in 2015.

• Taylor is the first ACC running back with a passing touchdown and a rushing touchdown in the same game since Clemson's Will Shipley against Wake Forest in 2021. Tony Elliott was Clemson's offensive coordinator. He's only the second UVA running back since 1995 to accomplish the feat, joining Wali Lundy against Western Michigan 2003.

• Quarterback Chandler Morris rushed for his career-best, fifth touchdown of the season. He now has 15 in his collegiate career.

• Wide receiver Kam Courtney established a career high with six receptions and had 50 yards receiving.

• Kicker Will Bettridge took over sole possession of third place on UVA's all-time scoring list with nine points (2-2 FG / 3-3 XP). He now has 302 career points and is 10 points behind Wali Lundy (312)

Offensive Starters: QB #4 Chandler Morris, RB #3 J'Mari Taylor, WR #7 Jahmal Edrine, WR #11 Trell Harris, TE #0 Sage Ennis, WR #82 Eli Wood, LT #52 McKale Boley, LG #77 Noah Josey, C #76 Brady Wilson, RB #60 Drake Metcalf, RT #68 Jack Witmer.

Defensive Starters: DE #52 Daniel Rickert, NT #90 Jahmeer Carter, DT #91 Jason Hammond, DE #17 Mitchell Melton, LB #1 James Jackson, LB #11 Maddox Marcellus, CB #19 Emmanuel Karnley, CB #9 Jordan Robinson, NB #18 Corey Costner, S #30 Ethan Minter, S #27 Devin Neal.

Game Captains: #0 Sage Ennis, #1 James Jackson, #4 Chandler Morris, #90 Jahmeer Carter.