



## Virginia Postgame Notes – Missouri Gator Bowl (12/27/25)

### Virginia Team Notes

- Virginia set a school record for wins in a season with its 11<sup>th</sup> of the year. Only one other team (1989) in program history has won 10 or more games.
- With the win, UVA is now one of 14 FBS teams with at least 11 wins this season.
- Virginia's six-win improvement from 2024 (5-7) to 2025 (11-3) is the largest overall win improvement from year-to-year in its 136-year history.
- The program earned its 699th all-time win. UVA's first season of football was 1888.
- UVA's 13 points scored are its fewest in a win since Sept. 9, 2006, in a 13-12 overtime win over Wyoming. The Cavaliers had lost their last 41 games only scoring 13 points or less.
- Virginia won its seventh game of the season while ranked in the AP poll. The last time UVA had six or more wins while ranked in the AP Top-25 was in 2004, when it was ranked in every game that year.
- The victory is the second over an AP Top-25 opponent this season. The last time UVA had two Top-25 wins was in 2011.
- The win was also UVA's first-ever in the Gator Bowl, this year sponsored by TaxSlayer. UVA improved to 1-2 at EverBank Stadium after previously falling 48-14 to Oklahoma on Dec. 29, 1991, and 31-28 to Texas Tech on Jan. 1, 2008.
- The Cavaliers secured their first bowl victory since the 28-0 shutout over South Carolina in the 2018 Belk Bowl in Charlotte, N.C.
- The win was also Virginia's first over an SEC opponent since the 2018 Belk Bowl and its first win over an SEC opponent that is not South Carolina since 1998, when the Cavaliers shut out Auburn 19-0 in the season opener.
- After Missouri scored on the first drive of the game, UVA shut the Tigers out for the final 56:56.
- UVA's defensive unit has only surrendered three fourth-quarter touchdowns in its last eight games.
- For the second consecutive game and only the second time this season, the Cavaliers trailed [7-0] at the end of the first quarter.
- UVA improved to 11-2 when not losing a fumble this season and 10-1 when forcing at least one turnover (Emmanuel Karnley interception). UVA's only loss when forcing a turnover was against Duke (Dec. 6) in the ACC Championship game.
- UVA finished the season with only three fumbles lost, the fewest in school single-season history.
- With 110 yards rushing in Saturday's win, UVA finished the season with 2,502 yards, the most in a season since 2004.
- The Cavaliers finished 5-3 in one-score games in 2025.
- UVA held the Tigers to only 37 yards of total offense in the third quarter, which marked the 17<sup>th</sup> time this year the Cavaliers surrendered less than 50 yards in a quarter.
- UVA finished 13-for-23 on third down, which marked the fourth time (NC State, Cal, Duke-1) this year it tallied at least 10 third-down conversions.

- UVA's 19-play, 75-yard drive, which spanned 10:07, is the program's second-longest drive by duration and tied for the second-longest by number of plays. The last time UVA had a 19-play drive was against Syracuse in 2015.
- Saturday's game marked the fourth this season in which UVA's offense had four drives with at least 10 plays from scrimmage.
- The Tigers were held to seven points or less for only the second time this season.
- The 2025 Gator Bowl is the lowest scoring bowl game (excluding CFP game - Miami vs Texas A&M) this bowl season. It is the lowest scoring bowl game since 2023 (Missouri vs Ohio State; 14-3).
- UVA surrendered a 43-yard rush (by Ahmad Harris) on the Tigers' opening drive, only the fifth rush this season of 25 yards or more.

### **Virginia Individual Player Notes**

- In his 50<sup>th</sup> career game, Jacksonville native and seventh-year safety Antonio Clary made his first start of the season, also the 19<sup>th</sup> of his career. It was also his first start since Oct. 5, 2024, against Boston College.
- Clary finished with seven tackles, including one for loss, and one pass breakup (on Karnley's interception).
- Quarterback Chandler Morris was named the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl Most Valuable Player. He was 25-for-38 passing for 208 yards including a perfect 10-for-10 passing on third down. He added a pooch punt for 41-yards that was downed inside the 20-yard line. He's the first UVA quarterback since Brennan Armstrong in 2022 to down a punt inside the 20.
- Receiver Eli Wood had four receptions and 71 yards receiving, both career highs. His 35-yard reception in the first quarter was his third catch of 20 or more yards this season. Wood also erased what would have been a touchback on Morris' pooch punt after swatting the bowl away from the end zone, and it was downed at the two-yard line.
- Kicker Will Bettridge was 2-for-3 on field goal attempts, connecting from 39 and 42 yards. The 39-yarder with one minute remaining in the third quarter broke UVA's single-season field goal record (previously held by Rafael Garcia – 23) and career field goal record (previously held by Connor Hughes-65). Bettridge finished year 24-for-30 on field goals this season and is now 67-for-82 for his career. Bettridge also moved to second place all-time on UVA's scoring list with 317 points, 15 points behind Hughes.
- Linebacker Landon Danley co-led the Cavaliers with career-high 10 tackles and made his first start since week three.
- Emmanuel Karnley registered his first career interception, settling under a tipped ball by Clary in the third quarter. The turnover led to UVA's second field goal of the game. Karnley added three tackles and a pass breakup to his ledger.
- Harrison Waylee's 20 rushing attempts were a season high and his most since rushing 27 times at New Mexico as a member of the Wyoming football team Nov. 2, 2024.
- Graduate tight end Sage Ennis had a career-high five receptions in the victory. He entered the 2025 season with seven career receptions and finished the year with 23 receptions for 214 yards and tied for the team lead with five touchdown catches.

- True freshman running back Xay Davis finished with a career-high 12 carries and 41 rushing yards.

**Offensive Starters:** QB #4 Chandler Morris, RB #21 Harrison Waylee, WR #7 Jahmal Edrine, TE #89 John Rogers, TE #0 Sage Ennis, WR #6 Cam Ross, LT #52 McKale Boley, LG #77 Noah Josey, C #76 Brady Wilson, RB #60 Drake Metcalf, RT #68 Jack Witmer.

**Defensive Starters:** DE #14 Fisher Camac, NT #90 Jahmeer Carter, DT #91 Jason Hammond, DE #17 Mitchell Melton, LB #1 James Jackson, LB #32 Landon Danley, CB #19 Emmanuel Karnley, CB #28 Donovan Platt, NB #18 Corey Costner, S #0 Antonio Clary, S #27 Devin Neal.

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