



Virginia Postgame Notes – Duke (10/23/26)

Virginia Team Notes

- Virginia dropped to 42-36 in the all-time series with Duke, which began in 1890, including a 25-13 mark in Charlottesville.
- The Cavaliers have still won nine of the last 12 meetings with the Blue Devils dating back to 2015.
- Duke scored a 32-yard touchdown on its opening drive, which marks only the second time UVA has allowed a score on an opponent's opening drive this season.
- Of its eight games this season, Virginia trailed only once after the first quarter – SMU (3-0).
- Virginia dropped to 15-4 all-time when possessing the ball for 38 or more minutes. Virginia has possessed the ball longer than its opponent in four games this season and is 2-2 in those contests.
- Duke was 2-for-10 on third down, with both conversions coming on second-half scoring drives. Its second conversion was a third and three on the go-ahead touchdown drive.
- For the second straight game, UVA's offense was 2-for-3 on fourth down. The Cavaliers entered Friday's contest ranked second nationally in total fourth-down conversions with 21.
- UVA finished with six QB hurries, its second consecutive game with at least six. The Cavaliers had a season-high eight QB hurries at then-No. 24 SMU last week.
- Duke tailback Nate Sheppard, who entered Friday's contest as the ACC's leading rusher (136.7 ypg), was held to a season-low 55 yards on 15 carries. It's also his lowest output in his last 10 games and since last year's regular-season meeting between UVA and Duke in Durham, when he had only 43 yards. In his last 19 games played, two of his three lowest rushing efforts have come against Virginia.
- For the first time since 2024, UVA dropped consecutive games. The Cavaliers had previously won their last five games following a loss.
- Virginia, which led 13-6 at the half, snapped an eight-game win streak when leading at the intermission. UVA dipped to 15-6 under head coach Tony Elliott when leading at halftime.
- Virginia's defense has not allowed more than two touchdowns from scrimmage in regulation in 10 of its last 13 games (dating back to 2025 Washington State game).
- Dating back to last year's regular-season finale against Virginia Tech, UVA's five-game win streak at Scott Stadium came to a close.
- UVA's six-game win streak on games contested Oct. 23 dating back to 1976 came to a close.

Virginia Individual Player Notes

- Tailback Jekail Middlebrook finished with a career-high 117 rushing yards on a career-high 24 carries, which marked his third career 100-yard rushing game and first as a Cavalier. His last 100-yard game was against Sam Houston State on Nov. 11, 2025, when he had 106.
- Middlebrook scored UVA's first touchdown in the first quarter on a direct snap from the 1-yard line amid UVA's third drive of the game. It was his fourth rushing TD of the year and 12th of his career.

- Middlebrook is the second Cavalier tailback to accumulate 100 rushing yards in a game (Xay Davis vs. Norfolk State – 107) this season.
- Middlebrook's three career 100-yard rushing games leads all players on this year's UVA roster.
- According to FBS sports information directors, UVA is one of three schools nationally – along with Army and Rice – with six players who have rushed for 100 yards in a game at least once in their career.
- Tight end John Rogers finished with career highs in both receptions (5) and receiving yards (65). His 27-yard catch in the first quarter is also a career long and led to UVA's only touchdown of the game.
- Rogers had a then-career high with three receptions in last week's contest at then-No. 24 SMU.
- Ezekiel Larry and Christian Ellis made their first starts in a UVA uniform. Larry started 11 games for Yale last season, and it was Ellis' first start since the 2024 season.
- Receiver Jacquon Gibson reached 100 career receptions with a three-yard reception in the third quarter. He finished with two catches for 14 yards.
- Linebacker Kam Robinson recorded his first solo sack since Sept. 26, 2025, against Florida State for a 4-yard loss on third down in the second quarter. His sack was the ninth of his career.
- Robinson intercepted his first pass of the season, halting a Duke drive in UVA territory late in the third quarter. It was his sixth interception of his career. He has an interception in each of his four seasons at UVA.
- Maddox Marcellus had two tackles for loss his most as a Cavalier and most since two against Utah Tech in 2024 while playing for Eastern Kentucky.
- Quarterback Beau Pribula rushed a career-high 21 times for 66 yards. He went over the 1,000-rushing-yard milestone for his career. Pribula currently has 1,056.

Offensive Starters: QB #7 Beau Pribula, RB #21 Jekail Middlebrook, WR # Jacquon Gibson, WR #18 Da'Shawn Martin, TE #9 Dakota Twitty, TE #89 John Rogers, LT #52 McKale Boley, LG #77 Noah Josey, C #60 Drake Metcalf, RG #54 Makilan Thomas, RT #71 Monroe Mills.

Defensive Starters: DE #14 Fisher Camac, DE #94 Ezekiel Larry, DT #44 Darrion Henry-Young, DT #55 Anthony Britton, LB #5 Kam Robinson, LB #11 Maddox Marcellus, LB #32 Landon Danley, CB #10 Jacobie Henderson, CB #17 Justin Ross, S #1 Montino Williams, S #8 Christian Ellis.

Game Captains: WR #4 Jacquon Gibson, TE #84 Hayden Rollison, DT #44 Darrion Henry-Young, DE #47 Gabe Sneed.