

**Virginia Tech at Miami**  
**Oct. 5, 2019**  
**Postgame news conference**  
**Virginia Tech quarterback Hendon Hooker quotes**

*(On when Justin Fuente told him he was going to be the starter)*

“He told me Monday, but I prepare as the starter every week just in case. You never know. You’re one play away, so I’ve prepared every week as the starter since I was a freshman.”

*(On his demeanor in the huddle on the final drive)*

“I really just stayed at an even keel, staying encouraging, encouraging my teammates, telling them the game is not over and we’ve got to keep pushing. We’ve got to make progress and push the ball down the field and score. I’m prepared for anything. My teammates are, and we’re just trying to get the win.”

*(On the pass to Damon Hazelton to open the final drive)*

“It was just a fade ball. We had one-on-one coverage, and Dam is just an outstanding receiver.”

*(On the coaches getting him ready)*

“They did a great job with the game plan. They do every week, and just getting me into a rhythm really helped me. It got me comfortable, and the first drive, we got a score. So, I hit the ground running.”

*(On have two good tight ends like James Mitchell and Dalton Keene)*

“It’s great. That’s a great room. They work extremely hard and never complain about anything. I appreciate those guys.”

*(On what happened when he left the game with an injury)*

“I just caught some cramps in my calf. I got some fluids in me. I just stretched it out, and I was ready to go.”

*(On being a leader during his first start)*

“It wasn’t very hard. Every week as a quarterback, you have to command the huddle and make sure everyone takes care of their responsibilities. So, it wasn’t very difficult.”

*(On what the coaches told him in practice before the game)*

“They said play confident. Cut it loose. Just play your game.”