Vick or no Vick, Hokies brace for Hurricanes

By Richard Rosenblatt

Virginia Tech quarterback Dave Meyer hopes to fare better in Saturday's Hokies-Hurricanes game than Miami's Ken Dorsey did in last year's matchup.

Dorsey, who replaced an injured Kenny Kelly in the second half of the Hokies' 43-10 win in '99, was harassed nearly every play. He was sacked twice, intercepted once and hit just 6 of 17 passes for 45 yards.

"I was overwhelmed and my head was spinning," Dorsey said.

Meyer, a fifth-year senior, starts for the injured Michael Visk when No. 2 Virginia Tech (8-0, 6-0 Big East) visits No. 3 Miami (6-1, 3-0) in a national title elimination game at the sold-out Orange Bowl

"I'm ready," said Meyer, who led the Hokies on the field-goal drive that produced a 37-34 win against Pittsburgh last week. "From week to week, I prepare to start, whether I'm the backup or starter."

Vick, among the Heisman Trophy favorites, has a sprained right ankle

but coach Frank Beamer hasn't counted out his star. Vick will be fitted with a special ankle brace and may play. Miami coach Butch Davis expects to see Vick, Vick and

'He's not hurt," Davis said earlier this week. "If you think he's hurt, you're kidding yourself."

He's hurt for sure, but how seriously remains to be seen.

Against the Panthers, Meyer was 7 of 13 for 114 yards, his last three completions going for 12, 11 and 11 yards to set up Carter Warley's game-winning 27-yard field goal with 16 seconds left.

'He's tall, he's athletic. He can throw the football. He's smart, Beamer said of Meyer. "I think it's obvious he's not quite as quick as Michael. He doesn't throw the ball quite as quick. His release is not like Michael's and he probably doesn't throw quite as far as

Vick, with 1,023 yards and seven TDs passing and 584 yards and eight TDs rushing, isn't the only star fighting off an injury. Hokies top receiver Andre Davis - 23 catches for 318 yards and two TDs as well as three punt returns for scores - has bursitis in his left foot.

Four Miami starters were hurt in last week's 42-31 win over Louisiana Tech, but all are expected to play - LB Dan Morgan (sprained ankle), FB D.J. Williams (separated shoulder), OL Brett Romberg (broken finger) and S Al Blades (biceps).

Dorsey has rebounded nicely from his Hokies experience. This season, he's thrown for 1,675 yards and 14 TDs for the nation's topscoring team, at 45 points per game. The Hokies are fifth (42 ppg).

Vick isn't the only hurting Heisman-contending quarterback: A healing Chris Weinke leads No. 4 Florida State (8-1, 6-0 ACC) against an ailing Woodrow Dantzler and No. 10 Clemson (8-1, 6-1).

Weinke, hampered by a sore left ankle since Sept. 28, tries to keep the defending national champions in the running for another title. Lest year, he rallied the team from an 11point halftime deficit to a 17-14

Dantzler reinjured his left ankle in the first half of last week's 31-28 loss to Georgia Tech. If he can't play, freshman Willie Simmons gets his first start - just 20 miles from where he played at Shanks High School in Quincy, Fla.

The picks: No. 1 Oklahoma (minus 38) at Baylor

Looks like a half-day for Sooners quarterback Josh Heupel. ... OKLA-HOMA, 51-7.

No. 2 Virginia Tech (no line) at No. 3 Miami

'Canes can match Oklahoma's rare feat of beating Nos. 1 and 2 in same season.... MIAMI, 35-24.

No. 10 Clemson (plus 19) at No. 4 Florida State

Florida State has outscored Clemson 156-3 in last four games at Tallahassee. ... FLORIDA STATE,

No. 6 Florida (minus 19) at Van-

Woody Widenhofer's Commodores makes Gators work. ...

FLORIDA, 28-17.

No. 7 Oregon (minus 9) at Washington State

Ducks need win to stay in control of Rose Bowl race. ... OREGON, 34-

Arizona (plus 7) at No. 8 Washington

Huskies' huge offensive line wears down Wildcats. ... WASH-INGTON, 30-20.

No. 12 Michigan (minus 7 1/2) at: No. 21 Northwestern

Matchup of nation's third- and sixth-leading rushers — Wildcats' Anderson vs. Wolverines' Thomas. ... MICHIGAN, 31-24.

No. 14 Oregon State (minus 6) at

Bears out to avenge '99 loss that clinched Beavers' first winning season since '70. ... CALIFORNIA, 30-

Michigan State (plus 14) at No.

Buckeyes try to end two-game losing streak against Spartans. ... OHIO STATE, 34-17.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 2). Your deter-

AUDAY'S BIRKTIDAY (Nov. 2). Your determination plus practice make your aspirations achievable. Want the home of your dreams? Start planning in November. A windfall leads to new possibilities in December. Learn how to do it yourself in January. The picture's not real yet by February, but you can see it clearly. Heed a partner's stern admonition in May. Find a buried treasure in June. Go farther to get what you want in July. Your friends provide the inspiration you need in September.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a \$

is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5
— You may have thought an older person didn't like you, but you may be wrong. A person who's been quick to criticize really thinks you're doing a good job. Keep it up. You might even get a promotion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7
— Don't put off until tomorrow what you could do today, even if your mate is giving you fits.
Don't be dissuaded. You can see what needs to

you can get it done before they realize what you're doing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 4 -

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 4— An attractive person's in your life, but you don't have time for romance. Focus on a big job, in-stead. Chances of making costly mistakes are high. You might make a nice profit, but not if you have to do the job over.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7
— You're doing a good job and getting a lot of attention. Getting into a routine is hard when things are changing all the time. If anybody can do it, you can. Let others know how tough the job is, too—subtly, of course.

LEO (July 23, Aug. 23).

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — You may feel burdened, but don't complain too much. The workload gets easier, as somebody pitches in to help. You may be watched, with a promotion in mind. Pretend what you're doing is easy, and it might get to be that way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8

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—Are you the teacher's pet? Love and educa-tion are linked now. Are you learning some-thing interesting from a person whom you find attractive? Or, do you get to be the teacher? Ei-ther looks like fun. Let your enthus

ther rooks like run. Let you eministration since the LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct 22) — Today is a 5 — You might feel like staying in bed all day, but you'd miss a big opportunity. You can provide a service to somebody who needs it, and that could mean more money in your pocket. Besides, you always feel better when you provide his control of the service to t

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7
— You're incredibly bright. You keep it to yourself, though. Nobody else knows how smart
you are. Today try learning something you
thought was too hard. You might have underes-

imate your abunes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — If you're going to ask for money, do it first thing. As the day goes on, you'll be interested in other things, like a puzzle to be solved, for example. That could keep you busy for a county of the way.

carry.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — You're looking great. Your friends are talking about you. That's why they're giggling. Don't worry; everything they're saying is good. Why not treat them to dinner? They'll love it, and so will you. Don't forget that one special friend of yours, of course.

AQUARTUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5
— You're up against tough competition, but don't complain. You knew the job was dangerous when you took it. A person you don't like much tells you what to do, again. Well, best to stifle. Pick a battle you can win. This isn't it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8
— You're lucky, good looking and you have a
way with words. You know just what to say—
and what not to say! Don't procrastinate. Move
forward passionately toward your goal. Tomorrow you may not get this great a chance..

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