

= 1966 Liberty Bowl =

The 1966 Liberty Bowl was a post @-@ season American college football bowl game between the Virginia Tech Hokies and the Miami Hurricanes at Memphis Memorial Stadium in Memphis , Tennessee on December 10 , 1966 . The game was the final contest of the 1966 college football season for both teams , and ended in a 14 ? 7 victory for the Miami Hurricanes . A then @-@ record 39 @,@ 101 tickets were sold for the game , but due to 36 @-@ degree temperatures at game time , only 25 @,@ 012 spectators attended . The game marked just the second time that Virginia Tech had played in a bowl game since the creation of the team in 1892 . The game also marked the second time in each school 's history that the two teams had faced each other . The previous meeting , held in 1953 , ended in a 26 ? 0 shutout victory for the Hurricanes . Current Virginia Tech head football coach and then @-@ player Frank Beamer participated in the game as a backup cornerback for the Hokies .

= = Pregame buildup = =

= = = Virginia Tech = = =

The Hokies were led on defense by All @-@ America safety Frank Loria , who caught three interceptions and returned three punts for touchdowns as a junior during the 1966 season . In addition , Virginia Tech defensive end George Foussekis was named to the Associated Press second @-@ team All @-@ America team , and helped keep the Hurricanes ' offense in check for most of the game . On offense , fullback Tommy Groom served as the third of the Hokies ' three team captains during the game . Virginia Tech was coached by Jerry Claiborne , who was in his sixth year as head coach of the Hokies . Under Claiborne , Virginia Tech had amassed a strong 8 @-@ 1 @-@ 1 record with wins over Kentucky , Florida State , and Virginia and a 70 ? 12 blowout win over traditional rival VMI in the final game of the season . The Hokies ' sole loss came in the first game of the season against Tulane , and Virginia Tech drew a 13 ? 13 tie against West Virginia .

= = = Miami = = =

The ninth @-@ ranked Hurricanes boasted a 7 ? 2 ? 1 regular @-@ season record , including wins over Southern California and Florida . The Hurricanes were led on the field by three @-@ time All @-@ American linebacker Ted Hendricks , who would later go on to a Hall of Fame career in the National Football League . Off the field , the Hurricanes were coached by Charlie Tate , who would head the Hurricanes football team until 1970 .

= = Game summary = =

The game kicked off in frigid 36 ° F (2 ° C) weather , and from the beginning , defense dominated . In the first half , Tech held Miami to just 16 yards of total offense . On the opposite side of the ball , Miami set bowl game records for fewest rushing yards allowed and fewest first downs allowed . The Hokies got the first big break of the game after blocking Miami 's first punt of the game . Taking over at the Miami 21 @-@ yard line , it took Virginia Tech just five plays to march into the end zone for an early 7 ? 0 lead . Virginia Tech and Miami battled to a stalemate for the rest of the first half , and Tech went into halftime still clinging to a 7 ? 0 lead .

In the second half , Tech 's fortune turned . Late in the third quarter , the Virginia Tech defense stopped Miami 's offense again , but instead of receiving the punt cleanly , the Hokies committed a roughing the kicker penalty that allowed Miami to retain possession of the ball with a first down . A few plays later , Miami scored its first touchdown of the game . In the fourth quarter Miami finally took the lead on a 10 @-@ play , 70 @-@ yard drive . The Hokies were unable to answer the Hurricanes ' score , and Miami won the 1966 Liberty Bowl , 14 ? 7 .

= = Statistical summary = =

Miami 's Jimmy Cox was named the game 's most valuable player after catching five passes for 77 yards ? accounting for nearly half of Miami 's total offensive output . Miami earned just three rushing first downs during the game , setting a Liberty Bowl record that has yet to be broken .

Each team had two players pass the ball . Tech 's Tommy Stafford finished the game having completed four 13 passes for 59 yards and one interception . Several times during the game , the Hokies had also played with Barker passing the ball . He finished having completed two of his three passes for 13 yards . On the Miami side of the ball , Miller completed nine of 26 passes for 99 yards and Olivo completed one pass for nine yards .

On the ground , Virginia Tech 's Tommy Francisco led all runners with 21 carries for 55 yards . Backing up Francisco was Tech 's Sal Garcia , who finished with three carries for 15 yards . Miami 's leading rusher was McGee , who carried the ball 12 times for 36 yards . Backing up McGee was Acuff , who finished with six carries for 25 yards .