

**2022 Wake Forest Football Postgame Notes**  
**No. 19 Wake Forest 44, VMI 10**  
**Sept. 1, 2022**

Wake Forest-VMI Notes

- With the 44-10 win, Wake Forest now holds a 4-2-2 lead in the series with VMI. The Demon Deacons have now defeated VMI in four-straight games.
  - Dating back to 2000, Wake Forest has won its last 17 games against FCS opponents as well its last six games against schools from the state of Virginia.
    - This includes three victories over Virginia Tech and Virginia.
  - Wake Forest has now won 10-straight games inside Truist Field, which marks the longest home winning streak in program history. The streak dates back to the win over Campbell on Oct. 2, 2020 and is tied for the seventh-longest streak among Power 5 schools.
    - Additionally, this 10-win streak is now tied with NC State for the second-longest streak in the ACC.
  - Over the last decade, Wake Forest is 9-3 in season openers including a 7-2 record in head coach Dave Clawson's tenure. Additionally, the Deacs hold a mark of 8-1 in home openers in the Clawson era.
  - Since the start of the 2016 season, Wake Forest holds a record of 18-5 in September. This includes seven of eight seasons in the Dave Clawson era with multiple wins in the month, the most recent coming in 2021 when the Deacs went a perfect 4-0 en route to a 8-0 start to the season while ranking as high as No. 9 nationally, the highest ranking in school history.

Team Notes

- Since the start of the 2016 season, the Deacs have won the second-most wins in the ACC, not counting the COVID-shortened 2020 season:
  - Clemson – 65
  - Wake Forest -- 42
  - Pitt – 40
  - Virginia Tech -- 39
  - Miami- 39
  - NC State- 38
  - Three tied (UL, FSU, BC) -- 33
- Additionally, since the turn of the century, the Demon Deacons boast a record of 32-21 against UNC, NC State and Duke. In addition, during that time, Wake Forest is 46-21 against all in-state opponents. The Deacs lead the Big Four in winning percentage against each other during that period.
- Wake Forest's 44 points in the season opener marked the third-highest scoring performance in a season opener since 2001:
  - Most Points Scored in Season Openers since 2001:
    - 53 points, Presbyterian (2010)
    - 51 points, Presbyterian (2017)
    - **44 points, VMI (2022)**
    - 42 points, ODU (2021)

- 41 points, Elon (2015)
  - 41 points, Baylor (2008)
  - 41 points, Northern Illinois (2002)
  - 38 points, Utah State (2019)
  - 32 points Boston College (2003)
  - 31 points, Presbyterian (2013)
  - 30 points, at Clemson (2004)
  - 29 points, Syracuse (2011)
  - 28 points, at BC (2007)
  - 23 points, at Tulane (2018)
  - 21 points, Baylor (2009)
  - 21 points, East Carolina (2001)
  - 20 points, Liberty (2012)
  - 20 points, Syracuse, (2006)
  - 20 points, Vanderbilt (2005)
  - 13 points, Clemson (2020)
  - 10 points, ULM (2014)
  - 7 points, Tulane (2016)
- From 2017-21, Wake Forest has produced the four highest scoring seasons in school history with each club scoring better. With Nick Sciba's third quarter field goal against Clemson last season, the Deacs broke its all-time scoring record for a single season with 474 combined points in 11 games, besting the previous record of 459 points set in 2017.
- The Demon Deacons finished the season with 574 points, becoming the first Wake Forest team to cross over the 500-point mark in school history while also setting the school record with 41.0 points per game.
- Wake Forest became just the 20th ACC team in the college football modern era (Post-WWII) to cross over the milestone of 500 points scored in a single season. The Deacs finished seventh in ACC scoring history.
- The Demon Deacon defense, led by new defensive coordinator Brad Lambert, allowed just 10 points on Thursday, the third-fewest in a season opener since 2001.
  - *Least Points Allowed in Season Openers since 2001:*
    - 3 points, Tulane (2016)
    - 3 points, Elon (2015)
    - 7 points, Presbyterian (2017)
    - 10 points, VMI (2022)
    - 10 points, ODU (2021)
    - 10 points, Syracuse (2006)
    - 13 points, Presbyterian (2010)
    - 13 points Baylor, (2008)
    - 17 points, at Tulane (2018)
    - 17 points, ULM (2014)
    - 17 points, Liberty (2012)
    - 19 points ECU (2001)
    - 21 points, Baylor (2009)

- 24 points, Vanderbilt (2005)
  - 25 points, Utah State (2019)
  - 28 points Boston College (2003)
  - 36 points, Syracuse (2011)
  - 37 points, Clemson (2020)
  - 30 points, at Clemson (2004)
  - 38 points, at Boston College (2007)
  - 42 points, Northern Illinois (2002)
- Wake Forest forced one turnover against VMI (one fumble recovery). The Deacs now have forced a turnover in 16-straight games dating back to the 2020 Duke's Mayo Bowl. Additionally, the Deacons have forced a turnover in 32 of their last 33 games dating back to Sept. 28, 2019. The lone contest without a turnover was Wake Forest's regular season finale at Louisville in 2020.
  - 2022 Wake Forest Forced Turnovers
    - Rondell Bothroyd Forced Fumble, VMI (Sept. 1)
- Over the past seven seasons, Wake Forest has a combined +43 turnover margin. Only 2018 saw the Deacs finish with more turnovers lost than gained:
  - Wake Forest Season Turnover Margin
    - 2022: +1 (1 gained, 0 lost)
    - 2021: +9 (29 gained, 20 lost)
    - 2020: +10 (17 gained, 7 lost)
    - 2019: +8 (25 gained, 17 lost)
    - 2018: -3\* (16 gained, 19 lost)
    - 2017: +8 (21 gained, 13 lost)
    - 2016: +8 (27 gained, 19 lost)
- Winning the turnover battle has been a key to victory for the Demon Deacons since Dave Clawson arrived on campus ahead of the 2014 season:
  - Wake Forest Turnover Margin Record When:
    - Even: 12-10
    - +1 or better: 34-10
    - +2 or better: 20-3
    - +3 or better: 11-0
- The Demon Deacons scored the game's first points, jumping out to a 3-0 lead with a 33-yard field goal by Matthew Dennis with 10:43 remaining in the first quarter. Since the start of the 2019 season, Wake Forest has been one of the best in all of FBS at finding the scoreboard first. The Deacs have scored first in 28 of their last 37 games or 76 percent, holding a 22-6 record when scoring first:
  - Winning Percentage When Scoring First
    - 1. Alabama 81%
    - 2. Clemson 78%
    - 3. Oklahoma 76%
    - **Wake Forest 76%**
    - 5. Georgia 72%
    - 6. Iowa 71%

- The Deacs held a 17-0 lead after the opening 15 minutes of play thanks to two touchdowns and a field goal. When the Deacs win the first quarter over the last four seasons, they hold a record of 20-3. Only Alabama, Clemson, Ohio State, Appalachian St. and Oklahoma have hire winning percentages:
  - Winning Percentage When Winning First Quarter
    - 1. Alabama 96% (27-1)
    - Clemson 96% (27-1)
    - Ohio State 96% (23-1)
    - 4. Oklahoma 89% (24-3)
    - 5. App. St. 92% (22-2)
    - 6. Wake Forest 87% (20-3)
- Following Christian Turner's 35-yard rushing touchdown, Wake Forest's first TD of the season, the Demon Deacons have now produced a rushing score in 16-straight games dating back to Dec. 12, 2020 at Louisville.
- The Deacs held VMI scoreless in the first quarter, which marked the first since 2018 (Tulane) that Wake Forest did not allow the opposition to score in the opening frame.

#### Individual Notes

- With today's win, Dave Clawson is now 52-48 in his nine-year tenure with the Demon Deacons. He is one just five head coaches in program history to have a winning record in his coaching career at Wake Forest:
  - D.C. "Peahead" Walker, 77-51-6 (1937-50, 14 seasons)
  - Hank Garrity, 19-7-1 (1923-25, 3 seasons)
  - W.E. Sikes, 6-2-1 (1891-93, 3 seasons)
  - W.C. Dowd, 1-0 (1888, 1 season)
- Redshirt freshman Matthew Dennis attempted and connected on all three of his field goal attempts in the first half, the first Wake Forest kicker since Nick Sciba on Oct. 19, 2019 to tally at least three successful tries in the opening 30 minutes.
  - Dennis notched the first field goal of his career from 33 yards out to give Wake Forest an early 3-0 lead.
- Redshirt junior Christian Turner led Wake Forest's rushing attack in the season opener, tallying a career-high 100 yards and career-high tying two touchdowns.
  - Turner became the first Demon Deacon to amass 100 yards on the ground since Christian Beal-Smith at North Carolina on Nov. 14, 2020 (120 yards).
  - Turner broke free and found the endzone with a 35-yard touchdown rush, Wake Forest's first touchdown of the season. The 35-yard gain was the longest rush by Turner since Oct. 30, 2021 (vs. Duke).
  - Turner found the end zone for the second time of the game to tie his career high of two rushing touchdowns (North Dakota State, Sept. 11, 2021). On Wake Forest's scoring drive, Turner registered 38 yards on four-straight plays.
- Redshirt freshman Mitch Griffis shined in his first collegiate start, finishing 21-29 in completions for a game-best 288 passing yards and three thrown touchdowns.

#### Big Plays

- Christian Turner 35-yard touchdown rush (First Quarter)
- Justice Ellison 45-yard rush (First Quarter)

- Taylor Morin 23-yard touchdown reception from Mitch Griffis (First Quarter)
- Ke'Shawn Williams 15-yard reception from Mitch Griffis (Second Quarter)
- A.T. Perry 33-yard reception from Mitch Griffis (Second Quarter)
- Blake Whiteheart 23-yard reception from Mitch Griffis (Third Quarter)
- Christian Turner 24-yard rush (Third Quarter)
- Christian Turner 10-yard rush (Third Quarter)
- Ke'Shawn Williams 38-yard kick return (Third Quarter)
- Donovan Greene 20-yard reception from Mitch Griffis (Third Quarter)
- Taylor Morin 15-yard reception from Mitch Griffis (Third Quarter)
- Blake Whiteheart 27-yard touchdown reception from Mitch Griffis (Third Quarter)
- Quinton Cooley 11-yard rush (Fourth Quarter)
- Jahmal Banks 14-yard touchdown reception from Mitch Griffis (Fourth Quarter)