

College Football Picks: Virginia Tech Hokies vs East Carolina Pirates

Contributed by Benton Vale
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East Carolina Pirates vs. Virginia Tech Hokies; Betting Line, Virginia Tech – 9 ½ (Total 45); Television ESPN-HD kickoff NOON ET; Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, N.C. Betting odds provided by Bodoglife.com. The Virginia Tech Hokies and East Carolina Pirates travel to Charlotte, N.C. to open their 2008 football seasons on a neutral site, Bank of America Stadium. Oddsmakers at online sportsbook Bodog (Bodoglife.com) have installed the Hokies as 9 ½ point favorites and money line price of -440 with a 45 total. Pirate backers are getting +320 money line odds. Virginia Tech and East Carolina will be meeting for the 14th time this Saturday with the Hokies leading the series, 9-4. The Hokies have won the last six games in the series, including a 17-7 win the last time the two played, coming in last year's season opener at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg. Trailing 7-3 late in the second quarter, Virginia Tech used Harris's 17-yard interception return for a touchdown to take the lead for good before holding on for the victory. The deciding score spoiled an otherwise strong outing for the Pirates, who used a three pronged quarterback shuffle to keep the Hokies's vaunted defense off-balance throughout the afternoon.

The Pirates are getting plenty of respect from oddsmakers for this game, especially after easily covering the spread in last years game in Blacksburg. The Pirates are returning the majority of its team that defeated Boise State in the Hawaii Bowl in December. The Pirates did lose 1400 yard rusher Chris Johnson to the NFL. The Pick: Virginia Tech - 9 ½ ATS

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