

**Virginia Tech Football  
Head Coach Justin Fuente Q&A Highlights  
Duke Week Press Conference  
Nov. 13, 2021**

***Opening statement:***

“Thanks to everyone for coming out and supporting us. It was a special day for those seniors, and I’m happy to send them out in their last home game on a positive note. I’m proud of our kids and their perseverance through tough, adverse times. They continue to amaze all of us in this building who see them every day with their resilient nature and their care for each other. It’s a lot of fun to watch. Inspiring, quite honestly, to all the coaches and everybody around them. They’re a great group of kids.”

***On Keshawn King’s performance:***

“I think it was a glimpse of what Keshawn is capable of. I love Keshawn King, I’m unrelenting in my desire to have him do things the right way. He knows that, and that’s the beautiful thing about him. There’s not a more pleasurable person on our team to be around than Keshawn when he is right. We’ve seen a lot of that lately. and that’s pretty fun to be around. In fairness to him, he has battled a little bit of an ankle deal from a few weeks ago that slowed him up but heading into this game I felt like it was time to reward him with some opportunities, and he certainly didn’t disappoint.”

***On the team’s ability to recover mentally following a loss:***

“I just think it’s a healing process. They don’t come bebopping in here on Sunday fully healed, either good or bad, from the game before. You just see the leaders try and take charge and get everyone recalibrated. Guys go about beginning to feel better and get more focused on the opponent. To put forth the effort that our team has been able to through everything that has gone on is remarkable. I think we could all learn lessons from them.”

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**S Tae Daley**

***On Senior Day with lots of family in attendance:***

“It feels really good. We went out there and did what we were supposed to do. Everybody is happy, there's a lot of smiling faces.”

***On the pressure in the backfield:***

“I thought as a defense that we went out and just played for our brothers. We gave everything that we had and the guys up front did as well.”

***On the TyJuan Garbutt touchdown celebration:***

“Everybody was going crazy on the sideline. We definitely enjoyed that. It was a really good time.”

**DL TyJuan Garbutt**

***On his scoop-n-score:***

“It was like 10 yards away from the endzone, so I was just trying to make sure that we had the football in that pile. Then I saw the ball squirt out and I was like no way. Then I just went for a big scoop and looked to see if anyone was coming.”

***On his last touchdown in a game:***

“My last game in high school. I scored two touchdowns in the playoffs.”

***On if he saw Pollard punch out the football:***

“When he made the play, I just saw the ball come loose but there were so many bodies. I saw guys diving and jumping all over the place. I'm telling you, man, I saw the ball squirt out and go to the other side of the field. I just started kicking over there to make sure nobody else got it. I saw the endzone was like seven or eight yards away, so I was like there's no way I'm falling on this, and I just picked it up and went to score.”

**DL Norell Pollard**

***On what he saw on the fumble play:***

“As I end, I work the end a lot and I feel like I'm versatile enough and those chances are limited for me because I play D tackle. So, I told Tisdale to let me go outside because this was a play where Tisdale could have gone inside or outside and I told him to let me go outside after I felt better than the tackle, hit him with the cross chop. We practiced it a lot in practice and got the ball out right away.”

***On if he knew it was a TD immediately:***

“No, I didn’t know I just knew I got the ball out, I thought we just got on top of that and then the O lineman was just laying on top of me so I couldn’t really see, I just knew we got the ball and then TyJuan had scored it, that 345 connections.”

***On what he told Tisdale before the play:***

“I told him to let me get the outside rush and it worked.”

**WR Tayvion Robinson**

***On the resiliency of Braxton Burmeister:***

“It just shows us he cares a lot about this program, this team and us guys. We see it and it just makes us want to play harder for him.”

***On what has allowed for success in kick returning:***

“Just preparation in the off season, getting a lot of reps, learning from the mistakes I made last season and just having fun the way I was my freshman year.”

***On getting production early in the game:***

“Just sparks us honestly, we make big plays down the field, and I feel like that we tend to usually put some type of points up on the board, you know just a good momentum.”

**QB Knox Kadum**

***On advantage of going vertical in passing game:***

“Yeah, we knew that weak spot defensively was in the secondary. And we know we're going to get some one-on-one matchups early to start the game so we know we could attack vertically and have good opportunities to get the footballs and give our playmakers a chance.”

***On if he felt redemption from last week with today's performance:***

“Yeah, I definitely feel better, a lot more comfortable coming in that situation. Obviously, you know, after last week, you know how realistic it is to be one play away. So, I felt a lot better a lot more calm and I felt like I executed much better.”

***On value of Raheem Blackshear:***

“Yeah, he's a big difference maker in the offense, just his explosiveness and what he can do if you just get the ball in his hands or give him the space. He can save a lot of drives especially in those situations on third down like he did there, and you know, it's good to have someone that reliable.”