

WEEK SEVEN
DUKE AT GEORGIA TECH

Duke beats fumble-prone Georgia Tech 28-14

ATLANTA -- Duke's Daniel Jones seized the advantage when Georgia Tech suffered a sudden flurry of three lost fumbles in the final three minutes of the third quarter.

Jones threw three touchdown passes, all in the decisive span late in the third quarter, and Duke contained the nation's top running attack to beat Georgia Tech 28-14 on Saturday. "We wanted to force some turnovers and really that changed the game," said Duke safety Dylan Singleton.

The game was tied before the flurry of fumbles converted to touchdowns gave Duke (5-1, 1-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) a 28-7 lead. "It was the game," said Georgia Tech coach Paul Johnson. "You can't turn the ball over on three straight plays and expect to beat anybody ... You're not going to come back from that."

Georgia Tech (3-4, 1-3) couldn't maintain its offensive momentum after scoring more than 60 points in back-to-back wins over Bowling Green and Louisville.

The Yellow Jackets were held to 229 yards rushing, 144 below their nation-leading average.

Deon Jackson ran for 98 yards, including a 12-yard touchdown run to cap Duke's opening drive. Jones' 48-yard scoring pass to T.J. Rahming followed the first of Georgia Tech's rapid-fire lost fumbles, this one by running back Jerry Howard. Officials ruled Howard down before the fumble, but the call was overturned in a video review. The fumble was forced by Axel Nyembwe and recovered by Chris Rumph II.

Only 3 seconds after Rahming's TD catch, Georgia Tech quarterback TaQuon Marshall's fumble was recovered by Duke's Twazanga Mugala. The turnover set up Jones' 1-yard scoring pass to Davis Koppenhaver.

On following kickoff, Juanyeh Thomas lost the ball when hit by Mataeo Durant. Brandon Hill recovered at the Georgia Tech 6. Jones' scoring pass to Jonathan Lloyd gave Duke a 28-7 lead. "It's how we play our best, to blend defense, the kicking game and offense," said Duke coach David Cutcliffe. "That was a storm, it wasn't a blend." Georgia Tech lost three of its six fumbles. "I'm not sure what happened, but that's unacceptable and we're going to fix it as a team," Howard said.

Georgia Tech's only first-half touchdown, a 32-yard pass from Marshall to Malachi Carter, was set up by Lamont Simmons' interception. Jones was pressured and appeared to be trying to just throw the ball away.

Howard's 2-yard scoring run midway through the fourth quarter cut Duke's lead to 28-14. He led Georgia Tech with 62 yards rushing.

Marshall had 16 carries for only 41 yards before leaving the game in the fourth quarter with an apparent shoulder injury. "It was sore and we didn't want to put him back in," Johnson said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Duke: The Blue Devils had an impressive answer to their first loss of the season to Virginia Tech on Sept. 29. Duke, third in the ACC in scoring defense and fifth in total defense, contained Georgia Tech's spread option attack. Aside from his poor first-half pass that was intercepted, Jones avoided mistakes and capitalized when the Yellow Jackets suffered their sudden spree of turnovers.

Georgia Tech: The two-game offensive surge against Bowling Green and Louisville now looks like a blip on the Yellow Jackets' schedule. The offense was held to no more than 21 points in ACC losses to Pittsburgh and Clemson and again was underwhelming against Duke. The Yellow Jackets again will be playing to try to save their season when they play their next two games on the road against Virginia Tech and North Carolina.

YEAR-ROUND COMMITMENT

Duke has four wins in its last five games against Georgia Tech, including two straight. Cutcliffe said his preparation for the Yellow Jackets' option offense begins in the spring.

"We do a good job of making it familiar for our players year-round," Cutcliffe said. "It's a playbook. It literally is a system and we teach the system to our kids in the spring. ... Then I think we do a good job of simulating their offense in practice."

INJURY REPORT

Cutcliffe said DT Edgar Cerenord suffered an Achilles tendon injury. ... Georgia Tech lost LB David Curry and WR Stephen Dolphus to upper-body injuries in the first half. Georgia Tech RT Andrew Marshall (upper body injury) and WR Jalen Camp (lower body injury) were held out.

WELCOME BACK

Former Georgia Tech player and coach Bill Curry was an honorary captain on homecoming and was on the field for the opening coin toss.

SCUFFLE, EJECTION

Georgia Tech's Victor Alexander was ejected for throwing punches in an altercation with Duke's Brandon Feamster, who lost his helmet. Others players also were involved. Georgia Tech coaches pulled Alexander to the sideline, and each team was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
DUKE	7	0	21	0	28
GT	0	7	0	7	14

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER	DUKE	GT
TD 13:31 Deon Jackson 12 Yd Run (Collin Wareham Kick)		
4 plays, 52 yards, 1:17	7	0
second Quarter	DUKE	GT
TD 0:54 Malachi Carter 32 Yd pass from TaQuon Marshall (Wesley Wells Kick)		
2 plays, 31 yards, 0:48	7	7
third Quarter	DUKE	GT
TD 1:49 T.J. Rahming 48 Yd pass from Daniel Jones (Collin Wareham Kick)		
4 plays, 57 yards, 0:52	14	7
TD 0:15 Davis Koppenhaver 1 Yd pass from Daniel Jones (Collin Wareham Kick)		
5 plays, 34 yards, 1:41	21	7
TD 0:00 Johnathan Lloyd 6 Yd pass from Daniel Jones (Collin Wareham Kick)		
1 play, 6 yards, 0:00	28	7
fourth Quarter	DUKE	GT
TD 7:51 Jerry Howard 2 Yd Run (Wesley Wells Kick)		
15 plays, 75 yards, 7:09	28	14

Team Stats	DUKE	GT
First Downs	19	20
Total Yards	304	354
Total Plays	60	78
Avg Gain Per Play	5.1	4.5
Net Yards Rushing	98	229
Rushes	33	61
Yards Per Rush	3.0	3.8
Net Yards Passing	206	125
Comp-Att	17-27	7-17
Yards Per Pass	7.6	7.4
Times Sacked	3	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-22	-24
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	3	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	3	3
Penalty Yards	15	18
Fumbles	4	6
Fumbles Lost	2	3
Possession	23:40	36:20

Individual Stats

RUSHING

DUKE	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
25 Deon Jackson	21	98	4.7	18	1
17 Daniel Jones	9	4	0.4	10	0
GT	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
15 Jerry Howard	12	62	5.2	12	1
16 TaQuon Marshall	16	41	2.6	26	0
24 Jordan Mason	12	39	3.3	9	0
22 Clinton Lynch	5	32	6.4	19	0
8 Tobias Oliver	10	24	2.4	8	0
1 Qua Searcy	3	15	5.0	11	0
31 Nathan Cottrell	2	12	6.0	8	0
4 James Graham	1	4	4.0	4	0

PASSING

DUKE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
17 Daniel Jones	17	27	206	7.6	3	1	156.3
GT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
TaQuon Marshall	5	11	91	8.3	1	0	144.9
8 Tobias Oliver	2	6	34	5.7	0	0	80.9

RECEIVING

DUKE	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
3 T.J. Rahming	4	91	22.8	48	1
82 Chris Taylor	2	30	15.0	19	0
80 Daniel Helm	2	29	14.5	19	0
8 Aaron Young	3	25	8.3	11	0
19 Jake Bobo	1	12	12.0	12	0
5 Johnathan Lloyd	2	10	5.0	6	1
25 Deon Jackson	2	8	4.0	4	0
81 Davis Koppenhaver	1	1	1.0	1	1
GT	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
83 Brad Stewart	2	46	23.0	25	0
81 Malachi Carter	1	32	32.0	32	1
1 Qua Searcy	1	25	25.0	25	0
15 Jerry Howard	1	16	16.0	16	0
31 Nathan Cottrell	2	6	3.0	9	0