



Duke University

Duke Player Quotes

January 4, 2019 - Clemson Preview

FRESHMAN GUARD TRE JONES

On improving the half-court offense:

"We saw last game that every game we're not going to be able to push the ball as much as we'd like to, so we've been working on our half-court execution. We realize that in a lot of these games coming up that teams are going to try and slow us down."

On having a two week break in between games:

"I feel really good. We came back from the break almost refreshed. We got to spend almost a week back home with our families, and we all came back pretty refreshed. We have gotten about a week of practice in so we don't feel any rust at all. We've been going extremely hard and we're ready for ACC play."

On feeling refreshed:

"They're always going to be some guys with some small things, but for myself, I feel as healthy as I've felt all season now. I'm feeling good going into ACC play."

On matching up with Clemson:

"They're [veteran] and experienced. Three of their main guys were here a couple years ago when they played here as well. They've been here and they're experienced guys. They've been to the Sweet 16 and things like that. We know that we've got an experienced, old group coming in and we've just got to bring it to them."

On advice from the older guys in regards to conference play:

"The older guys as well as the coaches have just been telling us that our record is 0-0 now. None of these games in the past have really meant anything to the ACC games, and the ACC is a different beast."

JUNIOR FORWARD JACK WHITE

On winning the ACC:

"It's definitely something we're aware of, and definitely as a group it's one of our major goals. We know that a Duke team hasn't done this in a long time, and obviously the standards we set for our team are high. It's definitely one of those things you want to check off the list in terms of achievements."

On competing in the conference:

"We just have to come in every game and treat it like it's a championship game. Every team we play against from here on out is going to be pretty good. They're going to push us and they're going to test us, especially teams like Clemson where they're a bit older. They're going to be more physical and try to punk us in a sense. We just have to show up every day and take care of what we can control, while getting better."

On the two week break:

"I think guys came back refreshed and just ready to get back into it. We've had a good stretch of practices over the week. It kind of kept guys in the mindset of being ready to play games. We've competed a lot as group within our team. At this point after going over all of the scouting, I think we're just ready to get back out and compete in Cameron. We've definitely looked at some things from the nonconference games that we can build one what we have already to keep moving in the right direction."

On advice to the younger guys in conference play:

"The main thing is that you've got to be ready every day and every game. Every player for every team is really good and if we're not on our game, we can easily be knocked off. Especially if we're ranked as the No. 1 team in the country, we've got a target on our heads and we're going to get everyone's best shot. We've got to rise up to that challenge every game, and every day take care of what we need to do. Every game is going to be a fight. Every team is going to be coming at us and we've got to go right back at them."

On matching up with Clemson:

"We just need to be tough. They're an older team, and we've got to be tough and together. They're probably going to try some things to shake us up a bit, but I think we just have to stay together, defend and play our game. I don't think we should fall into the trap of playing their style, we should continue to push the pace and be aggressive defensively. Especially on their big guy down low, along with Mitchell and Reed. Taking those players out of the game will be huge for us. Our defensive pride has grown a lot over the course of the season so far. Our defense will be a big focus for us in taking those guys out and showing that we're one of if not the best defensive team in the country."