



Duke University

Duke Player Quotes

January 5, 2019 - vs. Clemson

FRESHMAN FORWARD ZION WILLIAMSON

"We haven't played in 15 days so we had a lot of rust, but you've got to give credit to Clemson. They're a really good team. They have a lot of veterans, they really play well, but I think in the second half when we came out, we were more locked in and our defense was just there. In the second half, big shout-out to Tre [Jones]. When he puts that ball pressure on them, it disrupts their whole offense and it allows the rest of us to get steals."

"Coach K always says we're good but we could be better. I understand nobody's going to be a perfect player - to have a perfect game is extremely hard. But I feel like when you set high standards for yourself, you have less room for error. One turnover can come back and cost the game. We could lose by one. So I'm just always setting high standards for myself."

On the play of Duke's Jack White:

"As Coach K calls him, he's the glue to our defense. Jack can guard the best perimeter player and guard the best post player, and he just comes in and he's strong. He tries to get every rebound. Having a captain like that who comes off the bench and doesn't have a problem with it, that's somebody I want to go into war with. I just have so much respect for Jack because he always comes in and he does what we need to do."

On his second half breakout 360° dunk:

"Tre [Jones] was putting real good ball pressure [on Clemson], and Coach [Jon] Scheyer gave me the plan that when [a Clemson player] spins, to go get the steal. It worked perfectly and once I got the steal, I looked back to see if anybody was there, nobody was there, and it was just poetry in motion. Float in the air and at the last second you just punch it, and the crowd just goes into a frenzy. I love it."

JUNIOR GUARD TRE JONES

On his career-high nine assists tonight:

"Just being able to hand out assists, all the credit goes to my teammates. They make it a lot easier for me. I'm just trying to set them up to be successful and they're able to make plays out of it, so they definitely make me look good, and they make my job a lot easier. This is what I've been looking forward to my entire life. It's been my dream to play at Duke, so now that I'm here, I'm just trying to do it to the best of my abilities."

When asked what he sees as the keys to his ball pressure on defense:

"As a point guard, I know what's going through other point guards' minds throughout the game. There are times where you get tired, there are times where you just want to be able to see the floor, there are times when you don't want guys pressuring you, things like that. As a defender, I'm just picturing what's going through their mind and trying to do what makes them uncomfortable and can take them out of their offense."

On the play of Duke's Jack White:

"He definitely fills whatever gap that we need, whether it's rebounding or scoring, moving the ball, getting in the gaps. Whatever it is that we need him to do, he always seems to find himself in those positions doing those things. He keeps getting more and more confidence, and he keeps playing better and better."

JUNIOR FORWARD JACK WHITE

When asked what he thinks he brings to this Duke team on the defensive end:

"I think leadership and talk. I think talk is a big thing. It's something that some of these younger guys aren't kind of used to doing at the level that the ACC and college basketball demands. I'm just trying to lead by example on that end and just trying to make their job easier really. I feel like I understand the team defense and the concepts that we have, so I'm just trying to direct guys and get guys in the right spot, making guys feel comfortable out there guarding the ball, especially Tre [Jones] when he's out there on an island. I'm just trying to do what I can."

When asked how confident he's become in his role of coming off the bench and knocking down key shots when Duke needs them:

"I think I've become very comfortable. I think that just comes from the coaching staff and the other players give me a lot of confidence, but I'm not really thinking about my own plays. I'm just trying to work out how I can help the team win and what we need as a group. If I'm open for a three in the corner and it's a shot we need at that time, I'm going to have the confidence to knock it in. It's just kind of how the game goes - sometimes the ball falls your way and sometimes it doesn't. I was fortunate that I got set up in some pretty good spots tonight to hit some shots and thanks to the guys for creating some offense and driving and kicking."