

# Atlantic Coast Conference Operation Basketball

Wednesday October 28, 2015

## Demetrius Jackson

Notre Dame Fighting Irish



**Q. There were times last year when you guys were playing offense that just looked beautiful and it looked fun to play in. When you're in those moments, are you like, this is the way we're supposed to be doing this?**

DEMETRIUS JACKSON: Yeah, definitely. I think we kind of lose ourselves in those moments, and that all comes from reps, 5 on 0 in practice, 5 on 5 in practice.

Coach does a great job of getting us real game situations in practice, and so when it comes to games, we've been there before, we've done it before, and that's something we want to continue to do.

**Q. I mean, you had great individual talent last year, obviously, and some of that is left, but is it a system thing where guys can be plugged in and continue to play that effectively?**

DEMETRIUS JACKSON: Yeah, it is a system thing, but at the same time guys have to work hard, have to be better, have to continue to develop as the year goes on, and definitely a system thing. Coach puts us in the right spots to be successful, but then it's up to us, you know, to do those things.

**Q. Last year Grant forced the action a lot down low, went to the free-throw line 218 times. Is there an expectation that as you get a little bit more involved with the offense that you're going to have to have that same type of productivity to get to the stripe more often?**

DEMETRIUS JACKSON: Yeah, definitely being productive, being efficient, just being a great leader for our team, being a great point guard, and I still have a long way to go. I'm still learning.

Zach is helping me out every single day. Our other leaders are helping me out, and our whole team is just helping me get better. Like I said, I want to be playing my best basketball by March, and just keep getting better and enjoy the process.

**Q. Do you have point guard role models that you look at, whether inside the league, inside college baseball or nationally or internationally that you like?**

DEMETRIUS JACKSON: Yeah, I think one of them was

on last night. He had 24 points in the first half. But especially Jerian, also.

But I'm just a student of the game. I love watching basketball, I love watching great point guards do what they do and learn. So every time I turn on the TV, I'm trying to learn.

**Q. Demetrius, being a local guy, what did winning the ACC Tournament last year mean to this program? What does it mean locally, but what does it mean collectively at Notre Dame, I guess?**

DEMETRIUS JACKSON: It shows us that hard work really does pay off, and we worked our butts off all off-season, all season long, and so we really kind of saw how that hard work was put into play. So we kind of know what it feels like to be there.

I guess where that helps us is since we've been there before, we know what it takes to get back there.

**Q. Demetrius, Notre Dame football is kind of a polarizing thing where there's a lot of people that love them and a lot of people that hate them. You guys were darlings in the tournament last year. Did you Lord that over the football players that everybody likes us?**

DEMETRIUS JACKSON: I don't think so. I didn't, maybe Zach did some other guys, tease them a little bit. I think a great thing that Notre Dame does, we all support each other, all the student-athletes, all the students, professors, everybody just really supports each other. It's a great community, so that definitely helps when you go and play.

**Q. Last year seven players were the rotation. Is the bench going to be extended by an eighth player, a ninth player? What do you think the rotation now is going to feel like?**

DEMETRIUS JACKSON: Yeah, I think ultimately that's up to Coach, but at the same time I think we have guys who can play. We have a really deep team. We have a lot of hard workers. We have a lot of talented players. So if Coach decides to do that, I think guys will step in, and we really have developed that next-man-up mentality, so guys will step in and fill the void and be ready to go.

**Q. The question about football came up, obviously**

**football being as storied as it is. Women's basketball obviously has a pretty good tradition, as well, raising the trophy last year. How much do having these other programs be successful either inspire you, give you confidence, your team?**

DEMETRIUS JACKSON: Yeah, they really inspire us. You know, girls' basketball, year after year, women's basketball, they're always there, so we see what they do. We just kind of inspire from it. We want to get better. We learned a few things here and there from them, and we just try to play Notre Dame basketball.