

Oklahoma City Thunder Media Conference

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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA

Jaylin Williams Press Conference



Q. What's your first thoughts on having spent some time in OKC with the city, the fans? What do you think so far?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: It's great. Everybody shows a lot of love. It's similar to Arkansas, honestly. Everybody is super nice. People will hold the door open for you. I know it's not a big thing, but people do stuff like that. Everybody is just super nice here.

Like I tell all my family back in Arkansas, it's the same as Arkansas, just a little bit more. That's exactly what I tell them, and I like it here. I love it.

Q. Speaking of that, Sam had mentioned that you're already out in the community, meeting a lot of folks. What's that been like, and has that been -- I know you guys have certain things as a team that you go out and do, but is that something you in specific have kind of taken an important thing for you?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: I mean, I'm not just -- I wouldn't say I'm just going out there and doing stuff like that, but I'm not staying out of the way. Like I'm going out and going to the mall and doing things like that, and of course if kids see me they want pictures and stuff like that.

I try to remember I used to be in their position, and if I saw an NBA player I'd freak out, so I just always try to be super nice with them and be cool with them.

Q. Have you had a chance to talk to Kam Woods?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: Yeah, we see him every day. He's a really good guy. Back in Summer League he was our coach, and he was a really good brain to pick, and he was helping me out with a lot of stuff. Even in pre-draft when I worked out here, he was helping me with some defensive coverages and things like that.

He's a really good basketball mind, and I love picking the game from a lot of people.

Q. Jaylin, I asked Lindy just a second ago if you and the other Jalen, if there's been any confusion. He said you guys were adamant about nicknames. Is that true?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: Yes, for sure. It was like within the first hour or two of us getting here, like right after we got drafted we decided on what we were being called. Like it worked out perfectly. I got called J-Will by my family and friends and he got called Dub by his family and friends, so it just worked out.

He was just talking about it like okay, he's Dub, I'm J-Will, so it just makes it easy, and the team all got it down. Everybody on the team got it down, so we're good right now.

Q. I think it was Tre or maybe Aaron was trying to get you to just be J or something different. Have they tried that at all?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: A lot of them call my J. It's J, Will, or J-Will. They call me all three, and we mostly call him Dub.

Q. So if somebody just called you J --

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: I'm cool with it. I'll look right at them like what's up.

Q. With the recent retirement of the No. 6 due to Bill Russell's passing, you're one of the last players to wear No. 6. What does it mean to you to carry that legacy for him?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: It's an honor. It's an honor. When I was picking the number, it wasn't that big of a number. I just asked my dad which number he thought was better. Now that there's a great meaning behind it, we're wearing it on our jersey, and it's an honor honestly just being able to represent the number, and it's really cool at the same time.

Q. You guys have a few guys on the team that have really nice hair. Who do you think has the best hair on the team?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: I feel like I've got to go with myself just because it's me, but --

Q. If you can't pick yourself?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: Shai. I like Shai's hair. He's got the little braids.

Q. I've got to ask you about Chet. You obviously got a chance to play some with him before he got hurt. How have you seen him react to the injury, and what's your sense of just how he's going to not maybe impact on the court this season but just impact this team as he rehabs?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: One thing I've learned about Chet since I've been around here and even a little bit before I knew him as a teammate, he's going to work. He's always been a guy that's working. He's always in the gym, weight room.

Now that he's on that scooter, he's still rolling around in the gym and the weight room. He's still there at all times with a smile on his face, being a cool teammate.

We went to the museum and me and him rode back to -- I took him back to his house because of course he can't drive, and like we just talked the whole time. He's a really great teammate, and Chet is a really great guy.

Q. How has your approach -- obviously it's disappointing, of course, but how have you seen him sort of move on from that disappointment, I guess?

JAYLIN WILLIAMS: I know that he's super eager just to work, keep working. He's still in that same mindset even though it might be a different approach, might be a different race. But he's still super eager.

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