



Scouting Report: QB Daniel Jones, Duke

**Our QB grades can and will change as more information comes in from Pro Day workouts, leaked Wonderlic test results, etc. We will update ratings as new info becomes available.*

Daniel Jones is the kind of QB prospect that NFL coaches and GMs are going to love, and I think the scouts, knowing that, will pile right in. Jones is going to get a lot of support because of factors which have absolutely nothing to do with analyzing QB play.

He's smart...like turned down Ivy League offers to go play for Duke smart. He's tall...6'3"-6'4". He's coached by a respected QB coach...Duke head coach **David Cutcliffe**. He has some zip in his arm. He's got everything you want your daughter to date/join your NFL franchise.

...so, how come he completed just under 60% (59.9%) of his passes in three years at Duke? And with a 52 TD/29 INT ratio?

The problem overall with Jones, from my vantage point, is wrapped up in this observation – **Daniel Jones** checks down to a running back flaring out of the backfield A LOT. I mean, it's hard to sit through a game wanting to watch him make big boy throws because he's dropping back, looking downfield for a moment, just as a way to distract from his pre-planned/desire to then turn quickly and fire to the RB flaring. He completed 59.9% of his passes in his career, but take away all those easy flares and he might be closer to 50% accuracy.

Jones looks like a robotic/well-coached quarterback. Nice form in the pocket, will use good mechanics throwing his flare passes or quick slants or one-on-one coverage floaters down the sidelines on a deep ball. Many QBs can look solid that way. But when under pressure or when the easy stuff is taken away – can they find receivers in tight windows, or inside a zone in stride? Jones is simply 'not that guy'. Old-school coaches will love his temperament and low-risk activity – just run the set plays (like the Arizona Cardinals' offense in the 2018 NFL season) and don't turn the ball over. He's a nice 2nd-3rd string QB for the NFL, but if he's thrust to starter, eventually his weaknesses will be exposed, and he'll fail – he's kinda like the new **Paxton Lynch** in that way.

I watched Jones against tougher opponents/defenses (like Clemson and Miami), and I watched his best games (on paper) – like his 4 TD/0 INT game vs. Pitt or 5 TDs/2 INTs in his Bowl game vs. Temple 2018. I just never saw anything to get all that excited about. He's not terrible, he not like **DeShone Kizer** bad...he's just more a **Nick Mullens**-ish (maybe worse than Mullens) type of fill-in who can run the offense in an emergency if you keep things to a minimum need from the QB's part.

I'd judge him a below-average arm. In a perfect pocket, he can step in and zing it acceptably. But if anything is muddy, he has a bad hitch in his throws and his sideline passes tend to float, wobble, waffle their way to the target – he labors to throw for distance in a non-perfect pocket. He reads defenses sometimes and makes some good throws from time to time but more often, he misses the open guy because he checks down or takes off running. There's just no 'it' here...I feel like I'm watching a robot



copy of every weak QB prospect that's been pushed upon us the past decade. He's not incompetent, he's just not a franchise QB talent – he's **Sam Darnold** without the USC hype behind him (and we think Darnold is not good at all, from a 'franchise' standpoint).

Daniel Jones, Through the Lens of Our QB Scouting Algorithm:

The best defenses Jones faced in 2018: Virginia, Clemson, Miami, Army...and he posted 52.6% Comp. Pct., 181.3 yards per game, and 2 TDs/3 INTs total.

In the past two seasons, Jones has played 24 games – 14 (58.3% of the time) of them with 220 yards or less passing in the game...and it wasn't for lack of pass attempts.

300 or more passing yards in that same span: 5 times (20.8% of the time).

Jones is just not an 'it' passer...there is nothing in his performance on paper or on tape that shows that high-functioning, future NFL great – in an era where good-great QB prospects are falling out of the sky all over the place.

Jones did run for 100+ yards in a game twice in his career. He's not a dual-threat QB or anything like that – he's more just above-average quick, like a 4.7+ runner.

The Historical QB Prospects to Whom Daniel Jones Most Compares Within Our System:

All the QB prospect comps make sense to me. I mentioned Jones with Lynch before I knew he was a comp in our system. **Austin Davis** makes sense too – beloved NFL backup, fails every time he gets a bigger chance.

I feel like Jones is positioned properly among this group...likely a beloved NFL backup but he's a little better than the lovable, scrappy backups of old – Jones was schooled in this more modern era of passer. So, he's a little better prepared for the NFL. Still... 'lacking'.



2019 NFL DRAFT SCOUTING REPORT

JANUARY 11, 2019

<u>QB-Score</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Adj Comp Pct</u>	<u>Adj Yds per Comp</u>	<u>Adj Pass per TD</u>	<u>Adj Pass Per INT</u>
6.333	Jones	Daniel	2019	Duke	76.0	220	60.9%	10.9	19.4	48.6
4.586	Lynch	Paxton	2016	Memphis	78.0	245	62.1%	11.1	24.8	60.6
5.619	Ainge	Erik	2008	Tennessee	77.5	225	59.2%	11.4	22.1	46.7
3.561	Davis	Austin	2012	So Miss	73.1	221	56.4%	12.0	17.5	39.6
4.240	Bercovici	Mike	2016	Arizona St	73.5	209	58.6%	11.8	23.5	58.5
4.755	Walter	Andrew	2005	Arizona St	78.1	233	58.4%	11.6	20.1	35.9

*“Adj” = A view of adjusted college output in our system...adjusted for strength of opponent.

**A score of 8.5+ is where we see a stronger correlation of QBs going on to become NFL good-to-great. A scouting score of 9.5+ is rarefied air—higher potential for becoming great-to-elite.

QB's scoring 6.0–8.0 are finding more success in the new passing era of the NFL (2014–on). Depending upon the system and surrounding weapons, a 6.0–8.0 rated QB can do fine in today's NFL—with the right circumstances...but they are not ‘the next Tom Brady’ guys, just NFL-useful guys.

2019 NFL Draft Outlook:

I see Jones' rankings all over the map – he's going to be a ‘beauty in the eye of the beholder’ prospect, and I think scouts/analysts will like him more than question him. He won't get 1st-round heat, but I could see 2nd-3rd-round/top 100 pick based on his ‘smarts’ and ‘build’.

If I were an NFL GM, I'm really not interested. There are much better QB prospects in this draft or any draft, and many available after Jones is taken.

NFL Outlook:

Taken to be a backup, everyone cheers at the value, sits behind an established starter for years, plays ‘meh’ in the preseason, everyone forgets about him over time and then you wonder why a team wasted so many years on him if he didn't have the it?

“...but he knows the playbook so well!”



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