



2014 SEC Football Media Days Tennessee Player Quotes

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Middle Line Backer Senior A.J. Johnson

(On the offseason and what Coach Jones expects of the team)

"It's been real great. It's been a great offseason. We had a good spring, and then this summer, we've been working real hard. We've got a lot of guys getting PR's (personal records), and we're just building from last summer. We've got double the guys getting PR's and we've got double the guys getting their goal times and that's the key, working. Any football team, if you're working hard during the summer to bring it together, you're going to have a good season and a road paved for you for the season coming."

(On role as a leader to the young players)

"My role in that is helping and being a better leader, just building myself to be a better leader, being more vocal and having other guys around me that are being vocal and leading as well. Just having a group of guys who lead and help the whole team and the young guys who came in, they've been working real hard. Some of the guys who came in early in the spring are already on beat, working, being vocal, just as though they've been here for 3 or 4 years. And the guys who just got here this summer, they've got their head down working each day. Some guys came in already knowing the whole defense and are ready to play. You can tell the way they are working, how much they put into their work. It's going to help us a lot. We've got older guys and we've got younger guys, so we've got competition. If you've got competition, everybody is going to go harder and play better."

(On decision to pass on the NFL draft and come back for senior season)

"There's a lot on that, a lot that helped me make that decision. It was one of the toughest decisions I've had to make so far. The two things that really sold me on coming back were that when I came to Tennessee, I came here to build the program up and help to come back to a winning program. This is my senior year, so I'll have one more year to do that, and get some wins and leave a winner. The other big decision is I get to graduate in December and leave with a degree. That's going to help me throughout life."