2018 SEC Football Media Days
Auburn Player Quotes
Thursday, July 19

Senior Defensive Lineman Dontavius Russell

On expectations for this year and if they can win it all…
"We are in a position where we have a lot of people coming back, and I think that puts us in a position to compete with the teams we play throughout the season. Especially with where we are now, the season hasn't started yet, so we aren't thinking that far ahead."

On playing LSU at home this year…
"The past couple of years, we've gone back and forth between the two. It's almost like whoever is playing at home wins the game. There have been some good games. There's always something to watch, and I always look forward to playing them."

On if he feels like the defensive line is overlooked…
"No, I don't think so. I feel like we get enough recognition as it is. I feel like being acknowledged as underrated is acknowledgement enough."

On having a deep defensive line group…
"I'm always going to give it my all, but that's exactly how I feel. You don't have to worry about the situation where it's coming out of the game because of the caliber of talent we have. We can rotate down and in and down and out, and not have to worry about it. We are in a good spot."

On South Carolina Head Coach Will Muschamp and his time at Auburn…
"Coach Muschamp was a guy that recruited me coming out of high school to Florida. I was excited to come to Auburn, but I was happy when he got there. He brought a lot of energy to our team. He was the guy that started turning us into a good defense, which we became the year after he left. He got a lot of things rolling that we needed, and I appreciate him for that."

On playing Washington to begin the season…
"That's something that we do at Auburn frequently. For the past four years or so, we've played big games at the beginning of the season. My first year, we played Louisville in Lamar Jackson's first year, and we played Clemson the past two years early in the season. It's one of those things that we are kind of used to, but we still have to acknowledge the fact that they are a high caliber opponent."