



South Carolina Gamecocks

Meechie Johnson & Ta'Lon Cooper

Meechie Johnson

What were your initial thoughts when the preseason rankings came out, having y'all at 14th in the league?

"I actually didn't find out until about an hour ago when I came in. I don't believe in it. I understand coming off of the season we had they probably would've picked us that when it was said and done. We don't have big names like other teams but, the team has been working hard. The team has been in the gym getting better and I think we are going to shock and surprise a lot of people this year as long as we can stay the course."

As an older guy of the team, how do you approach it with your teammates? Do you ignore it and play with a chip on your shoulder, or do you embrace it?

"You embrace it, and you play with a chip on your shoulder. When you are picked last, you're not going to act like it isn't a thing and it isn't reality but at the same time you take it day by day, practice by practice and you continue to get better and make them compete in practice and work which we've been doing. We definitely have that chip on our shoulder to the point where we understand that teams are calling us out, everybody is calling us out and we have to go out there and get it."

Ta'Lon Cooper

How would you say the transition has gone for you as you made the move from Minnesota back to South Carolina?

"I feel like the transition has been really good. You know, I have Meechie [Johnson] and Jacobi [Wright] in the backcourt helping me — bringing me along, so I'd say the transition has been pretty good to me."