



Tennessee Volunteer

Santiago Vescovi & Zakai Zeigler

Santiago Vescovi

On what it means to be picked to finish first in the SEC...

"We really appreciate the respect from everyone. We feel very lucky to be where we are, we know, of course, it doesn't matter where you start, it matters where you finish. We just have to stay focused. We know it's a really tough league – there's a lot of good teams and good players. Like I said, we really appreciate that respect, but we know we've got to put a lot of work into it so it can matter at the end of the year."

On his favorite timeout story from Coach Rick Barnes...

"Probably the funniest thing to me is that there's been a couple times where coach just gave one of the players the white board. He literally just stepped back and had one of the players handle it. 'You do the huddle, you draw the plays, you tell them whatever you want. You all got it.'"

On why Coach Barnes has done that...

"Normally, he does it in the beginning of the year, he's trying to work on leadership and how we react to each other, how special guys can lead the team and what they see on the team is really important at that time as well. Pretty much just giving us the power to talk about what we feel and see what we need to get better at."

Zakai Zeigler

What unfinished business do you feel there is for you individually and for the team?

"I would say unfinished business for the team is a national championship. That's always the end goal for us no matter what. We don't go into the year thinking of personal goals because with team goals, come personal goals. So, if we're all winning, then we're all winning personally too. I just look at it as just us getting to that final weekend."

How beneficial is it for you guys to have so many veterans and upperclassmen, especially guys who have been in the program previously?

"I feel like it's a great thing for us because with that experience, the freshman and newcomers can see what coach really wants and how he likes things done and what it takes to really help us to win."

