

SPORTS



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Former South Carolina star Emmanwori helps get Seahawks to Super Bowl, 1A



South Carolina guard Tessa Johnson (5) drives against Mississippi State forward Madison Francis (40) on Feb. 5 in Columbia. JEFF BLAKE-IMAGN IMAGES

Edwards reaches 1,000 career points

Lulu Kesin
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA — South Carolina women’s basketball forward Joyce Edwards scored her 1,000th career point, notching the milestone in the third quarter in the 88-45 win over Mississippi State on Feb. 5.

She got there in 64 games, fewer than Gamecocks legend A’ja Wilson, who scored her 1,000th in her 69th career game to close her sophomore year. Edwards said she didn’t know she was 18 away from the milestone or that she did it in fewer games than Wilson.

“Obviously she’s a great player, I’m trying to be where she’s at,” Edwards said. “I don’t think it really means much because she accomplished so much more than me in basketball. Everyone’s goal is to be like her.”

Edwards finished with 21 points. Edwards is the fifth-fastest player to score 1,000 points in program history. Katrina Anderson was the quickest,

See EDWARDS, Page 2B



South Carolina forward Joyce Edwards (8) drives past Mississippi State forward Kharyssa Richardson (33) on Feb. 5. JEFF BLAKE-IMAGN IMAGES

What injuries could mean vs Vols, LSU

Lulu Kesin
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA — South Carolina women’s basketball finished with only eight players in its 88-45 win over Mississippi State on Feb. 5 in Colonial Life Arena.

The No. 3 Gamecocks (23-2, 9-1SEC) have been bitten by the injury bug since September, losing star forward Chloe Kitts to an ACL tear before the season, then battling various injuries throughout non-conference play.

In its only two losses however South Carolina has had its full roster, falling to Texas on Nov. 27 with 10 (before Ali-

SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

cia Tournebize arrived) then losing to Oklahoma on Jan. 22 with all 11 healthy.

But with No. 17 Tennessee on Feb. 8 (3 p.m. ET, ABC) then No. 5 LSU on Feb. 14 (8:30 p.m. ET, ABC) up next it’s critical to get healthy not just for numbers but because of who is currently injured.

Ta’Niya Latson and Agot Makeer missed the last two games with lower leg injuries, and Tessa Johnson was kept out of the second half of the Mississippi State game with soreness.

Those three starting guards are fundamental elements to coach Dawn Staley’s offense and defense.

How South Carolina guards match up vs Tennessee

Tennessee is a very fast-paced team that subs out in hockey shifts, meaning it’s rare to see any of its five players tired.

That will require a lot from Staley’s guards, as they are constantly pressed and forced to be smart and quick with ball movement, which is physically and

See INJURIES, Page 2B

Beamer agrees with Swinney about tampering

Derrian Carter
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Dabo Swinney shocked the college football world by calling out Ole Miss and Rebels coach Pete Golding on Jan. 23 for what the Clemson football coach said was tampering with transfer linebacker Luke Ferrelli.

South Carolina football coach Shane Beamer agreed with Swinney’s public plea to help curb tampering.

“What Dabo did? Yes, absolutely, being able to call it out, and I’m sure he, like other schools, turns stuff in when there’s issues and if there’s issues with something,” Beamer said Feb. 4 during a news conference. “... I think a lot of those conversations happen head coach to head coach. Then, if there’s things that need to be turned into the NCAA or the SEC, we have, but certainly to be able to call someone out publicly like that was the next step, and we’ll see what happens.”

Clemson lost Ferrelli, a Cal linebacker who is the ACC’s defensive rookie of the year, to Ole Miss. He transferred to Clemson on Jan. 7, then re-entered the portal on Jan. 16 to transfer to Ole Miss on Jan. 22.

Swinney said Golding was contact-

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ing Ferrelli despite him transferring to Clemson, being enrolled in classes and participating in team workouts. Swinney stated that Golding texted Ferrelli while he was in class at 8 a.m. saying, “I know you’re signed. What’s the buyout?” with a photo of a \$1 million contract.

Swinney submitted the claim to the NCAA and is awaiting the organization’s ruling. Ole Miss has not responded to a request for comment about Swinney’s allegations regarding Golding and Ferrelli.

“I’m gonna let the NCAA handle this, and I’m gonna let them do their job,” Swinney said in January. “I’ll say this, this shouldn’t be a three-year or three-month investigation. This might take three days. They’re either going to tell the truth or they’re gonna lie.”

Beamer said if Swinney’s tampering claim is true, it should warrant a “severe” penalty.

“I would say that myself and every coach in America is sitting around waiting to see what’s going to happen in regards to that situation because if it’s proven that that did happen, and then

See TAMPERING, Page 2B



California Golden Bears linebacker Luke Ferrelli committed to transfer to Clemson, but then switched to Ole Miss. DARREN YAMASHITA-USA TODAY SPORTS

SPORTS ON TV SUNDAY, FEB. 8 (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
12 p.m.
BTN — USC at Penn State
ESPNU — Tulsa at South Florida
1 p.m.
CBS — Michigan at Ohio State
ESPN2 — UNC Greensboro at Furman
FOX — Texas Tech at West Virginia
2 p.m.
BTN — Maryland at Minnesota
CBSSN — UCF at Cincinnati
3 p.m.
FS1 — Northwestern at Iowa
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
12 p.m.
ACCN — N.C. State at Virginia Tech
CBSSN — James Madison at UMass
SECN — Arkansas at Florida
1 p.m.
FS1 — Marquette at Creighton
2 p.m.
ACCN — North Carolina at Wake Forest
CW — SMU at Duke
SECN — LSU at Auburn
3 p.m.
ABC — Tennessee at South Carolina
FOX — UCLA at Michigan
4 p.m.
SECN — Georgia at Missouri
6 p.m.
SECN — Alabama at Texas A&M
COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)
4 p.m.

ACCN — North Carolina at N.C. State
FISHING
8 a.m.
FS1 — Bassmaster Elite Series, Lake Guntersville (Ala.)
GOLF
3:30 a.m.
GOLF — DP World Tour, Qatar Masters, Final Round, Doha, Qatar
12 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour, Phoenix Open, Final Round, Scottsdale, Ariz.
3 p.m.
CBS — PGA Tour, Phoenix Open, Final Round, Scottsdale, Ariz.
HORSE RACING
2 p.m.
FS2 — America's Day at the Races
NFL FOOTBALL
9 a.m.
NFLN — Super Bowl LX GameDay Morning
10 a.m.
ESPN — Super Bowl LX NFL Countdown
12 p.m.
NBC — Road to Super Bowl LX
6:30 p.m.
NBC/PEACOCK — Playoffs, Super Bowl LX, New England vs. Seattle, Santa Clara, Calif.
NBA BASKETBALL
12:30 p.m.
ABC — New York at Boston
2 p.m.

NBA TV — G League, Motor City at Raptors 905
3 p.m.
ESPN — L.A. Clippers at Minnesota
SOCCER (MEN'S)
7 a.m.
CBSSN — English Championship, Sheffield Wednesday at Swansea City
5:50 p.m.
FS2 — CONCACAF, U-17 Qualifier, Group F, Curaçao vs. Belize, Guatemala City, Guatemala
8:50 p.m.
FS2 — CONCACAF, U-17 Qualifier, Group F, El Salvador vs. Cuba, Guatemala City, Guatemala
SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
9 a.m.
CBSSN — Serie A, Ternana at Napoli
TENNIS
5 a.m.
TENNIS — Davis Cup, Qualifiers, USA vs. Hungary & Australia vs. Ecuador; Montpellier-ATP Singles & Doubles Finals; WTA-Mumbai Singles & Doubles Finals; WTA-Quatar Singles & Doubles First Round
WINTER OLYMPICS
3 a.m.
USA — Snowboarding, Parallel Giant Slalom, Men's and Women's Qualifying
4:55 a.m.
USA — Curling, Mixed Doubles, Round

Robin, Norway vs. Czechia and South Korea vs. Estonia
5:30 a.m.
USA — Alpine Skiing, Downhill, Women's Final
7 a.m.
NBC — Alpine Skiing, Cross Country, 20K Skiathlon, Men's Final
7:30 a.m.
NBC — Snowboarding, Parallel Giant Slalom, Men's and Women's Finals
8:35 a.m.
USA — Curling, Mixed Doubles, Round Robin, USA vs. Estonia
8:45 a.m.
NBC — Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, 4x6K relay, Mixed Final
10 a.m.
NBC — Speed Skating, Men's 5,000M
11 a.m.
USA — Luge, Men's Singles, Run 3
12:45 p.m.
USA — Luge, Men's Singles, Run 4
1:30 p.m.
USA — Figure Skating, Pairs' Free Skates
2:45 p.m.
USA — Figure Skating, Women's Free Skate
3:55 p.m.
USA — Figure Skating, Men's Free Skate
6:30 p.m.
USA — Snowboarding, Big Air, Women's Qualifying (tape delay)

Tampering

Continued from Page 1B

nothing happens, then you think it's the 'Wild, Wild West' now, just wait what it's going to turn into," Beamer said.

Did NCAA respond to Clemson's tampering claim against Ole Miss?

On3 and The Athletic reported NCAA vice president of enforcement Jon Duncan released a statement regarding Clemson's claim against Ole Miss:

"The NCAA will investigate any credible allegations of tampering and expect full cooperation from all involved as is required by NCAA rules. We will not comment further on any ongoing investigation."

Why did Dabo Swinney publicly call out Ole Miss, Pete Golding?

College football coaches are vocal about tampering in the transfer portal and high-school recruiting, but they rarely call out schools or coaches like Swinney did.

Swinney said he called out Ole Miss to protect Clemson from future acts of tampering and for the betterment of the sport.

"It's about the message that is being sent if this blatant tampering is allowed to happen without any consequences," Swinney said. "This is about protecting our program. This is about college football."

What is tampering?

Tampering in college athletics is when teams contact players who are on other teams. That is against the rules.

In many cases, teams will do that to try to get players into the transfer portal. However, accusations are rarely publicized.

Teams are not allowed to tamper with athletes, according to NCAA bylaw



Clemson Tigers head coach Dabo Swinney and South Carolina Gamecocks head coach Shane Beamer shake hands before their game Nov. 29. JEFF BLAKE-IMAGN IMAGES

13.11.4. Here's what the full rule says: "An athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall not communicate or make contact with the student-athlete of another NCAA Division I institution, or any individual associated with the student-athlete (e.g., family mem-

ber, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor), directly or indirectly, without first obtaining authorization through the notification of transfer process. Before making contact, directly or indirectly, with a student-athlete of an NCAA Division II or Division III institution, or an NAIA four-year collegiate in-

stitution, an athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the rule of the applicable division or the NAIA rule for making contact with a student-athlete."

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Injuries

Continued from Page 1B

mentally draining.

Staley said a large part of why Johnson didn't play was to "get her ready for the Tennessee game."

Johnson is averaging 14.1 points, which is third on the team, and leads South Carolina in 3-point shooting at 45.9%. Johnson can score quickly, which is helpful vs the type of press Tennessee runs.

Latson is not only the second-leading scorer with 15.2 points but is versatile in how she scores. Raven

Johnson will need help from veterans like Latson and Tessa Johnson, who won't get thrown off by the pace of play.

Staley said Latson was questionable for the Tennessee game.

Makeer is a strong defender who rattled star players like Texas' Madison Booker and can do the same against Tennessee, which scores 47.7% of its points from inside the 3-point line.

How South Carolina guards match up vs LSU

After Tennessee, South Carolina has its toughest road test at LSU, who averages the most points in the

country per game with 98.9.

It might be even more important to be healthy for LSU. Joyce Edwards and Madina Okot will need to attack the paint but the game should come down to guard play.

Raven Johnson can't defend Flau'Jae Johnson, former South Carolina star MiLaysia Fulwiley, MiKaylah Williams and Jada Richard on her own.

South Carolina looked its best in the 103-74 win over Vanderbilt on Jan. 25 when it had all 11 and it will likely take all 11 to beat Tennessee and LSU.

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Edwards

Continued from Page 1B

reaching the milestone in her 47th game in 1979, with Beth Hunt (48 games), Denise Nanney (57) and Shannon Johnson (59) ahead of Edwards. It took Nanney and Johnson three seasons.

When asked if she had visions of reaching milestones like the one tonight, Edwards said no and that players come to South Carolina to win, which is all she tries to do every game. Coach Dawn Staley however started

smirking after she was told Edwards said she didn't know how close she was heading into the game.

"You believed that?" Staley said. "Joyce knows about everything, she knew how close she was, she knew when she when she was going to do it. It's great, she can put the ball in the hole. We're not surprised at how quickly she got it, we're just happy she's on our team."

Joyce Edwards stats with 1,000th career points at South Carolina

Edwards is the leading scorer for the

No. 3 Gamecocks (22-2, 8-1SEC) averaging 20.3 points per game, which is 15th in the nation and third in the conference.

The 6-foot-3 forward is averaging 18 points per SEC game and is coming off a game where she scored 28 against Texas A&M on Feb. 2, 14 of which came in the fourth quarter.

It was her eighth time scoring over 25 and fifth double-double this season. As a freshman she came off the bench but led the Gamecocks in scoring with 12.7 points per game.

She's averaging a 28.7% (team-high) usage rating, scoring an average of 1.06

points per play and 1.24 points per scoring attempt according to Her Hoops Stats.

Edwards is second on the team in field goal percentage at 59.9% behind Madina Okot, who is shooting 60.3%.

From Dec. 7-28, Edwards scored 25 points or more, including two games with 29 and a career-high 34 against USF on Dec. 18. She's scored 20-plus in five of her nine SEC games.

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