



PAC-12 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MEDIA DAY SR. GUARD AMBER ORRANGE AND COACH TARA VANDERVEER// STANFORD

On this upcoming season...

TV: "We're excited to be here, excited for the season. The team has been working hard, but it's a different look out there. We have a tough schedule, but it's been exciting. Amber is our returning All-Pac-12 player, and has been a great leader for us, working harder each and every day."

On preparing for loss of Chiney Ogwumike...

AO: "Well, we have to do it by community, not one person will be able to do what Ogwumike did for us last year. The freshman are stepping up and getting better."

On freshmen...

TV: "Our freshmen are great. Taylor Rooks, from New Jersey, is learning that the pace is quicker than what she's ready for. She's very skilled and hard working, and we're trying to bring her up to speed. If we have a race, Kaylee Johnson will beat everyone in our room. She's super fast, a great rebounder, and has really been a great surprise. She catches on really quickly, and she will play a lot. Brittany McPhee did well during summer, but has pain in her foot, and has not practiced with the team since the summer."

On Pac-12 Conference...

TV: "Having been at Stanford for as long as I have been, every year is really hard. There's never been a year where I went to the Pac-12 press event and not be overwhelmed. We have always had great players, coaches and teams. But the rest of the world haven't known about us. With the Pac-12 Network, the east coasters can watch and record our games instead of sleeping. Do I expect a big battle this year? Yes, but I always have. I always remember it being really good and really deep. And I was sometimes very disappointed when other people didn't recognize that (the depth of the Conference) because it was difficult to win."

On being ranked as coaches' preseason number one...

TV: "My dad always said it's not the start of the race, but the finish. I don't remember last year's preseason poll. Maybe some people use it to motivate their team. I think it's important that we're healthy, we improve, that we like playing together, and we want to be champions in the end. Am I surprised? We aren't allowed to vote for ourselves. We have some great teams in our Conference, but I'm not surprised. We have great players on our team. Hopefully we'll live up to the pick, I don't want to disappoint the other coaches."

Pressure on sophomores and freshmen...

TV: "Pressure is on the assistant coaches to figure out what to do, and to make sure people like Amber have good looks and good opportunities and that we use the strengths of Kailee and Kaylee Johnson that's different than what we used to have. We lost over fifty percent in rebounding last year. But, we like the challenge. It's like they say: take the cork off the champagne, its bubbling. We're excited. We're playing a new style that's hopefully going to work with our skill set."

On being team's "Quarterback"...

AO: "We played a lot and when freshmen had questions, we stayed after. During scrimmages, it's not just one or two people scoring. Everyone is doing everything."

On being only double digit scorer coming back...

AO: "I worked on using my right hand, and also working on my mental game, having a presence on the court, getting people together. It's not intuitive to me, I do a lot of visualization before practice."