MU News Bureau

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MU graduate saves basketball player's life

By DANIEL ESTEVE


COLUMBIA – Last Saturday, the men's South Carolina State Bulldog basketball team lost 103-71 to the North Carolina State Wolfpack, but one bulldog player almost lost more than just a basketball game.

Roughly five minutes into the game, Tyvoris Solomon exited the game for the first time, and, upon returning to the bench, he collapsed.

South Carolina State Athletic Trainer Tyler Long was one of Solomon’s first responders.

Flashback two years ago, when, dressed head-to-toe in black and gold, Long was set to receive a Health Science degree in Athletic Training from the University of Missouri. Long is now a second-year graduate assistant at the University of South Carolina while he completes his clinical work with South Carolina State University. MU Athletic Training Program Director David Colt said Long completed a three-year professional program during his time at MU, and emergency situations were, and still are, a focal point.

“Our first practicum class is emergency management,” Colt said. “We try to get as much real experience as we can, but it’s tough because you can’t create an emergency.”

Back in Columbia, a mannequin named “Sim-Man” is used to recreate emergency situations, but nothing could compare to a real emergency situation.

Nevertheless, Long knew just what to do when he was faced with one.

“I told [Long] that I loved him,” Solomon said in an interview with our sister station, WRAL. “He just said he was doing his job.”

Solomon is awake and stable in Rex Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina.
Colt said he was proud of Long’s responsiveness, but the result of his work was most important. “You’re proud of the fact that he handled it well. The fact that he took what we taught him and put it to use,” Colt said. “Thankfully, the young man that was in trouble is alive, and that is the most important thing.”

Missouri women's basketball continues upward trend, ranked No. 17 in AP poll

As Missouri women’s basketball continues to win games, it continues to climb in the Associated Press Top 25.

The Tigers went 2-0 over the past week — bringing their winning streak to seven games — and jumped two spots to No. 17 in Monday’s AP poll. Missouri appeared on all but one of the 32 ballots submitted, and it’s the second straight week Robin Pingeton’s team has improved in the rankings.

Last Thursday, sophomore Amber Smith scored a career-high 23 points to lead the Tigers (7-1) to a 73-59 victory over former Big 12 foe Kansas State. Smith, last year’s SEC Co-Freshman of the Year, is averaging 11.8 points over the last five games.

The Wildcats held junior standout Sophie Cunningham to just one point, but she wouldn’t be denied two days later against New Orleans. The guard scored 18 points on 6-of-7 shooting, and Missouri dispatched the Privateers 81-45 on Saturday afternoon.
For the second week in a row, the Tigers leaped ahead of an SEC counterpart, as Texas A&M dropped to No. 21 from No. 18. The Aggies knocked off Rice, but lost to then-No. 11 West Virginia at home.

Missouri wasn’t the only SEC team to move up in the poll, as Tennessee improved one spot to No. 11. Elsewhere in the SEC, South Carolina, Mississippi State and Kentucky retained their rankings, coming in at fifth, sixth and twentieth, respectively.

The Tigers take to the court again Friday, playing host to Saint Louis. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m., and the game will be broadcast on SEC Network+.

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**Lock, three others earn SEC honors from AP**

Quarterback Drew Lock earned first-team All-SEC honors from The Associated Press on Monday and was one of four Tigers recognized. Lock led the nation with 43 touchdown passes — 17 more than the next-closest SEC passer.

Wide receiver J’Mon Moore — who, it was announced later Monday, will also play in the Senior Bowl on Jan. 27 in Mobile, Alabama — tight end Albert Okwuegbunam and defensive end Marcell Frazier earned second-team honors.
Okwuegbunam tied for first in the SEC with 11 touchdown receptions. He was a key member of the Tigers’ red-zone package and one of Lock’s favorite targets throughout the season.

Moore was second in the conference in receiving yards, and Frazier collected seven sacks on the year.

**Top conference honors**

**Offensive Player of the Year:** Kerryon Johnson, Auburn

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Roquan Smith, Georgia

**Coach of the Year:** Kirby Smart, Georgia

**Newcomers of the Year:** Jake Fromm, Georgia; Jarrett Stidham, Auburn

The AP voting panel consisted of 13 reporters, including the Columbia Daily Tribune’s Daniel Jones.

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