

Guard Stella Johnson

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On the mentality she's adopted for this season

"I'm very excited about the season starting, my first time playing the league and getting this opportunity to play with the best players in the world. So it's an amazing opportunity, I'm excited. But what coach [James Wade] said, that means a lot to have a coach believe in you, to take a chance on you from a mid-major and just to be here. It's a great compliment."

On what she's picked up from Courtney Vandersloot

"The way she sees the floor is amazing and I knew that for a while but just being able to practice with her and seeing how she makes those passes when we play pickup or any drill. The way she sees the floor, knows like every single play, every set in practice. So, just try to pick up on that and try to like pick her brain and practice like, "How did you see that? How did you defend this?" "And just learn every little minor detail that she sees."

On Vandersloot's expectations for her

"No, but I think her expectations are always high with the team, any player on the team. I talk with her all the time on the court and off the court. I tried to like I said pick her brain, how she has a sense of the court. Being a rookie I need to know everyone's spot and where they're going to be on the floor. I think she just has a high expectation for everyone on the team, rookie or not."

On what part of her game she can be most confident about

"I would think my defense. My defense got me to college and I just need to hone in on that extra. There's great players. I just need to be a great defender and be like that pesky defender too. I think that could translate from since I was younger to now."

On if she's mentally ready for the season

"I'm ready for it. I think it's just like another chapter. It's a weird chapter because [of] COVID[-19] and everything. But yeah I'm just staying ready by talking to the guys every night, talking to my parents, my friends to keep me honed into myself and try to stay confident with myself. So, when COVID was going on with the draft and between now and then it's just working out every day and just being ready for anything unexpected. Just don't expect anything negative or positive. Just to stay even throughout the whole thing."