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A.J. Cann: 'I believe in my team'



David Stephenson

South Carolina guard A.J. Cann warms up before South Carolina's NCAA college football game against Kentucky at Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington, Ky., Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014. Kentucky won the game 45-38. (AP Photo/David Stephenson)

October 09, 2014 12:24 am • [USC Sports Information](#)

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COLUMBIA – South Carolina's captains recently called a team meeting, senior left guard and former Bamberg-Ehrhardt star A.J. Cann said following Wednesday's practice during the Gamecocks' bye week before meeting Furman at noon on Oct. 18 at Williams-Brice Stadium (SEC Network).

"We told the guys that we're just a couple plays from being 5-1," Cann said. "I just told the guys we've got to avoid all the stuff people are saying about us and come together as a team.

"I think we'll be fine. I don't think anybody has lost their confidence. I believe in my team. I think they have confidence in themselves. I have confidence in them. I think we'll be fine.

"I think practices have gone pretty good this week," Cann said. "Coach Spurrier liked the way

practices have gone and said everybody's been doing a good job. We have a lot of young guys taking some reps."

Following Wednesday's practice, offensive line coach Shawn Elliott indicated that his unit has been inconsistent over the last two games.

"There are ups and downs, kind of like we've had with our offense," Elliott said. "There have been some 'goods' in both games and some 'bads' as well. We probably played a lot more consistent (against Kentucky) than we did two weeks ago (against Missouri). We're looking to continue that consistency. We're trying to get a stable first five in there and that's usually when you start to see it."

Elliott updated the status of offensive lineman Mike Matulis, who has been out the entire season with a knee injury.

"I think he's getting a lot closer than he has been. He's been out here running and rehabbing. The one thing that he's got to do is get stronger. I think his leg has to get stronger. He's got to build that muscle back up there," Elliott said.

"He's made tremendous strides, so we'll see how he looks next week."

The Gamecocks (3-3) will practice again on Thursday afternoon before taking the rest of the weekend off.

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