Davis quotes from Sun Belt media day

MT unanimously picked to win East

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Opening statement...
"We have a great group of experienced players. We have four guys on the preseason all-league team, which is the most we've had since I've been here, and they are four seniors. So when you combine some talented guys with some experienced guys that have won, it's fun to go to the gym everyday. We understand the league balance. Obviously we saw the balance at the very end of the season last year, and I think it's going to be the best it's been from top to bottom, so we're looking forward to the Sun Belt race."

On the high expectations coming into this season...
"I think we all work really hard to create expectations at all of our programs. I'm excited that there are high expectations here. There were some comments that we had a special player in LaRon Dendy, which we did, and a group of support players, and that when Dendy left, there would be a drop off. I think those guys have heard that, too, and I think they have a sense of responsibility. Some of the things we set out to accomplish last year we didn't, and we know how much work we have ahead of us. I don't think we're really talking about those expectations internally, but I think it's good to have those. We have our tipoff celebration tonight. Jimmy Dykes from ESPN is coming in and the event is sold out, season ticket sales are up I think 70 percent from last year, so all those things are great and hopefully we can do our part and play well."

On the team's balance this season...
"We still had a balanced team last year. Obviously, Bruce Massey and Marcos Knight need to be really good, they're kind of the stalwarts of our team. JT Sulton is now a four-year starter, which doesn't happen very often in our league. And I think the most underrated player in our league is Shawn Jones, who's had an unbelievable summer and fall. We have a group of six or seven guys who can get 20 points in a good Division I game. So I think we'll have good balance this season."

On this season's schedule...
"We tried to do what the committee wants you to do and what your league wants you to do, and

that's schedule tough. We have a great home schedule, especially in the non-conference. So hopefully that'll bring out more people and maybe capture their interest for the Sun Belt part of the schedule. We have a lot of good teams and good RPI games and even if you play well and lose, hopefully your schedule is tough enough to help get you into the tournament."

On making preseason noise in league and nationally...

"We're a team that has 11 players back, and seven of our leading scorers back. We have good guys on our team who love to play the game and are fun to be with in the gym everyday. We're not perfect, and we know we have a lot of work ahead of us. But last year I think we were picked fourth and got off to that great start. So you never know how new players will do in the league or which players will make the biggest jumps from last season, or how many guys from the preseason all-league team will make the post-season all league team. Dendy wasn't on any of the preseason teams last year and ended up being league MVP, so you never know what's going to happen. And that's what makes all these league races good. Preseason polls are good for fans, but they mean absolutely nothing until you start playing games."

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