



Kassius Robertson drives the ball while Xavian Stapleton chases during the Missouri's 89-85 overtime victory over Mississippi State on Saturday at Mizzou Arena. Robertson scored a team-high 22 points.

MEIYING WU/Missourian

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"I just love winning," Puryear said postgame. "This was a pretty big game for us. It was just a good moment for our team."

The good moments were

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The third annual Rally for Rhyon game was a success on and off the court.

Photo by Meiying Wu/Missourian

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'Good chance' Porter Jr. returns to Tigers this season

BY WILL JARVIS

sports@columbiamissourian.com

Michael Porter Jr. told reporters Friday there is a "good chance" he could return for

Missouri men's basketball this season, a statement that comes days after coach Cuonzo Martin said he wouldn't be surprised to see the freshman return.

MICHAEL PORTER JR.

It was the first time Porter has spoken to the media since Jan. 2, when he said it was too early to tell whether a return would be possible. A different tone emerged Friday at Mizzou Arena.

"I feel better right now than I've ever felt," Porter said. "I feel

great. There's no concern about re-injury. I'm working out and doing all that and feeling great."

The freshman, who underwent a microdiscectomy of the L3-L4 spinal disks in November, said he has a doctor's checkup at the six-week mark after his last one, which occurred Jan. 4.

That six-week mark occurs next week.

Porter said his rehab therapist thinks he's ready to practice without contact, and he's hoping next week's appointment could provide clearance for a full-contact return.

"That's not up to me," he said. "That's up to the doctor telling me I'm ready to go."

Martin said his first concern is making sure the freshman is ready to return and, even if he is cleared next week, that it's "hard to give a timeline" for how many practices would prepare Porter

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WINTER GAMES OFF TO HOT START

DAVID PETR JOSEK • The Associated Press

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Post play key against Razorbacks

Cierra Porter and Jordan Frericks have been vital for the Tigers lately heading into Battle Line Rivalry

BY ERIC LEE

sports@columbiamissourian.com

Time and time again during this season, Missouri women's basketball coach Robin Pingeton has spoken about the depth and talent in the SEC and the importance of not overlooking opponents.

"Our motto is always to respect everybody, fear nobody," she said after the Tigers' 83-78 win over Kentucky on Thursday.

That motto holds extra weight as No. 15 Missouri takes on Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkan-



JOSHUA L. JONES / The Associated Press

Missouri forward Cierra Porter attempts to dribble past Georgia forward Mackenzie Enggram during a game Jan. 25 in Athens, Georgia.