

Stephen Garcia: Q & A

Dan Hancock - sportsdaynow.com

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Because of the recent interest in the Stephen Garcia interview, SportsDay Now decided that it would be good for readers to read the uncut version of the Dan Hancock-Stephen Garcia question and answer interview. Enjoy!



DH: What have you been up to since playing at South Carolina?

SG: After the SC debacle, I came back home to Tampa, FL. I was pretty torn up about the entire situation and was ready to hang up the cleats for good.

I got a few calls from some agents and ended up signing with one based out of Chicago. He convinced me to still hang on and give it a shot so I did and began the pro day workout regimen.

After the SC pro day I had several teams interested, mainly the Bucs. Things didn't work out so I ended up going up to Montreal to play in the CFL.

It was a very unique experience and I learned so much about football from Coach Marc Trestman. The guy is brilliant. After that year in Montreal, I came back home and started working for a local law firm and training quarterbacks. I ended up not going back up to Montreal and taking the 2013 year off of football.

The next year I signed with the Tampa Bay Storm of the AFL. Arena is a different animal all together.

After the season, I began working with Saturday Down South during the collegiate season. The media is just pure craziness. I wouldn't mind working with them again, and I probably will, but who knows. Hopefully I'm in a NFL camp!

DH: How would compare the AFL to college ball?

SG: It's night and day different. I went from normal sized field in college, to a super sized field in Canada, to a shoe box field in Arena.

My fundamentals took a huge hit during my arena season as the coaches instructed me to get the ball out of my hand as fast as possible, by any means necessary.

DH: How did you get the call to attend UF's Pro Day? What did it feel like wearing the orange and blue at The Swamp?

SG: Over the last month or so I have been training with guys from Performance Compound down in Tampa. The Compound is a combine prep facility but also a gym for the normal folks.

Anyways, Clay Burton trains there and I've thrown with him once prior to the pro day. He texted me around 8pm on Easter Sunday and asked what I was doing on Tuesday and if I could come to Gainesville to throw for their pro day. I cleared my schedule and went up early Tuesday morning.

It was very weird wearing Gator gear but they have some really cool stuff and the equipment staff hooked me up. I wear it sometimes when I work out still. The Carolina fans gave me a bunch of hell for it but the Tampanians don't seem to mind. (Laughs)

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DH: What were your overall thoughts from the day?

SG: I felt like it went really well. I have never thrown to these guys before, with the exception of Clay once, and we looked like we have been playing together for years. I'm just glad I put the other guys in good positions to catch all the footballs and showcase their talent.

DH: How's your relationship with Coach Spurrier?

SG: It is much better these days than it was when I was playing for him. I wish we wouldn't have butted heads so much but it is what it is. I was actually just up in Columbia for a 10 year reunion that the athletic department put on for him.

I got a chance to speak to him for about 30 minutes alone and we had a really good conversation. I got to see a bunch of my old teammates and it was just a blast.

DH: Any favorite stories about the OBC?

SG: (Laughs) I wish I could share them all. Gonna have to wait for the book to come out! Literally every story I am thinking of is not PG enough to tell just yet.

DH: When did you get the call to workout with Carolina? How do you feel about the opportunity? What's the biggest strength in your game? Greatest need of improvement?

SG: I've been throwing with Nelson Agholor from Southern Cal over the last month and half and we've gotten pretty close and on the same page. I threw for him 2 weeks ago in front of Chip Kelly and the Eagles down here in Tampa and it went extremely well. I am just taking all these opportunities and just that, an opportunity.

I didn't really get a chance to do that after SC because I didn't leave on the greatest of terms and was surrounded by red flags so to speak. So I'm just taking these workouts as an opportunity to help Nelson get drafted higher and for me to get in front of scouts.

My greatest improvement is my conditioning. Working in the media last season and having some good money in my pocket made me pretty lazy when it comes to my cardio. I've been running and swimming just about every day though so I'm getting back into it. (Laughs)

DH: Any comments for those that have judged you based on being a typical college kid during your time at South Carolina?

SG: Oh man, I have several comments I'd like to make, but like the Coach Spurrier stories, I don't have anything that's PG enough yet. I did make several mistakes and was extremely hard headed. I wish I would have been more mature back then but there's nothing I can do about it now other than move on and move forward. All those mistakes and my foolish immature behavior is long gone and that's all there is to it. The people that know me and have met me know exactly who and what I am. It's the people that have no idea who I am and have just read all the articles and heard all the bogus stories that pass their incoherent judgement. I will say this though, I do apologize to the South Carolina fans for my mistakes. They deserved more from me and for that, I truly am sorry to them. I got an amazing welcoming this past weekend at their Spring Game and I will forever cherish my time in Columbia.