

Sports

Keeping current

Get updated with sports scores and standings

Boys' cross country

Last meet: Columbia Meet on 9/10 (W)

Next meet: Mt. Pleasant Invitational on 9/24

Overall Record: 1-0

Girls' cross country

Last meet: Columbia Meet on 9/10 (L)

Next meet: Mount Pleasant Cross Country Carnival on 9/24

Overall Record: 0-1

Girls' tennis

Last match: Home against Summerville 9/8 (W)

Next game: At West Ashley on 9/20

Overall Record: 4-0

Football

Last game: Home against Fort Dorchester on 9/16

Next game: Home against Stratford on 9/23

Overall Record: 2-1

Girls' golf

Last game: Against James Island on 9/13 (W)

Next meet: Against Berkeley on 9/19

Overall Record: 4-0

Volleyball

Last game: Against Fort Dorchester and Ashley Ridge on 9/13 (W)

Next game: At home against Summerville on 9/20

Overall Record: 18-4

Swimming

Last meet: Against Stratford/West Ashley on 9/13 (W)

Next meet: Against Fort Dorchester and Ashley Ridge on 9/20

Overall Record: 4-0

Choosing Carolina

After bonding with coaches, Smith picks South Carolina

Abby Vorhees

sports editor

The room was filled to maximum capacity. Over 100 people, yet there wasn't a sound.

Everyone sat, wide-eyed, staring at the screen that would play the video announcing senior OrTre' Smith's decision.

The number one recruit in South Carolina was about to pick his school.

He had narrowed his list to four: Clemson, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina. A few seconds passed, and a "Carolina" visor was projected onto the screen.

The silence was pierced by cheers and heads immediately turned to the opposite side of the room, where Smith was standing up, tears streaming down his face, donning his new Carolina jersey.

The wait was over for everyone, and for Smith, the pressure was finally off.

"It's just over with. I don't have to worry about where I'm going or this coach, that coach. It's relieving," Smith said. "It feels so good. I can focus on school and my season now. Just finish my season off, focus on the team and contribute in any way I can."

Many watching Smith's recruitment would have put their money on Clemson, his mother's alma mater, but his decision factored in much more than this.

"It just came down to the relationships, how comfortable I felt with the coach and the coaching staff," Smith said. "I just really built a real relationship with the coaches... It's in my best interest to go there."

His decision wasn't solely based on time on the field or where he can count on an undefeated first season. Smith chose the school where he felt a strong sense of community, knowing that he would build those lasting relationships, not just with the coaches, but the teammates as well.

"It was about actually bonding with the coaches. Conversations weren't all about football. It was about the athletics, but also his education. 'How are you doing here?' and just making sure that he's on track and where he needs to be," said



Lucy Johnson // photo

Senior OrTre Smith experiences an emotional moment as he stands in celebration after his verbal commitment to the University of South Carolina.

Tashia Green, Smith's mother. "Just telling him 'It's okay if you don't come here. You're still a very respectable young man.'"

upon hours on training fields. For him, it paid off.

"He had his choices. He could've chosen any school he wanted, but he chose Carolina because Carolina is the fit for him," Green said. "It felt like home, the people were very genuine, not that the others weren't; but it just touched something in him. And in me."

“It felt like home, the people were very genuine, not that the others weren't, but it just touched something in him.”

Tashia Green

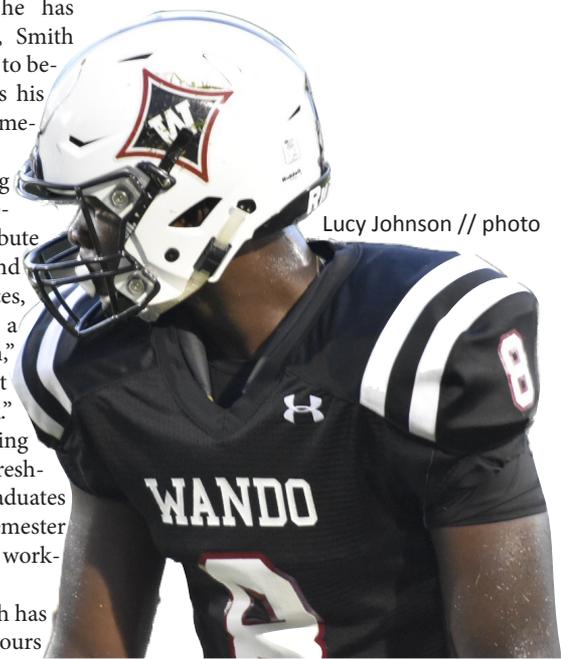
It's no secret that Smith has been dedicated during his time playing varsity football, as he holds several school football records. Now that he has made his decision, Smith has the opportunity to begin looking towards his first season as a Gamecock.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to contribute early. To be around some familiar faces, and getting to meet a new staff and team," he said. "I'm just ready to get to work"

Smith isn't shying away from this his freshman season. He graduates in December, a semester

early, and is jumping right into spring workouts.

Over the course of four years, Smith has been cultivating his future, spending hours



Lucy Johnson // photo