

The University of Alabama's men's basketball team was led to a victory over Mississippi State on Saturday, with multiple UA students giving credit for this comeback to freshmen players.

Freshmen players have been given more playing time following the loss of four of the team's starters and all of the team's assistant coaches.

Players such as Jarin Stevenson and Mouhamed Dioubate were given playing time in the Mississippi State game, which led to Alabama's 99-67 win.

Grace Decker, a freshman intern for Crimson Tide Productions who broadcasts UA sports events, recalls her initial reaction to the loss of players and coaches.

"As someone who loves to keep up with Alabama sports, I remember being shocked and a little upset," Decker said, "but watching the season so far, I've been pleasantly surprised."

Ava Harrelson, a freshman, went to watch the Mississippi State game in person. "I was glad to see that freshmen were given the opportunity to play," she said. "They were a major reason Alabama won the game."

However, another freshman student, Chandler Millsap, said that he thinks upperclassmen deserve the playing time.

"The freshman forward Jarin Stevenson played very well, but Grant Nelson is a senior forward and deserves more playing time," Millsap said. "Not to mention all the other older players."

Millsap and Decker both said they did not expect the season to be as successful as it has been, following the loss of players and coaches. However, sophomore Tallulah King thought otherwise.

“I’ve grown up watching Alabama basketball,” King said. “I have never doubted that they wouldn’t pull through and play as well as they have for years.”

Similarly, freshman Kate Connolly has been impressed with the season so far.

“I have always been more invested in Alabama football, but the basketball team deserves more credit,” Connolly said. “The youngest and least experienced players playing that well and leading the team to a victory shows the skills and success of the Alabama basketball program.”