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Hampton, Quarles Cleared In Nightclub Incident

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By Sara Jane Harris
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COLUMBIA, S.C. (WOLO) -- Two former South Carolina football players will not face charges stemming from an April 11 brawl at the Greenhouse nightclub in New York City.

The Post & Courier's Ryan Wood reports that the players' attorney, Joe Tacopina, confirmed Wednesday that Hampton and Quarles have been cleared of any wrongdoing.

Tacopina to The Post & Courier:

"They were never wanted. They cooperated with the police. They gave statements, and they were vindicated."

"The altercation began when Hampton and Quarles requested two men stop smoking marijuana in the nightclub. Hampton was sitting down when the man punched him. (They) wound up in a situation where (the accuser) comes in not only invading their space, which was private, but wound up in a situation where he was smoking marijuana and doing all sorts of things that were unsavory, and of course these guys wanted nothing to do with it."

"They're getting ready to commence on hopefully a very lucrative and productive professional career. What ended up happening is this guy started getting aggressive."

"They said, 'You need to leave now,' and this guy, obviously being affected by whatever he was smoking, hauled off and punched Victor as Victor was sitting down. They were victims from Day 1. It was very, very clear that this guy was trying to do a money grab."

According to Tacopina in The Post & Courier report, the accuser's friend stabbed former South Carolina defensive end Chaz Sutton and was arrested.

Hampton, Quarles and Sutton were in New York for a magazine shoot with ESPN.

Hampton and Quarles are expected to be selected in next week's NFL Draft.