



**2015 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**MAY 19-24 | HOOVER METROPOLITAN STADIUM | HOOVER, ALA.**

**| GAME 16 | FLORIDA (2), LSU (1) | NOTES AND QUOTES |**

**FLORIDA POST-GAME NOTES**

- Overall Record: 43-16
- LSU leads the all-time series with Florida, 57-43-1.
- Florida advances to the SEC Tournament Championship Game to face No. 2 seed Vanderbilt, Sunday at 3:30 p.m. CT.
- This will be Florida's second-consecutive trip to the SEC Tournament Championship Game and its 13th all-time appearance. The Gators are 6-6 in their past 12 appearances.
- Florida and Vanderbilt last met in the SEC Tournament Championship Game in 2011 when the Gators defeated the Commodores, 5-0.
- This was just Florida's third win of the season when trailing after seven innings.
- The Gators improved to 5-8 on the season when scoring two or fewer runs.
- Catcher Mike Rivera's game-winning home run was just his fourth of the season and his only hit of the game.
- Florida pitcher Taylor Lewis hasn't allowed a run in his last nine appearances (24.2 innings) and has earned five wins in those appearances. Lewis has thrown 8.1 scoreless innings in this year's tournament.

**LSU POST-GAME NOTES**

- Overall Record: 48-10
- The Tigers are now 6-1 in neutral site games.
- LSU's loss to Florida is only the Tigers' fifth loss in the SEC Tournament under Paul Mainieri.
- The loss was the Tigers' third one-run loss of the season. LSU's last one-run loss came against Mississippi State on May 2.
- This will be the first time LSU has not played in the championship game since 2012. LSU won the tournament the last two seasons.
- The home run given up by Jesse Stallings in the top of the ninth was the first home run he has given up all season.

**FLORIDA HEAD COACH KEVIN O'SULLIVAN**

*Opening Statement ...*

"It was a heck of a ballgame. We battled all the way until the end. It was a great environment. Our kids hung in there. Alex Lange is as good as advertised. He made pitches all day long. We hung in there. Our relief pitching was really good. We started a freshman on the mound and it was a great experience for him. I think we had four freshmen in the starting lineup, and it was a great experience for these guys. To win a game like that it should help us moving forward with our confidence and dealing with some adversity. LSU is a great ball club and there is a reason they are the No. 1 team in the country. It was a great ballgame all the way around by both clubs."

*On available pitchers for the championship game...*

"I think we're in good shape. I don't know who we're going to start yet. I think we have four guys who haven't thrown yet, Eric Hanhold, Danny Young, Logan Browning and Shaun Anderson, so we have four guys who that have not touched the mound yet. We're not in as bad of a shape as it may look. Bobby Poyner hasn't thrown since Wednesday night. We have seven or eight guys we could probably use tomorrow. We'll talk about it as a staff and go from there."

**NO. 4, MIKE RIVERA, C, FR.**

*On game-winning homerun...*

"My approach was to square the ball up and get on base for the team. That was the main goal. I ran into a hanging changeup. It was special to me because we got the win and it's also my dad's birthday. I actually promised him that I was going to do something special, which is ironic."

**NO. 8, HARRISON BADER, LF, JR.**

*On avenging last year's loss to LSU in the championship game...*

"(Last year's game) was incredibly similar. In those types of games you need to grind out every at bat, and I think both sides did that very well. The pitchers really dominated. Obviously last year it didn't go our way, but it felt really good to go out there today and have it go our way."

**LSU HEAD COACH PAUL MAINIERI**

*Opening Statement...*

"It was an exciting ball game. Alex [Lange] was terrific all the way through, just like he always is. He was put in some big situations and made some big pitches. We had nine hits but only one run. That means we did not come through in clutch situations. They were not coming through in big situations either. It was a tough loss for us because we came here to win this thing. We wanted to win for the third time in a row. We just didn't play quite well enough today. We had a couple innings where we didn't finish the job. We were pretty fortunate that the game was even tied in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning. [Jesse] Stallings had one bad pitch and it cost us the game. That is the life of a relief pitcher. We will regroup, watch the selection show and get ready for the NCAA tournament. This is what you play for all year, a chance to play for the national championship."

*On Alex Lange...*

"Obviously, he did a lot of good things today. Six walks and a hit batsman are not what he wants to do. He will get better at that. He has the poise and competitive zeal to battle out of it. He will work to cut back on that. As far as this environment, I don't even look at him like he is a freshman anymore. He has the spotlight on him. He is like a 10-year major league veteran. He is confident when he goes out there and has a chance to pitch a really good ball game."

*On the top four teams still being alive in the semi finals...*

"We were hoping in our hearts that these would be the four teams still remaining this weekend. I have great respect for all of those programs, and I think they are all really good teams. Texas A&M struggled a little bit today, and Vanderbilt is clearly very hot right now. I think you could see a replay of this week out in Omaha with all four teams making it. I do not know what the selection committee will do. I think it would be hard not to give three national seeds to our league."

*On preparing for the NCAA tournament...*

"I am going to start formulating some things in my mind right now. I will not release that information until after the selections show. It is obvious that the big fellow to my right here [Alex Lange] is the ace in every since of the word. We just have to wait and look at what the field looks like."

**NO. 17, JARED FOSTER, 2B, SR.**

*On leaving men in scoring position...*

"We stranded a lot of runners in scoring position. We have to be more clutch and get them in. We didn't handle our business. We did not swing the bats like we usually do, but we have to bounce back from this."

**NO. 35, ALEX LANGE, RHP, FR.**

*On his performance...*

“Obviously this is not the way we wanted it to play out. We had aspirations of playing for a title tomorrow. We played hard until the end. The offense was not their typical self, but that is our job to pick them up. We are very grateful for the run support we have gotten all year. When they are not swinging the bat like they have, it is our job to pick them up.”

*On pitching out of big situations...*

“I shouldn’t have been in those situations, but I was because I had way too many walks. I feel like I did a good job of competing and rising to the occasion, but if one of those hits falls in the playoffs then we are in some trouble.”