



2016 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT MAY 24-29 | HOOVER METROPOLITAN STADIUM | HOOVER, ALA.

| GAME 3 | ALABAMA 5, KENTUCKY 2 | NOTES AND QUOTES |

ALABAMA POST-GAME NOTES

- With the win, Alabama improved its record against Kentucky to 59-39.
- Starting pitcher Nick Eicholtz tossed a total of 6.2 innings (five scoreless), allowing three hits on two runs while striking out three.
- Catcher Will Haynie hit the only home run of the night for the Tide, sending himself and Chandler Taylor to home plate, with the 5-2 lead against the Wildcats.
- Junior Hunter Webb recorded his first multiple RBI game vs. Kentucky. He also earned his first three-hit game.
- Right fielder Chandler Taylor safely stole base for the seventh time of the season, with his last attempt on 5/21/16 vs. South Carolina.

KENTUCKY POST-GAME NOTES

- Kentucky is 21-33 all-time in the SEC Tournament, 3-5 vs. Alabama.
- Evan White's solo home run in the fourth inning was his fifth of the season and the 52nd of the year for Kentucky, now the most in the SEC. White extends his hitting streak to 16 games.
- White's home run was his 154th career hit, which moves him into sole possession of 26th place on Kentucky's career hits list.
- Kentucky starting pitcher Zach Logue matched his season-long outing (third time), with 5.2 innings. He allowed three runs (two earned) on six hits and struck out two with one walk.
- Dorian Hairston recorded his first stolen base of season and scored on Riley Mahan's double in the seventh inning. It was Mahan's 12th two-out RBI of the year, which ties him with Gunnar McNeill and JaVon Shelby for the team lead.

ALABAMA HEAD COACH MITCH GASPARD

Opening Statement ...

"I'm really proud of our team today. Obviously it was a real pressure-packed game with a lot on the line. When you have a game like that, it's really key to get a great start on the mound. I thought Nick (Eicholtz) did a great job. He was able to hand it to the bullpen with Foster (Matt) and Burrows (Thomas), who I thought defended well. It was nice to get an early lead, and we took advantage of the mistakes."

On optimism for game...

"I was optimistic until this morning. I believe, and I think every coach in this league believes, that 15 wins should get you in. To win 15 games in this league, I think you deserve to go to a regional. We have the opportunity to play the SEC Champion, Mississippi State, tomorrow and then we'll have the opportunity to play again on Thursday. To really feel good about things, and not be stressed, you really have to make a run in this tournament."

On key hits...

"Absolutely! That's the difference in winning and losing. You have to take advantage. That has kind of been our key. If we get four or five runs we have the opportunity to win games."

WILL HAYNIE, C

On home run hit...

"He was blowing up the radar gun. He had a little run going on the right. Coach Phillips (Andy) pulled me aside and told me to back off the plate a little bit. I was fortunate to get a good hit with a good spin on it."

On Nicks performance ...

"He's been giving it to us all year. You know what you're going to get from him every time out. It's like that with our whole pitching staff. They say offense gives you energy, but when you get a start like that it gets us going."

HUNTER WEBB, OF

On at bat in second inning...

"I was just trying to put a good swing on something. I knew he hadn't thrown a lot of breaking balls. I thought he was going to come back with a fastball. I wasn't trying to get a homerun or anything, I was just trying to get a good swing on it."

NICK EICHOLTZ, P

On defense behind him...

"Being a sinker ball guy, you really have to depend on your defense. They made some great plays. I just trust them to make all of those plays behind me, and I have all season long."

On feeling when getting to mound...

"I felt great. My arm felt fresh. The extra days off for me really helped. I honestly thought I was going to get through the whole game, but I got a little tired. They made a couple of pitching changes, which was unfortunate, but bringing in Matt and Tommy, you can't get much better than that."

KENTUCKY HEAD COACH GARY HENDERSON

Opening Statement ...

"I give a lot of credit to Alabama's pitching staff. I thought they pitched pretty well, and I thought we did too. Zach Logue played extremely well, getting six outs in the second. Several times he got us out of a jam. I thought it was a great step forward for Zach. I am pleased with that."

On the game ...

"Obviously we are very disappointed. Once again, I really appreciate the effort everyone here has put into the tournament. I think they did a phenomenal job. My experience here over the past 20 years has been phenomenal. I am just disappointed that we don't get to stay."

On the error in the second inning ...

"Well, I guess it was as obvious as it would seem to you. Anytime you give a really good team extra base hits, extra outs, I think realistically we gave them six outs. When you give somebody six outs in this league, they will take it and score. That is just kind of the reality of it."

Evan White, 1B

On playing Alabama ...

"When we played them earlier in the year, they did a great job. They played a good game. Unfortunately it wasn't our game to pull out on top."

Zach Logue, P

On the second inning...

"They just hit some balls that happened to be at the right place at the right time. We took some tough bounces. My job was to keep throwing good pitches and try to get us some good plays and some outs."

On pitching ...

"I was a little nervous with it being my first SEC start, but I feel like I threw the ball really well. I just wanted to go out there and give my team the chance to win."