



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

| GAME 7 | MISSISSIPPI STATE 4, ALABAMA 1 | NOTES AND QUOTES |

MISSISSIPPI STATE POST-GAME NOTES

- Mississippi State improves its all-time SEC Tournament record to 63-48 and snaps a 6-game losing streak to Alabama in the tournament and moves to 4-7 against Alabama in tournament history. Prior to tonight, the Bulldogs' last SEC Tournament win against Alabama was a 15-10 victory on May 16, 1991.
- Zac Houston threw a career-high 8.2 innings. Prior to tonight, Houston had thrown 7.1 innings in SEC play this season.
- Gavin Collins tied his career-high with four hits, including his team-high 10th home run. He drove in two runs and scored two runs, extending his hitting streak to a career-best 18 games.
- Blake Smith recorded the final out of the game to register his fourth save of the season and second against Alabama this year. Smith threw 3.2 innings of shutout baseball vs. the Crimson Tide on April 28 for his second save of the season. It was Smith's eighth-straight scoreless outing, covering 9.1 IP.
- The win extends Mississippi State's winning streak to 12 games, the Bulldogs' longest winning streak since starting the 2015 season 13-0.
- With 12 hits tonight, MSU upped its SEC-leading hit total to 622 for the season. It's the 36th time this season Mississippi State has recorded double digit hits in a game.
- Mississippi State improves to 29-5 on the season when it scores first.

ALABAMA POST-GAME NOTES

- Alabama falls to 57-53 in the SEC Tournament, 9-9 under coach Mitch Gaspard.
- Today's loss snapped Alabama's streak of seven-consecutive wins against the Bulldogs at a neutral site.
- Despite the loss Alabama leads the overall series against Mississippi State, 213-185-3.
- Junior pitcher Geoffrey Bramblett earned the most starts (15) by a Tide pitcher in 2016. Through those starts he carries a 5-4 record.
- Bramblett tied up a career high in hits allowed (9).
- Right fielder Chandler Taylor extended his reached base safely streak to 19 games
- Chandler Taylor recorded his team-leading 33rd RBI in the ninth inning.
- Alabama fell to 8-20 on the season when out hit by its opponent.

MISSISSIPPI STATE HEAD COACH JOHN COHEN

Opening Statement ...

"I thought Zac was just magnificent. The ball just came out of his hands very well tonight. It seemed like he was on point with three different pitches. I couldn't be more proud. I feel like this was one of the better defensive plays we have ever had. We made some special plays tonight, and I thought we made them look pretty easy. That is a real credit to our kids because we weren't in the SEC Tournament last year, and some of these kids haven't played on this field before. They just stepped up and acted like they have played on that field every single day. That is pretty special for our kids."

On Alabama's pitching ...

"First of all, I want to say that Bramblett is very good. He has pitched so well this year. Whenever you feel like you have that guy, he 's just going to sink a fastball that's going to cause you to take a big swing and miss. He is such a mature, professional looking pitcher."

On starting Houston...

"I just listened to the Alabama guys and they were discussing the scouting report on Zac, and that was concerning. His stuff is always there. He is a phenomenal young man. His delivery didn't fall apart, and he just kept throwing fastballs. He was just fabulous tonight."

GAVIN COLLINS, 3B

On facing Alabama Pitching...

"We had seen Bramblett before. He is a great pitcher, but we had a great game plan. The first three guys before me had great at bats, and they make it easy for the rest of the line-up."

On key to the win ...

"We have such a variety of different talent in our lineup. When you have the combination that we have, it can be hard to defend all of the time."

ZAC HOUSTON, P

On Houston's change in command ...

"I don't really think it's the ballpark. I have had times when I struggled with my command, but it is something I have been working hard on. I think tonight shows my effort."

On Houston's pitching ...

"Probably about the 5th inning, I felt like I had command over my pitches. Toward the middle of the game I felt like I was pitching, and that I wasn't just throwing again,"

ALABAMA HEAD COACH MITCH GASPARD

Opening Statement ...

"I thought today that Zac Houston was terrific and did a great job. I thought Mississippi State played really well and defended extremely well. I thought they just outplayed us today."

On the cause of the loss ...

"We have to give Houston a lot of credit tonight. I think he was really good. He really beat us up for seven innings. We were catching balls in the back of the zone. I thought the back end of the game, slider and changeup started rolling for him. Our approach to go into this game was to be very disciplined. There was a guy who showed the tendency to walk a few guys and there could have been some command issues but tonight, he spotted up everything as was as good as we've seen. Maybe today is one of those days where we did a few things that we could've done better but we credit Zac Houston. He threw a heck of a ball game."

GEOFFREY BRAMBLETT, LF

On competing against pitcher Zac Houston ...

"I think he started with his command of the fast fall. He was commanding on both sides of the plate. When a guy is throwing 92 or 95 mph all night, it's going to be hard to hit. I don't care who you are."

CHANDLER TAYLOR, RF

On competing against Mississippi State ...

"You have to be a little quicker to the plate here and there for a bunt. They definitely put pressure on us every inning. We just have to go out and keep throwing good pitches."

On hitting against Zac Houston ...

"We knew he was going to be a big armed batter with power stuff. The tough thing about it was coming in with not necessarily the greatest command on the scouting report, but he came in and he just commanded it when he wanted to and threw it on both sides of the plate whenever he wanted to."