



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

### | GAME 9 | TEXAS A&M 4, SOUTH CAROLINA 1 | NOTES AND QUOTES |

#### TEXAS A&M POST-GAME NOTES

- Texas A&M improves to 42-14 on the season, and is now 4-4 overall in SEC Tournament action.
- The winning team has won by three runs in all four games of the season series.
- Brigham Hill set a career high in walks (3), and tied a season high in strikeouts (8). This marks the fourth time this season Hill has sat down eight batters.
- The Aggies' three errors committed are the most this season.
- Senior catcher Michael Barash has reached base safely in 11-consecutive games, recording a hit in the previous eight. Both streaks are the current longest among Texas A&M hitters.
- Hunter Melton, Ryne Birk, and Boomer White have started in all 56 contests for the Aggies.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA POST-GAME NOTES

- South Carolina falls to 25-44 all time in the SEC Tournament, and 0-7 under coach Chad Holbrook.
- With the loss, the Gamecocks have lost seven-consecutive games in the SEC Tournament. USC's last win came on May 24, 2012, in a 5-3 victory against Auburn.
- A trio of Gamecock hitters extended their hitting streaks. Marcus Mooney (7) extended his season high, while Jonah Bride (7) and Madison Stokes (6) set new season highs.
- Freshman Braden Webb fanned eight Aggie batters and claimed the team lead with 117 strike outs on the year.
- South Carolina tied its second-lowest run output this season. The Gamecocks were shutout against Clemson (March 5), North Carolina (April 13), Kentucky (May 7) and Texas A&M (May 13) earlier in the year, and were limited to one run against Clemson on March 6.

#### TEXAS A&M HEAD COACH ROB CHILDRESS

##### *Opening Statement ...*

"I was very proud of our team today in the elimination game, after yesterday's disappointing loss. I felt like (Brigham) Hill set the tone on the mound. We were able to score early against Braden Webb, which is a hard thing to do. We made some mistakes early defensively and allowed one run. From that point on, I felt like we played really good defense behind Hill. (Mitchell) Kilkenny and (Mark) Ecker did a nice job finishing up the game for us. I was proud of our team."

##### *On the importance of winning this tournament ...*

"For me, I have always been under the pretense as an assistant coach and now head coach, that if there is a ring and trophy on the line, then I want to play to win it. At the same time, we need to see our guys in different spots, especially on the mound moving into next week. To me, we are going to play every game to win it, without trying to stress anybody on the mound. Each and every team that is competing, that knows they are in a regional or feels good about being in a regional, wants to play well. The last game of the week you want to feel good about going into a week off to prepare for regionals."

##### *On the bottom of the lineup ...*

"Something about our lineup is nobody has to be a hero. We have nine guys in the lineup that all have experience, ability and talent. Not one guy has to feel like they have to carry the team in order for us to score runs and be successful. That is tricky to coach. Jonathan Moroney has had opportunities the last couple of weeks and has played very well. Austin Homan is another guy who in the middle of the year had the opportunity and has not allowed us to take him out of the lineup. It is about once you get in, not letting us take you out. For the most part with one through nine, we feel like we are going to get a solid at bat regardless of where our inning starts in the lineup."

## **BRIGHAM HILL, P**

*On preparing for the early start ...*

"I tried to treat it like any other start. I started stretching about 30 minutes before the game. I try to keep the same routine. I go out before every game trying to keep it short, quick and simple."

*On today's pitching performance ...*

"I was able to throw all three pitches pretty well today. Predominately, it was fastballs and changeups. In a few counts, I threw sliders. Just being able to locate those pitches helped me out a lot."

## **JONATHAN MORONEY, DH**

*On how the lineup performed offensively ...*

"One through nine in our lineup are going out there every time and battling. We have a great approach. It is weird because the bottom of the lineup has been picking up the top. In most cases, you would think it would be opposite. It is going to take one through nine to come in and do the best that we can to score runs and get our pitchers some breathing room."

## **SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH CHAD HOLBROOK**

*Opening Statement ...*

"Well I think the story of the game was the way that (Brigham) Hill, (Mitchell) Kilkenny and (Mark) Ecker threw the ball. They were terrific. They kind of over powered our hitters for the most part. We had a couple of good swings there, but when we had a good swing, no one was on base or we couldn't get a hit to fall. They were terrific from a pitching standpoint. We had one bad inning, the second inning, and that was going to be enough. We started that inning off with a walk and a wild pitch and gave them a little bit of momentum. Against a lineup like that, free bases come back and get you. With that being said, Braden (Webb) and Josh (Reagan) threw extremely well to hold a lineup like that. If you had said we would keep them to three or four runs before the game, I would've signed up for that. We wanted to try and find a way to score four or five, but their pitching was too good. Braden and Josh battled. We had some guys give us some competitive at bats, but we didn't have enough. We have to get back to work at that and find nine guys and put nine guys in the lineup that will compete and get us competitive at bats against good pitching. I thought some of our hitters today were uncompetitive, and some of that had to do with the quality of the pitching they were facing. We will go back home, get to work and see if we can correct issues that were exposed of us in these two games."

*On strikeouts in the bottom of the order*

"There is going to be some different options on the table. We have to make contact, especially with left-handed hitters against right-handed pitchers. We have to move the ball. I have to put guys in there that can fight, scratch and claw to find a way to way to get on base or get bunts down, or do something productive in there, besides striking out. We have to shake things up. We will go back and work and strap it on this week. They will be tired of seeing me about Thursday and hopefully they will be excited to play Friday because we have to get some guys some work. We will probably scrimmage. I will try to put the most competitive team on the field Friday next week that I can."

*On move baseball ahead*

"We have played 57 games and we won 42 of them. While these two losses sting, I am proud that we won the Eastern Division. I read something that said we backed into the Eastern Division championship. When you are in the same division with Vanderbilt and Florida, you don't back into anything if you finished ahead of them. In regards to that, I am proud of our team accomplishments, certainly after coming off a season like last year. I am certainly not happy with how these last two games unfolded. The fact that come Sunday, everyone is 0-0. We are a five-game winning streak away from playing in the College World Series, just like everyone else. We need a great work at practice. We will probably go two-a-days for a few days in a row. I am going to make them as sick at me as I can and hopefully they will be excited about seeing another opponent."

## **BRADEN WEBB, P**

*On if it was frustrating to pitch so well and still have runs score*

“That has nothing to do with our hitters. They were taking some good swings, and Hill did a great job following myself for that second inning, because I came out after that first inning and was locating my pitches. I made a few mistakes here and there, and they capitalized on them. So, hats off to A&M for that.”

*On the atmosphere of pitching in an elimination game*

“This was a huge game for us. I just came out expecting to battle because A&M is the best hitting team in the country, and I didn’t do a very good job in that one inning. I am at a loss of words right now because I am very upset with my performance in that inning.”

## **GENE CONE, RF**

*On today's hitting performance*

“I wouldn’t blame it on the park or the location. We are just playing good SEC teams. You are not going to win every game, that’s just how it works. Braden gave us the chance to win today and the offense just wasn’t able to string enough hits together for us a win.”

*On what to do to get back to hitting well*

“I think, number one, we have to flush this, get back to work and practice hard. Overall, flush this and move on to the next at bat for each and every one of us in the starting lineup.”