



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

| GAME 13 | FLORIDA 12, MISSISSIPPI STATE 2 | NOTES AND QUOTES |

FLORIDA POST-GAME NOTES

- Florida moved to 64-60 all time in the SEC Tournament, 9-6 against Mississippi State.
- The Gators moved sophomore JJ Schwarz to first base, his first appearance at first in 2016.
- With a double in the first inning, JJ Schwarz extended his hitting streak to seven, matching his season high.
- JJ Schwarz' 4-for-5 showing marks his 20th multi-hit game of the season.
- JJ Schwarz batted in four runs, his 13th game of the season with multiple RBI and his highest of the season; Schwartz has 51 RBI on the season, a team best.
- JJ Schwarz extended his reached-base streak to 10, his longest of the season.
- Junior outfielder Buddy Reed went 2-for-3 at the plate, marking his 19th multi-hit game in 2016.
- Buddy Reed stole his 25th base of the season, a single-season career high.
- Sophomore shortstop Deacon Liput recorded his 19th multi-hit game of the season (2-for-3).
- Tonight's win marks the second time the Gators have run-ruled a team in the SEC Tournament (Arkansas, 2010, 10-0).
- The Gators' 14 hits ties the most hits in a game in 2016.

MISSISSIPPI STATE POST-GAME NOTES

- Mississippi State had three doubles tonight, upping its SEC-leading total to 123 for the season.
- Mississippi State is 63-50 all-time in the SEC Tournament, including 6-9 vs. Florida. The Bulldogs have lost five straight to Florida in the SEC Tournament since 1996.
- Nathaniel Lowe went 2-for-4 with an RBI, run scored and his 20th double of the season, third in the SEC.
- This will be the second straight year the SEC regular-season champion doesn't make it to the SEC Tournament final. LSU, the 2015 regular season champion, lost 2-1 to Florida in the semifinals last year.
- For the second consecutive year, both games on Friday in the SEC Tournament were decided by the run rule.

FLORIDA HEAD COACH KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

Opening Statement ...

"Alex Faedo was really good tonight. He pitched a seven inning complete game, which saved our bullpen for tomorrow. JJ Schwarz had a really good night. It was a fun night all together. The guys were aggressive and had some really well at-bats. With runners in scoring positions I think seven times scorers got hits for us. Blake Reese got a really big hit, and he is a really good teammate. It was a really fun night for us. Looking forward to staying another day, and we will see what happens."

On how important the offense performance tonight was

"I think anytime this time of year you put together an offense like that in a game like that, it's important. You just want to feel good about yourself going into a regional. We made some changes tonight. Like JJ said, he played first base. We do anticipate having Pete back next week. We don't know if he will just be able to play defense and hit or just hit. It was just an idea putting JJ there. JJ has done it in inter squad games every week, so he has had work there. He is a good baseball player, and he is going to do well there. Danny Reyes had two big games for us, and that's a spark. I think the guys are excited about that. He is a really good teammate. He pulls for the other guys. When you do that and have success, I think the guys kind of rally around you. Last year we had Harrison Bader we moved him to leadoff spot in the SEC Tournament and our offense took off. I think Buddy Reed likes it in the leadoff spot. He has seemed to get a little pep in his step. In reality were hitting Dalton Guthrie too, and it's probably the best thing for

him. Now he has a chance to move the ball more with some hit and runs, which is really his strength as a hitter. It just looks pretty good right now, so we will see.”

JJ SCHWARZ, 1B

On playing first base tonight

“It was the first game I had to wear a hat on the field tonight. All I knew was, I had to knock it down and block it up like a catcher to help Alex.”

On the offense getting hits

“With Pete Alonso going down it has put a little more pressure on our lineup to score more runs because he has been so good for us this year. I thought a lot of guys stepped up for us, today especially.”

MISSISSIPPI STATE HEAD COACH JOHN COHEN

Opening Statement ...

“I thought Florida played really well. I think they’re obviously a good club. I felt like the final should not be as bad as the numbers indicate today. Of the first 12 groundballs he gave up, eight of them were hits. I know we’ve been positioned well, or if we’re standing in the right spots, we’re going to get a ton of outs. The groundballs fell. That’s how the game works sometimes. [We] just have to do a better job of having guys in the right spots.

“I thought [Alex] Faedo pitched really well, but I thought we took really good swings against him, especially in the first three or four innings. I thought we had some good swings on him. We didn’t have much to show for it. Give him credit. If we just kept battling, we aren’t getting a ton of swings and misses. We weren’t striking out a ton. Two of his [Faedo’s] five strikeouts came in the seventh inning when we brought substitutes in. So, through two separate games, through six innings, we had three punch outs against a guy who has a really good fastball and a really good slider. We didn’t do a good job of making contact. Every ball we hit hard, it was at somebody. Again, that’s how the game works. I thought Florida was excellent. I thought they deserved to win the game. I think they’re going to be a very, very good team. It was tough to see them, especially playing in a game in Gainesville. There’s no reason why they won’t be in the College World Series.”

On the errors...

“I think our kids are trying to do too much. I really do. I don’t think it’s a lack of effort. I just think they’re trying to do too much in the ball game. If you look at the game’s mistakes, it was three of the biggest mistakes we’ve made, [Eli]h Marrero trying to pick a guy at third [and] [Jake] Mangum shuts a single into a double. We were already down. We’re trying to invent things instead of letting the game come to us. I think our kids are trying too hard. I think they knew we had a lot of fans come over to support us. I think they wanted to put on a great show. I think they’re embarrassed that they didn’t. I know I am. We won the Southeastern Conference, but that means nothing, because there’s this much of a gap between any team in our league. If you don’t show up, really let the game come to you, focus and make great decisions, these are the things that are going to happen to you. We had a good discussion with our players. We’re going to get on a bus tomorrow morning and we’re going to start our preparation tomorrow for a regional, hopefully in Starkville next week.”

GAVIN COLLINS, C/3B

On the loss ...

“It was embarrassing. We have a lot of work to do this week. We all know that. We’re going to get out there and we’re going to be ready to go when the regional comes.”