**2017 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**



**MAY 23-28 | HOOVER METROPOLITAN STADIUM | HOOVER, ALA.**

| GAME 6 | LSU (10), MISSOURI (3) | NOTES AND QUOTES |

**LSU POST-GAME NOTES**

• Tonight’s win is Coach Paul Mainieri’s 500th win at LSU.

• LSU improved its overall record to 40-17 on the season and a league-best 78-40 all-time record in the SEC Tournament.

• LSU is now 12-0 against Mizzou all-time, with 10 of the wins coming since Mizzou joined the SEC in 2013.

• LSU has now won 12 of its last 13 SEC games to improve to 22-9 overall in conference play.

• All nine LSU starters reached base at least once, with six batters recording at least one hit. Cole Freeman led the way, going 4-4 with one homerun, four RBI’s and two runs scored.

• Cole Freeman recorded his 21st multi-hit game of the season, tying him with Kramer Robertson for the most on the team.

• RHP Caleb Gilbert moved to 4-1 on the season in his 24th appearance. In 40.0 innings, Gilbert has given up 30 hits, while striking out 44 and walking just eight.

**MISSOURI POST-GAME NOTES**

• The Tigers fall to 36-22 on the season and 2-4 at the SEC Tournament.

• This game marked the first meeting between Missouri and LSU at the SEC Tournament and in the 2017 season.

• Missouri has hit five home runs through two games in the SEC Tournament.

• Kameron Misner’s seven home runs are the most by a Missouri true freshman since 2007 (Trevor Coleman).

• Kirby McGuire tallied his 11th multi-hit game of the year.

**LSU COACH PAUL MAINIERI**

*Opening Statement …*

“It was nice to get our 40th win of the year today. We knew Missouri was going to be a tough game. I knew the key to the game would be the job Caleb Gilbert did for us. He pitched his heart out and I knew he would. I wish all our games were in Alabama because Caleb gets all fired up to come back to his hometown and pitch in front of his friends and family. I knew he’d pitch a great game for us, and he didn’t let that home run early in the game shake him at all. I thought he made great pitches and gave us a chance. Zach Watson came through with a big hit shooting one in the gap to tie the game up and Kramer (Robertson) had the base hit. Cole (Freeman’s) at bat was big with the sac fly allowing Kramer to tag and take second base. That allowed us to get a big inning and that’s one of the things we take a lot of pride in with LSU baseball, the fundamentals of the game. I thought our base running was really outstanding. We were sound defensively. That really allowed us to get a big inning. Those are the things we take a lot of pride in. For the most part our pitchers through a lot of strikes. That was a good way to start the SEC Tournament for us.”

*On this year’s team…*

“I love this team but I’ve loved a lot of teams at LSU. But this team has something special about it. We have four players who could have signed professionally after last year that came back for one more year. (Greg) Deichmann was a draft-eligible sophomore and three seniors in (Jared) Poche, Freeman and Robertson. That’s been a them this year. Everybody wants to send those guys out in the most appropriate way. So there’s a lot of determination on this team.”

**KRAMER ROBERTSON, SS**

*On the 10-run output…*

“I think getting to the pitches and seeing him (Sikkema) a second time through the lineup makes a difference. He’s a little bit deceptive. Once we got through the lineup and everyone had seen him once I think it helped us to know what he had.”

**COLE FREEMAN, 2B**

*On the offensive difference …*

“Sticking to our approach. The lefties in our lineup hit a lot better than you would think. Like we said he was very deceptive. He obviously had pretty good numbers, and we took that on as challenge. The biggest thing we preach right before the game is sticking to our approach. If we stick by that and can execute that then we have a pretty good chance to win, and we did that well today.”

**CALEB GILBERT, P**

*On coming back to Hoover …*

“It was awesome. I always love coming back to the SEC Tournament. It was a special thing for me growing up going to all the games. The start last year was a good bridge to this year. The nerves weren’t there (this time). I could just go out there and attack hitters and give our team the best chance to win.”

**MISSOURI HEAD COACH STEVE BIESER**

*Opening Statement …*

“Obviously, it was a tough one for us tonight. We got outplayed. The field was in great shape, so the groundskeepers kept it in great shape. They did a great job out there. I want to thank the SEC and Hoover Met for putting us in a facility that’s able to respond well.”

*On whether the rain delays disrupt the team …*

“I believe it can disrupt your team. Last night, it was tougher because we were on a roll and had to stop. I thought it came at a good time for us tonight. It kind of slowed them down and gave us some time to regroup. As a true competitor, you can’t make excuses because that’s part of the game. We didn’t respond very well tonight. That’s about as simple as I can put it. I thought if we could get out of that inning somehow with (Nolan) Gromacki’s matchup, he might be able to get a strikeout and get us out of there. We were hitting the ball pretty solidly. Their outfielders played phenomenally tonight. If a couple of balls got down, the score could’ve been different at that point. That’s why they’re at the top of the conference. They can flat out play all three sides of the ball as far as pitching, defense and offense. We just didn’t catch any breaks. We didn’t create any hits on our own. The big innings we gave up were the result of leadoff walks. That’s something we’ve been very good at. We’ve at least made them earn their runs, and we didn’t do that tonight.”

**BRETT BOND, INF**

*On his performance …*

“I hit a couple of balls hard. Some were right at guys, but that’s the game of baseball. Sometimes it doesn’t go your way, and it looked like our guys were seeing the ball really well and putting good swings on it throughout our lineup. The ball just didn’t fall for us tonight. That happens, but as far as myself, I just need to keep trying to have good at bats and avoid trying to do too much. I’m going to continue to try to keep the pitchers on the same page so they can to help us win. We’re just going to keep going and keep fighting.”

**KIRBY MCGUIRE, OF**

*On dealing with rain delays in two straight games …*

“Obviously, it’s a little tough because it breaks up your momentum. I think we had a lot of momentum early, but the rain delay kind of through us off a bit today. It also helped us a little bit because they were rolling, but the rain delay kind of gave us a fresh start. It’s tough to stop and then get back to what we need to do to get in a flow of the game.”