**2017 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**



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

| GAME 8 | MISSISSIPPI STATE (4), ARKANSAS 3 | NOTES AND QUOTES |

**MISSISSIPPI STATE POST-GAME NOTES**

• Mississippi State improved to 36-22 on the season and 64-51 at the SEC Tournament.

• MSU is now 2-4 vs. Arkansas at the SEC Tournament, winning the last two meetings.

• 22 of MSU’s 36 wins this season have been comeback victories.

• Both Brent Rooker and Ryan Gridley have reached base in MSU’s last nine games.

• Gridley extended his hit streak to career-best nine games.

• Rooker extended his hitting streak to six games.

• All nine Bulldog starters safely reached base at least once, with Gridley, Rooker and Elijah MacNamee recording multi-hit games.

**ARKANSAS POST-GAME NOTES**

• The Razorbacks have hit 71 home runs this season, which is tied for eighth for most in a single season.

• Arkansas suffered its second loss of the season when leading after eight innings.

• The Razorbacks fell to 6-2 in games decided by one run this season.

• Luke Bonfield hit his ninth home run of the season, a career high.

• Bonfield recorded his 13th multi-RBI game of the season.

• Freshman Jack Kinley recorded his first-career hit and RBI.

• Junior Trevor Stephan fanned five Bulldogs totaling 108 strikeouts this season, moving into the eighth most in program history.

• Stephan gave up a career-high eight hits.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE COACH ANDY CANNIZARO**

*Opening Statement …*

“First of all, what a tremendous win today. It really was. This victory today really epitomized what our team is about. I think it’s our 22nd or 23rd come-from-behind victory this season. Our guys don’t quit. They just keep going, and they keep fighting, and they keep throwing punches. They just keep at it for all nine innings or however long it takes to win the ballgame. I can’t speak highly enough about these guys up here. It’s just been an incredible resiliency all season long. (For us) to come out today and beat an outstanding Arkansas team in the fashion that we did today, it was incredible. What an awesome win and what an incredible game to be in the dugout for.”

*On the late-game turnaround…*

“There was certainly some pressure-filled moments there where you kept thinking we are only going to get so many opportunities against a really good Arkansas team. At some point you wanted to see somebody step up to the plate and pick up a big hit. The way we came back and won today that’s how the majority of our ballgames have gone this year. In a perfect world we jump on them early and our starting pitcher goes four, five or six innings and we give the ball to the bullpen and to (Riley) Self in the back of the game. But that’s just not the way it’s gone for us this year and that’s okay. At the end of the day, when they shut the scoreboard down the only thing we care about is having more runs than the other team.”

**BRENT ROOKER, 1B**

*On the ninth-inning double…*

“We had seen that guy (Cannon Chadwick) in the series earlier in the season and the scouting report was slider-cutter. I had the game plan going up that he wasn’t going to throw me a fastball for a strike so I was just going to sit on a breaking ball. I saw two (pitches) pretty well and the first one he threw for a ball and the second he made a pretty good pitch for a strike. On the last one, I saw it in his hand up a little bit, and I put good swing on it and drove in the gap.”

**RILEY SELF, P**

*On ninth-inning approach …*

“Just being ahead and knowing that the guys got me ahead in the game I had the confidence in my defense to just throw strikes and know that they were going to make a play.”

**ARKANSAS COACH DAVE VAN HORN**

*On the final inning …*

“Well what went wrong was the leadoff single, and they got a double by the best player in college baseball this year. We didn’t make a couple of pitches. We were very fortunate to get out of the inning only giving up two runs. We had an opportunity to win it, but we hit a guy, we walked a guy and gave up a couple hits, and you can’t overcome that.”