**2017 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**



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

| GAME 9 | SOUTH CAROLINA (10), MISSOURI (2) | NOTES AND QUOTES |

**SOUTH CAROLINA POST-GAME NOTES**

• South Carolina improved to 34-24 on the season and 27-44 at the SEC Tournament. The Gamecocks are 2-1 at the tournament for the first time since 2007.

• Justin Row and Carlos Cortes have each safely reached base in nine-consecutive games.

• Cortes’ six RBI are the most in a game by a Gamecock this season. He launched his third homer of the tournament and 12th of the year.

• Cortes’ six RBI tied a single-game SEC Tournament record.

• Cortes is the first Gamecock to hit two home runs in one SEC Tournament game since 2008 (Phil Disher).

• South Carolina is the eighth team to hit four home runs in one game at the SEC Tournament.

• Wil Crowe tied his season-high strikeouts (7) for the fourth time this season.

• The Gamecocks recorded a season high four home runs, the most in a game since 2015.

**MISSOURI POST-GAME NOTES**

• In their four meetings this season, the Tigers and Gamecocks split the series 2-2.

• This is the only second meeting between the Tigers and Gamecocks in the SEC Tournament, with the only other game coming in 2015 when the Tigers defeated the Gamecocks 5-1.

• In 17 meetings against the Gamecocks, the Tigers have won just six times.

• SS Chris Cornelius went 1-3 on the day and now has a five-game hitting streak.

• Kameron Misner extended his reached base streak to nine games.

• Missouri gave up four home runs, tying the mark for the most it has given up in a single game all season.

**SOUTH CAROLINA COACH CHAD HOLBROOK**

*Opening Statement …*

“Well obviously this was an important game. We played pretty well. Obviously Will (Crowe) was terrific. He has been a leader of our team and program for years now. He is a special player in my book. I will always have a close place in my heart for him because he could have signed after his injury, but he didn’t want to end his career in South Carolina on that note. I am glad he came back and led our team and had that moment today in the SEC tournament to throw really well. The nation is getting to see how good of a hitter Carlos Cortes is and it is certainly good to see him swing the bat the way he did today with those two, three homeruns. The more and more he gets comfortable the better he will be, and he is certainly a fun player to watch. Alex is doing extremely well as well swinging the bat with three hits today. We are swinging the bats pretty good down here. We have had some pretty good power in our numbers in our three games. We put some runs up on the board, got some momentum going, and hopefully we can continue that into tomorrow.”

**ALEX DESTINO, OF**

*On where the good hitting is coming from …*

“Just confidence. Like coach said, we have been swinging the bat pretty well this whole tournament. The wind is blowing good in Hoover. Coming in we heard it was a grave yard. Having that good first game seeing guys hitting the ball out of the park instilled confidence in them and for the rest of the hitters seeing that by hitting the ball hard in the air can reward you here. Guys being confident and going up there trying to find pitches to drive, not wanting to lose and doing everything they can to put runs on the board makes me attribute most of the confidence on swinging good bats right now.”

**WILL CROWE, P**

*On his confidence throwing the slider today …*

“In the pen I knew I was going to be throwing the fastball on both sides of the plate and the slider as well, it was pretty tight. I knew I was going to be able to man the zone and really go after people with these two pitches today so I felt I was pretty comfortable with it.”

**CARLOS CORTES, INF/OF**

*On what was going through his mind after the homerun s…*

“I was just looking for a pitch to drive, and I got it. I wasn’t really looking to hit a home run. I was looking to hit a gap to keep the bats going and put more runs on the board because the more runs we put up the easier it makes the pitchers job.”

**MISSOURI COACH STEVE BIESER**

*Opening Statement …*

“First of all, thanks for the city of Hoover and the SEC for such a quality event. We really enjoyed our time here, and it’s unfortunate that we couldn’t extent it longer. All the credit goes to South Carolina. What a game they played. They came out and took it to us and beat our best guys on the mound. So, I give them a lot of credit.”

*On overall thought about the season…*

“I’ve said it many times down the stretch here how proud I am of this group, of the work they put in, and they never back down from a single day of challenges. We kept pushing really hard, and they kept responding, and that’s the thing I will take away from this season. There was no letup from this group, and we went through some tough times and some growing pains just like any young club does even though we have some juniors in this club. But experience wise, we are a young club. I’ve said it a few times, you know, I thought we set baseball back 10 years with some of the games we played. We had a tough time figuring things out, but we were finding ways to win. That’s the biggest thing I will take away from this group. They always competed and were finding ways to win even when we weren’t playing our best baseball. When you don’t play your best baseball down the stretch in the SEC it is hard to win those games, and that’s where we hit a little tough stretch, but they started figuring it out and we made a lot of improvements from the beginning of SEC play to the end of SEC play.”

**TREY HARRIS**

*On what was off with the team…*

“It was honestly just missing a pitch that you should be able to put in to play. We were just missing pitches, and it seemed like if we would hit them hard they would go right to somebody. It just seemed like bad luck, after bad luck.”