**2017 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**



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

| GAME 12 | FLORIDA (12), MISSISSIPPI STATE (3) | NOTES AND QUOTES |

**FLORIDA POST-GAME NOTES**

• Florida improved to 42-15 on the season and 67-61 in the SEC Tournament and 10-6 all-time in the tournament vs. Mississippi State.

• Gators’ defense turned four double plays.

• Jackson Kowar kept the SEC Player of the Year, Brent Rooker, from getting on base. Rooker went 0-4 against Kowar.

• Ryan Larson has the reached base in 18-straight games.

* The Gators’ offense went 5-for-9 with bases loaded.

• The Gators tied the SEC Tournament record for most runs scored in one inning (11).

• Sophomore Deacon Liput became the only Florida player to record two hits in one inning at the SEC tournament.

• In the eighth inning, the Gators’ accounted for six hits and six walks en route to 11 runs.

• Jackson Kowar earned his 11th win.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE POST-GAME NOTES**

• Mississippi State suffered its sixth-consecutive loss against the Gators in the SEC Tournament, a streak that dates back to 1996. The Gators eliminated the Bulldogs in their last two trips to Hoover.

• Making his seventh start of the season, Cole Gordon set career highs in strikeouts with seven and his 7.0 innings pitched topped his previous career best of four frames.

• After hitting the first batter he faced, Gordon retired the next 12 Gators before Nelson Maldonaldo registered the first Florida hit. Thanks to two double plays, Gordon faced the minimum through five innings.

• Ryan Gridley improved is now 6-for-13 in the tournament with a 2-for-4 day. He also extended his hitting streak to 10 and recorded his sixth multi-hit outing in his last seven games.

• Riley Self, attempting to become the first pitcher in SEC Tournament history to record a save in his team’s first three games, allowed a season-high five runs and earned his first loss of the season.

• Hunter Vansau’s go-ahead triple was the first hit longer than a double of his career. Vansau finished with both of Bulldog’s RBI.

• The 4-through-8 hitters in the Bulldogs order went 9-for-17 (.529) accounting for all three runs.

**FLORIDA COACH KEVIN O’SULLIVAN**

*Opening Statement …*

“It was a crazy game. I haven’t checked on Ryan Larson yet, but I hope everything is ok. As far as the game is concerned, I thought Jackson threw the ball well and kept us in the ball game. He gave up two runs over seven.

He did a really nice job over the top half of their order and gave us a chance. Michael (Byrne) came in with the bases loaded and did a nice job slowing them down. Their starter did a good job against our hitters and was hitting his spots. He didn’t walk anybody and kept us on our heels. All of a sudden Christian (Hicks) gets a line drive hit in the eighth, and then they went to the bullpen and things kind of opened up. It was a good lesson to learn for our team: no matter what happens, as long as we have a chance to swing the bats, we get 27 outs to work with and anything can happen and today was one of those days.”

*On the decision to start Jackson Kowar today and looking ahead to the regional …*

“It gives us an option. We haven’t set our rotation yet, but we have an option to start Jackson if we need to in the regional. I thought it would be good for Jackson to pitch against a good Mississippi State team and the best hitter in the conference, if not the country. Not many people hold (Brent) Rooker hitless, so great job by Jackson today as far as that is concerned.”

**JACKSON KOWAR, P**

*On the key to stopping Rooker …*

“With him you have to have command of good pitches if you’re going against him multiple times. I knew going into the game I was going to have to be able to locate my fastball to both sides of the plate against him, which I was able to do. I have a third pitch changeup, and that is something that I don’t think he sees too much, so having command of that was big.”

**DEACON LIPUT, INF**

*On the mentality of the team during the eighth inning …*

“As a team it shows a lot about our character. We came into the eighth inning and we had six outs to work with, so we stuck to our approach and didn’t try to do too much.”

**MISSISSIPPI STATE COACH ANDY CANNIZARO**

*On Cole Gordon’s performance …*

“First of all, I want to start with Cole Gordon. He was outstanding today. Seven shutout innings against one of the best teams in the country. He was outstanding. He is a Tampa kid, and what he did today against the University of Florida was outstanding.”