**2017 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**



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

| GAME 13 | SOUTH CAROLINA (3), KENTUCKY (1) | NOTES AND QUOTES |

**SOUTH CAROLINA POST-GAME NOTES**

• South Carolina improved to 35-25 on the season and 28-44 at the SEC Tournament. The Gamecocks are 3-1 at the tournament for the first time since 2002.

• Adam Hill leads the team with four pickoffs this season.

• The Gamecocks recorded two pickoffs in a single game for the first time this season.

• TJ Hopkins is the first player to record a pinch-hit home run in the SEC Tournament since Julian Infante in 2016.

• Hopkins’ homer marked the first time the Gamecocks have recorded a pinch-hit home run this season.

• Justin Row has reached base in 10-consecutive games and recorded at least one hit in South Carolina’s four SEC tournament games.

• Five Gamecocks have homered this week – Carlos Cortes (3), Jonah Bride (2), Justin Row, Alex Destino and TJ Hopkins.

**KENTUCKY POST-GAME NOTES**

• With a single to lead off the game, sophomore right fielder Tristan Pompey has now reached base safely in 30- consecutive games and has hits in 43 of the last 48.

• Starting pitcher Justin Lewis didn’t allow a hit for the first 5.1 innings of the game.

* The three-run home run surrendered by Logan Salow in the seventh inning was just the third one he’s allowed all season.
* Kentucky was 0-9 with runners in scoring position and left nine men on base throughout the course of the game. They also failed to collect any two-out hits.
* The Wildcats fall to 39-20 on the season and are eliminated from the SEC Tournament.

**SOUTH CAROLINA COACH CHAD HOLBROOK**

*Opening Statement …*

“This was an incredible game and an incredible win for our team. Throughout the course of the year, when we have not had all of our guys available to play, it was neat to see them all come together today and win. This was a big game against a great Kentucky team. For us to hold them to one run is amazing. If you would have told me before the game we would get two hits, I thought we would only play seven innings. Our pitchers were outstanding. Adam got us off to a great start, Josh, Reid and then the big man Tyler at the end of the game was special. Just a big win. TJ stepped up in the seventh. That is the beauty of baseball. You can win or lose the game sometimes with one swing of the bat, and we have lost a few to one swing of the bat this year. It was good to see us get one back today. I am happy for TJ. He has pretty much been hurt all year long. He stepped up into a big spot when our season was on the line. I couldn’t be happier for our kids.”

*On what it has been like watching the players evolve…*

“We have had some tough moments. What I am proud of is how the kids stayed together. They played well. They played some good baseball. We have had some tough breaks. We have had some things not go our way, but they stayed together. They came to the park every day to work. They had a great attitude. It has been neat to see them play this week. We were a hurting group after the last series of the year just because we knew what opportunities had slipped through our fingertips. To see them come back and show that resolve, that Gamecock pride and spirit and put themselves back in the position to win some game and represent this program and university the right way, is very meaningful to me.”

**TJ Hopkins, OF**

*On it feels to win a big game like this …*

“It feels good. Like coach said, we lost a lot of close one or two-run games, but to win this, it feels great. I know everyone up here feels great, and I especially feel great.”

**Adam Hill, P**

*On how he felt when pitching …*

“I was a little erratic at first, but I was able to pile it in. They are a great hitting team, so I was really trying to pitch them fastballs and try to throw them off speed; change-up from curveballs to sliders. That was really my approach.”

**KENTUCKY COACH NICK MINGIONE**

“Well I have never been a part of a game where you have two hits and lose. The three-run home run was really big for them and that ended up being the difference in the game. We didn't defend the game good enough to win. I thought the guy to my right (Justin Lewis) threw awesome. He threw about as good as he could, and unfortunately we didn't make enough plays behind him to win the game.”

*On the tournament South Carolina team vs. regular season South Carolina team…*

“I don't see much difference. I think that they are a really good team, just as I have thought the whole year. Look at the beginning of the year where the national media had them ranked. I think that that shows that they have always had the ability to perform the way they are now. I think they have always competed and fought hard.”

**JUSTIN LEWIS, P**

*On how you felt about your pitching …*

“I felt really good. I felt comfortable that first inning, but I didn't really have good command of the fastball. As the game went on, I got more comfortable and got in the zone more and just let my defense work. I have been working a lot with coach (Jim) Belanger on my slider and it was a good pitch for me today.”