**2017 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**



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

| CHAMPIONSHIP GAME | LSU (4), ARKANSAS (2) | NOTES AND QUOTES |

**2017 ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**

**P:** Alex Lange, LSU

**P:** Kacey Murphy, Akransas

**C:** Blake Logan, Auburn

**DH:** Luke Bonfield, Arkansas

**1B:** Chad Spanberger, Arkansas

**2B:** Cole Freeman, LSU

**3B:** Jonah Bride, South Carolina

**SS:** Kramer Robertson, LSU

**OF:** Greg Deichmann, LSU

**OF:** Antoine Duplantis, LSU

**OF:** Carlos Cortes, South Carolina

**Most Valuable Player:** Chad Spanberger, Arkansas

**LSU POST-GAME NOTES**

• LSU improved to 43-17 on the season and 81-40 at the SEC Tournament. The Tigers are now 10-4 vs. Arkansas at the SEC Tournament.

• With the win, Paul Mainieri tied Jim Wells and Skip Bertman for the most SEC Tournament titles (6). He is a perfect 6-0 in championship games.

• LSU earned its seventh undefeated SEC Championship and league-leading 12th title overall. The Tigers last title came in 2014.

• The Tigers now have 18 tournament finals appearances, the most by any team in the SEC.

• LSU is the first team to go undefeated in the SEC Tournament since 2014, when the Tigers went 4-0.

• This marked the first time a No. 2 seed won the SEC Tournament since 2013 (LSU).

• Kramer Robertson, Antoine Duplantis and Greg Deichmann each recorded at least one hit in all four games this week.

• The Tigers have now won 11 games in a row against SEC teams.

• LSU has had 77 players named to the SEC All-Tournament team in program history.

**ARKANSAS POST-GAME NOTES**

• Arkansas fell for the fourth time in as many tries in the SEC Tournament title game.

• The three runs allowed by Arkansas pitching in the third were more than it had allowed in the previous 23 innings combined.

• With Eric Cole’s third-inning home run, the Hogs went deep for the 10th time in the tournament, tying them for second most all time and most in the last 20 years. Cole also extended his hitting streak to a career-best 11 games with the blast.

• Starter Kevin Kopps was saddled with his first loss (3-1) of the season.

• MVP Chad Spanberger went 0-for-3 with two intentional walks on Sunday and wrapped up the tournament leading the field in RBI (10), home runs (5), total bases (26) and times on bases (16). His five homers were tied for the second most in the history of the SEC Tournament.

• Jax Biggers went 1-for-4 on the day pushing his SEC Tournament total to 10 hits, most in the field.

• The Razorback’s three walks gave them 31 for the tournament — the most free passes since Mississippi State had 38 in 1990.

**LSU COACH PAUL MAINIERI**

*Opening statement …*

“Well obviously we’re thrilled with the championship of the SEC Tournament. This is one of the best events going. It’s not quite Omaha, it’s not quite the National Championship, but I can say our players and coaching staff love coming to Hoover so much. It’s such a well-run event. It’s a great venue, the crowds are always awesome, mostly for LSU I guess. The competition is amazing, and it brings out the best in our kids. I think it’s a really good thing for our players to get the experience of playing for championships.”

**ANTOINE DUPLANTIS, LF**

*On carrying their confidence into regionals …*

“When you play against the best competition you could possibly play against, all in one week and one place, that’s pretty cool. We know that all of us can play at the highest level, and we need to carry that over. This is some of the best baseball you’re going to play, so we know that we can compete against those guys and win.”

**ERIC WALKER, RHP**

*On his command on the mound …*

“I think it was just a mixture of all three pitches. Like you said, command was a big deal. I was able to locate on both sides with my fastball. I kept them kind of off balance, but that’s a good lineup. They’ve been swinging well all year. We were lucky to come out with a win today.”

**COLE FREEMAN, 2B**

*On the emotions of the game in the ninth inning with the tying run in scoring position…*

“Really, you’re just praying the ball is hit to you. You just want that opportunity to make the play and get that last out. We knew Hunter (Newman) was going to get the job done because he’s done that all year.”

**ARKANSAS COACH DAVE VAN HORN**

*Opening Statement …*

“I thought it ended up being a good game at the end. It was one that we felt from our side that we let a couple of opportunities slip away. We had 10 runners left on base and LSU had three. They put together the three-run inning and we gave them a couple of runs there by not making a play on the ground ball. I didn’t know if we were going to turn a double play, but needed to get an out there. We walked a runner in on a ball that we thought was strike three on a checked swing, and we didn’t get the call but that’s the way the game works a little bit. They punched in three but then we held them down a little bit. We had a couple of runners on second base that we couldn’t bring in. We have to give credit to (Eric) Walker, he did a great job of holding us down and getting a strikeout when he needed it. We obviously rallied in the ninth and were one big hit away from tying it up and winning the ball game. I’m proud of my team. I thought they played hard and with some energy even after playing so many games in a row. They gave me good effort.”

**CHAD SPANBERGER, 1B**

*On the strategy to get him on second, and the game in general …*

“It was a pretty bold strategy, I’d say, because Luke [Bonfield] is as good of a hitter as I am. He’s hit three walk-offs this year already. He made the best out of a bad situation.”

*On the relationships with the LSU players …*

“It was a clean slide of course. He kind of came up behind [Dominic] Fletcher, but other than that, they are nice guys. They try and talk to us all the time. We don’t have anything against them.”

**JOSH ALBERIUS, RHP**

*On the game today …*

“We didn’t want to lose that game obviously. We’re here to play, and we’re here to win. Going forward, it’s going to sting for about a day or so, but we can take this experience and learn from it.”

*On the strike zone, and what he was seeing with LSU …*

“We can’t control what the umpire does, we just have to make the adjustments accordingly. That’s a great ball club over there. We have a lot of respect for them. When you come in, you have to execute pitches. If you don’t you’re going to pay for it. You know, take this as a learning experience and move forward.”