



# 2018 SEC Women's Basketball Tournament

Game 7 – Friday, March 2 – 12:00 p.m.

**#9 Kentucky vs. #1 Mississippi State**

## KENTUCKY NOTES

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- The Wildcats finish the season 15-17 overall, 35-39 all-time in the SEC Tournament.
- This is the first season below .500 for Matthew Mitchell at Kentucky. His only other prior season below that mark was his final year at Morehead State in 2006-07, as the Eagles were 14-16.
- It is the first sub-.500 record for Kentucky since 2003-04, when Mickie DeMoss' first team finished 11-17.
- Kentucky's loss ends an eight-year streak of appearances in the SEC Tournament Semifinals. The last time UK did not advance to at least the semifinal round was 2009, when the Wildcats fell to Georgia, 82-64, in the first round.
- The Wildcats lost all three meetings with Mississippi State this season after carrying an 11-game win streak over the Bulldogs into the year.
- The Wildcats are 0-10 against ranked opponents this season.
- Kentucky led after one quarter, 23-22, but was outscored 46-21 in the second and third frames.
- Junior guard and UK season scoring leader Maci Morris had 13 points, breaking her streak of consecutive games with 20 or more points against SEC opponents at seven.
- Morris scored in double figures in all but three of Kentucky's games this season.

## MISSISSIPPI STATE NOTES

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- The Bulldogs extended their unbeaten mark to 31-0 and won their 20<sup>th</sup> SEC Tournament game in program history for an all-time record of 20-39. MSU moves one game closer to their third straight SEC Tournament Title game appearance.
- Junior center Tiera McGowan posted her eighth consecutive double-double with a 12-point, 11-rebound performance. The SEC's leader in offensive rebounds collected four boards off the offensive glass.
- Rashunda Johnson led MSU in scoring for the fourth time this season behind a 20-point afternoon. The senior was a perfect 7-for-7 from the charity stripe.
- MSU connected on 15-of-17 from the free-throw line their third highest mark of the 2017-18 campaign.
- Senior guard Blair Schaefer tied a career high by hitting five 3-point baskets with all seven of her field goal attempts coming from behind the arc.
- Over a stretch of 2:15 in the second period, the Bulldogs knocked down five 3-point baskets (3 from Johnson and 2 from Schaefer). The run helped move MSU from a 3-point lead to a 13-point advantage.
- MSU dominated the turnover battle holding a 17-4 advantage in points off turnovers. The Bulldogs were one off their season low with five turnovers in the matchup.

- Mississippi State, the SEC's leader in 3-point percentage, connected on 10-of-21 3-point baskets in the game, marking the seventh consecutive game that the Bulldogs have hit 40% or better from outside the arc.
- Distributing the ball around, five Bulldogs had at least three assists for a total of 19 dimes.