



## 2018 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT MAY 22-27 | HOOVER METROPOLITAN STADIUM | HOOVER, ALA.

### | GAME 2 | AUBURN 4, KENTUCKY 3 (11) | NOTES AND QUOTES |

#### KENTUCKY POST-GAME NOTES

- The Wildcats are now 22-36 (.379) during their time in the conference's postseason tourney.
- Kentucky is 45-79 (.363) all-time against Auburn following today's loss.
- The relief appearance by junior Sean Hjelle is his first this season. Hjelle had previously made 14 appearances, all starts, entering this afternoon's matchup. The right-hander made one relief appearance across 18 total outings as a sophomore and began his career as a reliever in his freshman season with 21 appearances out of the bullpen for the Wildcats.
- Eight of the nine Kentucky starters on offense reached base safely at least once in the game.
- Kole Cottam's solo home run in his first at-bat of the day was the Wildcats' 59<sup>th</sup> of the season in day games. In 2018, 73 percent of the Wildcats' home runs (81 total) have come in day contests.
- Cottam has hit five of the last 15 home runs for UK and now leads the team with 19.
- The 2-for-4 effort by Cottam was his team-leading 24<sup>th</sup> multi-hit effort of the season. He has totaled 50 for his career.
- Cottam also finished with two RBI to move into the team lead for multi-RBI games with 16.
- After finishing 3-for-5, Cottam moved up to 26<sup>th</sup> place in program annals for career hits with 162.
- Troy Squires was hit by a pitch in his first at-bat, the 30<sup>th</sup> of his career and the ninth all-time in Kentucky history.

#### KENTUCKY HEAD COACH NICK MINGIONE

##### *Opening Statement ...*

"When you think about what it was going to take to win the game, I'm just really proud of the way our team competed. This guy here to my right (Kole Cottam), we were down to our last strike, and he hits a ball in the gap. He gives us a chance. How tough are these guys? Really, really proud of the way our team competed tonight."

#### KENTUCKY 1B KOLE COTTAM

"After the first inning I saw a lot of fastballs. That last at bat, they were trying to attack me with fastballs. He left one over the plate, and if you look at the pitches before that, they were very, very good pitches. I got one over the plate though, and I was able to drive it in the gap."

#### KENTUCKY P SEAN HJELLE

##### *On pitching on short rest . . .*

"I had no idea how many pitches I was going to throw today, but I knew I would throw today. That was always part of the plan. I told Coach Bellinger, it might have been Thursday after the game, that I wanted to pitch today. I knew I was going to pitch today; I just didn't know how long it was going to be. The whole team kept making plays behind me all day long."