



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

| GAME 3 | LSU 8, MISSISSIPPI STATE 5 | NOTES AND QUOTES |

LSU POST-GAME NOTES

- Tonight's game marked LSU's 33rd appearance in the SEC Tournament. The Tigers hold a league-best 82-40 (.672) mark in the conference's postseason tournament and have claimed a league-leading 12 tournament titles.
- The matchup between the Tigers and Bulldogs was the 392nd in a series that dates back to 1905. Mississippi State leads the series, 204-187-1.
- Tonight's matchup was the 18th pairing between the Western Division foes in the SEC Tournament with the two teams now even at nine games apiece.
- With LSU's win, the Tigers are 17-4 when scoring 6-9 runs.
- The Tigers moved in front in tonight's game with a two-spot in the seventh. With those two runs, LSU improved its record to 30-2 when leading after seven innings.
- Nick Bush made his fourth start of the season and 22nd appearance overall. Over those four starts, Bush is 1-0 with a 1.69 ERA (3 ER/16.0 IP), allowing 16 hits with two walks compared to 14 strikeouts.
- With his three strikeouts, Bush has now struck out three or more batters on five occasions with the most recent instance coming on April 27 at Ole Miss.
- Zach Hess' relief outing was his first of the season. A regular in the Tigers' weekend rotation, Hess had appeared in 14 games prior to tonight – all starts.
- Todd Peterson recorded his team-leading fifth save of the season.
- LSU collected double-digit hits for the 31st time in 57 games played.
- Eight of the nine Tiger hitters who made an appearance at the plate recorded at least one hit.
- Seven of the nine LSU batters who tallied a plate appearance knocked in at least one RBI.
- Daniel Cabrera went 1-for-3 on the night to extend his hitting streak to nine games. Over that time, the freshman is batting .500 (16-32) with three doubles, one triple, three home runs and six walks. He has also added 13 RBI and seven runs scored during that stretch.
- Antoine Duplantis finished 3-for-5 for his team-leading 25th multi-hit game of 2018 and his team-high ninth three-hit performance.
- Duplantis also contributed two RBI for his 12th multi-RBI outing, matching Cabrera for the team lead.

LSU HEAD COACH PAUL MAINIERI

Opening statement . . .

"That was a very thrilling victory for our team. It was a game that didn't go all that well for us early. (Konner) Pilkington was locked in. We had a tough time with him. Nick Bush did a really incredible job. He threw a lot of strikes. He gave up some hits, but he also got out of some jams. We got ourselves into a hole right away. Zack (Hess) was struggling when we came in. Then finally we started getting to Pilkington. Our bullpen came in after Hess and did a good job. (Devin) Fontenot did a really nice job for us. Finally, we started to get some big hits. Todd Peterson was just amazing. What a difference he has made for our team."

On tomorrow's matchup . . .

"I didn't realize until earlier today who was in our side of the bracket. I was so focused on Mississippi State. Then I realize if we win we play Florida. I can't tell you how much we are looking forward to it. We have had a great run with Florida over the past few years. Obviously last year in the National Championship series. They are undoubtedly the No. 1 team in the country. They won the SEC, and we didn't even get the chance to play them because that's how scheduling worked. I can't tell you how excited our team is to have the opportunity to play the No. 1 team in the country."

LSU P TODD PETERSON

On what has clicked since he has stepped into a closer role . . .

"I really just bought in. For me it was at first Vanderbilt. That was the game I really bought into. I felt like my high school self again. I was just going out there and letting it rip. I wasn't really caring about who was on base. I was just going out there and letting it rip. From then on, I have really bought into that role, and here we are today. It is exciting."

On the last play of the game. . .

"He caught a fastball. I wanted to get a swing and miss there. I didn't get it high enough. I turned around and watched Hal (Hughes) get it. I said, 'Wow. Thank goodness.' I went up to him after the game, and we talked about if he does that for me I'd do anything for him. He did the job the right there."

LSU SS HAL HUGHES

On the last play of the game . . .

"I saw the big hop off the bat. I knew I was going to have to go and get it. I knew (Hunter) Stovall is a good runner, and I'd have to be fast. I did my best to make the play."

On the momentum shift of the fifth inning . . .

"That was a great play by Brandt (Broussard). That was a big play for us. It got us out of the inning. I think we were confident in ourselves that we were going to score some runs."

LSU RF ANTONIE DUPLANTIS

On the momentum shift of the fifth inning . . .

"We were just trying to catch a break. They were hitting balls hard throughout the game. To double him up and get some luck on our side felt pretty good."

On what makes hitting Pilkington difficult . . .

"He kept throwing all three pitches. He was throwing strikes. It's always difficult when he is throwing all three pitches for strikes. Just don't know what to expect."