

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

## | GAME 12 | ARKANSAS 8, FLORIDA 2 | NOTES AND QUOTES |

## **ARKANSAS POST-GAME NOTES**

- Arkansas' win moved its SEC Tournament record to 33-39 overall. The Razorbacks are also 2-0 in the 2018 installment after beating South Carolina, 13-8, on Wednesday night.
- The Razorbacks are 2-2 on the season against Florida, winning the series opener in Gainesville before falling in the final two games of the weekend in their weekend pairing earlier this season.
- Blaine Knight earned his 10<sup>th</sup> win of the season and is now a perfect 10-0 in 2018. The 10 wins matches Florida's Brady Singer for the most in the SEC in 2018.
- Matt Cronin recorded his team-leading 11<sup>th</sup> save of the season. Nine of those 11 are multi-inning saves.
- Eight of the 10 UA hitters who made a plate appearance collected at least one hit on the morning.
- Hunter Wilson notched his first home run of the season, a grand slam. It was only the second homer of his collegiate career and his first as a member of the Razorbacks.
- Wilson's four RBI were a season-high total for the redshirt junior.
- The grand slam was the third of this year's tournament, a record. The other two came from Edouard Julien of Auburn and LT Tolbert of South Carolina.
- Casey Martin's home run in the second inning was his team-leading 13<sup>th</sup> of the season.
- Martin's homer moved his hitting streak to five games. The freshman finished his morning 2-for-4 with the home run to go with two RBI and a run scored and is batting .455 (10-22) with a double, three home runs, five RBI, five runs scored and two walks over the five-game stretch.
- The two-hit performance from Martin was his 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2018, a total that leads all Arkansas hitters.
- Luke Bonfield's 1-for-1 effort extended his hitting streak to eight games. During that time, the senior is batting .407 (11-27) with a double, a pair of home runs and seven walks. He has added seven RBI, nine runs scored and one stolen base during the streak.
- The UA designated hitter reached base safely in all four of his plate appearances, going 1-for-1 with three walks. Bonfield's three walks matched his season high for free passes, which he also totaled against USC on March 4.
- Bonfield's walk in the second inning made it 15 consecutive games in which he has reached base safely.

## **ARKANSAS COACH DAVE VAN HORN**

#### Opening Statement ...

"I thought it was a really well-played game. Both teams turned some double plays. We had to catch them in an 8-5 double play. (Dominic) Fletcher made a great throw that I felt like was a big play in the game. They turned some double plays on us. We left some guys out there and had a chance to build up a couple more run lead, but give them credit. I have a hard time bunting some of the guys who are good hitters. Sometimes when they run off of the field, you wish you would have bunted, but a guy hits the ball hard, makes a diving catch, turns a double play, you just kind of tip your hat to them. Both pitchers were outstanding, throwing a lot of strikes. Blaine (Knight) is one of those guys when he pitches we usually play really well behind him. It's like our defense is on its toes. They compete for him, and he competes for us. I thought he did a good job. It was a hot day, humid. When out, as usual, he gives us a chance to win. I'm just proud of him and our team for getting up early and coming out here and getting after it."

## ARKANSAS RHP BLAINE KNIGHT

#### On his outing ...

"I felt pretty good. My breaking ball was a little shaky. I kept airing it, and it was up. I hit a guy with it. I was trying to keep it in the zone, but everything else was really good. Against Florida, I tried not to make

mistakes over the plate. They are a team that if you make mistakes, they will punish you. They're No. 1 for a reason. I was trying to make them hit my pitches and let my defense do the rest."

### **ARKANSAS PR HUNTER WILSON**

#### On his grand slam ...

"When I was on deck, Coach Van Horn told me to be ready to slap something the other way because that's usually what I do. I got a breaking ball down and got the bat head out and let the wind do the rest, I guess. It was fun. It was a good time. It was everything you dream about. That's for sure."

#### **ARKANSAS 3B CASEY MARTIN**

On thoughts about Florida's Jackson Kowar and Arkansas starting pitcher Blaine Knight ...

"(Kowar) was definitely really good. He could locate and had a pretty firm fastball. His changeup was pretty good, but the one I hit out was a fastball in. I just kind of sat on it. Other than that, I thought Blaine threw a really good game. He's thrown well all year, but like coach said, it does seem like every time he pitches our defense really plays behind him. We have a lot of trust in him. I'm just glad we can go out and do what we do with him."