



2019 SEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT
MAY 21-26 | HOOVER METROPOLITAN STADIUM | HOOVER, ALA.

GAME 2 | Ole Miss 2, Missouri 1 | NOTES AND QUOTES

POST-GAME NOTES

- Ole Miss now owns the all-time advantage against Missouri, 11-10. The win marks the first meeting in the SEC Tournament between the Rebels and Tigers.
- The Rebels are currently riding a five-game winning streak in the Tournament.
- Will Ethridge tossed 7.0 innings and has gone 7.0 or more frames in five of his last seven starts after not surpassing the 6.0 mark through his first seven starts of the year.
- Ethridge also punched out six, his most in a start since he had seven against Texas A&M on April 25. Following today's outing, he has tallied five or more strikeouts seven times this season.
- All nine Ole Miss starters on offense reached base safely at least once with six of the nine recording a hit and four of those six posting multi-hit efforts.
- Kevin Graham drew a walk to extend his streak to 12-consecutive games reaching base safely.
- Graham's hitting streak came to an end at 10 games. Across that streak, the freshman batted .333 (12-36) with two doubles, three home runs, nine RBI, 10 runs scored and one walk.

Ole Miss Coach Mike Bianco

Opening Statement ...

"Just I thought a tremendous college baseball game. We've said so much to our team this year, it takes all kinds (of ways to win) this time of year. Today was one of those pitching, defensive types of games. Not a better guy for us on the mound than Will Ethridge. You know, pitching that kind of game. I said it to the team and I've said it for a while, but a lot of credit has to go to our team and probably the guy that is the least talked about for the success of our team is Will. He was just tremendous on Friday (vs. Tennessee). He deserves a better record, but if you look at the rest of the statistics he has pitched tremendous. Today was just another chapter of how well he's played this year and how well he's pitched. Of course a couple of timely hits, and of course Ryan (Olenek) just shows what kind of competitor he is. The local beat writers have seen it for years. He's just terrific on the big stage and in the big moments."

On When He Knew He Would Use Ryan In A Save Situation ...

"Probably around the seventh. We knew we could use him, but didn't know how the bullpen was going to shake out today. Again, Saturday and today that's huge anytime you get a save on the road. There's so much about the short rest. It was shorter than we were used to but I don't think it was extreme. It's still short and you're not sure about it because of the heat and if the bullpen is going to lead you at that point. (Parker) Caracci got loose there for a minute, if we could get to the other day like we did in the ninth. That was probably a long answer for the seventh inning."

Ole Miss Junior Pitcher Will Ethridge

On whether he prepared any differently for this game ...

"I pretty much just prepare on how I do for every outing and just treat this like normal, trust the bullpen and keep competing. Also put up zeros, and I couldn't have done it without the defense, and who came up with big double plays which helped me get off the field."

Ole Miss Senior Outfielder/Pitcher Ryan Olenek

On Closing Out the Game...

"I wanted to just throw strikes and that's my mentality to throw strikes. Just prepare like you would normally. It felt good to be out there. I love being out there given an opportunity and try to take advantage of it."



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- With today's loss, Missouri falls to 2-8 all-time at the SEC Tournament.
- Tuesday marked the first meeting between Missouri and Ole Miss in the SEC Tournament.
- The Tigers have dropped the last five contests, marking the longest losing streak since falling in six straight in 2017.
- Missouri is now 8-8 in one-run games this season. The 16 one-run contests is tied for the most among SEC teams with LSU.
- Konnor Ash made just his second start of the season in his team-leading 23rd appearance. He tossed 4.0 scoreless innings, allowing three hits to go with three strikeouts and three walks.
- Nine of Austin James' 17 hits this season have been for extra bases including his double in the second inning of today's game.
- Thomas Broyles collected his fourth multi-hit game of the season with a double and infield single.

Missouri Coach Steve Bieser

Opening Statement ...

"I mean just a tough day for us obviously. We wanted to go win this game and get ourselves rolling in this conference tournament, but I'm really proud of this team the way they've competed all season long. The way they will continue to compete. I thank Hoover for an outstanding venue. This is a great place to be and there are a lot of good teams in this tournament."

On Ole Miss Pitcher Will Ethridge keeping Missouri hitters off balance

"Will's such a great competitor and really knows how to control the outside corners to a lefty. He uses that sinker really well. I felt like he tried to get a little bit off the plate early, and he wasn't getting that and had to come in the zone. His stuff is good enough to compete in the zone. He's one of the top pitchers in this league, and you have to tip your cap to him."

On if today was a must win for the NCAA Tournament

"Obviously we wanted to win today and that just seals it. This is a team that has played 10 conference series. We've only lost four of those series in conference play. I like our resume, and I like this team. This is a team that is going to get healthy in the next week. We're getting one of our starters back. Everything is rolling our way, and we'd be very difficult in a region right there. I feel like our resume is really solid."

Missouri Sophomore Pitcher Konnor Ash

On finding out he was pitching and his performance

"I found out yesterday. I didn't have my best stuff. The defense played great behind me. I just went out there trying to attack. Like I said, my defense played great and that's about it."