



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

GAME 1 | Texas A&M 8, Florida 7 | NOTES AND QUOTES |

POST-GAME NOTES

- With today's win, Texas A&M is 12-7 all-time at the SEC Tournament.
- Texas A&M is now 12-7 all-time against Florida, including a perfect 2-0 mark at the SEC Tournament.
- Aggie pitchers combined for 12 strikeouts today, moving the 2019 staff to 614 this season. The 614 strikeouts is a program record for a single season, surpassing the previous mark of 612 by the 2010 team.
- Bryce Miller's appearance in today's game moved him to 30 for the season, the most among SEC pitchers. The relief outing made Miller the 15th pitcher in Aggie history to see time in 30 games in a season.
- Braden Shewmake's 2-for-3 day moved him to 141 hits, making him the national leader for hits among Division I juniors. His 141 hits surpasses Josh Jung of Texas Tech for the national lead. Jung was at 140 entering today's game. He and Texas Tech will begin conference tournament play tomorrow afternoon.
- The two-hit day for Shewmake was his team-leading 22nd of the season.

TEXAS A&M HEAD COACH ROB CHILDRESS

Opening Statement ...

"I'm just really proud of our team. It was a hard-fought win, back and forth all the way. Asa Lacy got us off to a wonderful start and we have to give Florida credit, third time through, bottom of the order. I think it was the 5th inning and they took a lot of pitches from him and set up an inning and McConnell knocked it down with a big hit to gather momentum for Florida and set up another inning for them as far as free bases, and they ended up tying the game. But for us to stay in the fight and stay close, the bullpen did a good enough job to allow Mikey Hoehner and Johnathan Duccoff to be heroes offensively for us today."

On Importance of winning today for regionals...

"Well I just wanted to win today and do what it takes to win today and worry about tomorrow if we get to that point. Florida certainly did a great job against our bullpen, and I didn't want those guys going 10 days without throwing again. I wanted them to be in the game and in those moments. Had we not had a lead at the top of the ninth, Kalich was going out. If it was tied or we were down a run just to keep it close just so he was out there in that moment. But I am proud of him for getting it back together and giving us a shot there in the extra inning."

On Using Duccoff...

"I knew he was going to do something special. I don't call him very often, but I felt like in that moment there in the eighth inning that he was going to run into one and I actually called it. I called that one right there and I guess if you call them enough, you'll eventually get it right every now and then. He's a special kid and certainly an inspiration to our team and I'm thankful he's with us."

On hosting situation ...

"Well I listen to the experts all the time and follow along so well. I mean you look at our numbers our RPI and you hope, and you wish but you really just want to take I out of everyone else's hands and just play well and that's my message to the team, just go play well. Everything will take care of itself and at the end of the day that's what matters most. How are our chances now?"

Texas A&M Senior OF/1B Johnathan Duccoff

On Back and forth during game and thoughts on the ninth inning

"I know for me my first thought was this is a lot of fun, but second you've got to give the credit to Florida. We jumped out early and took a 3-0 lead and that didn't mean anything to them. They just kept coming offensively. The guys they rolled out the bullpen came in and threw strikes, so credit to them as well."

On Big homerun and walk-off single ...

"I think there's no doubt about it that this is the most special moment in my career. Less about everything that I've been through and more about this is just a highlight for my career. I think that from what I've been through in the past year and a half I never would have thought that this is where I would be. I'd call you crazy if you said that, but God is good and he's faithful and this is a really awesome thing for me."

Texas A&M Junior Catcher Mikey Hoehner

On Back and forth during game and thoughts on the 9th inning ...

"I mean this is game 57 for us and we've seen just about every possible outcome there is, and we know if we keep swinging and keep making contact with the ball and throwing strikes that, it'll go our way in the end."



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POST-GAME NOTES

- Florida is 7-12 vs Texas A&M all-time, including 0-3 at neutral sites against the Aggies.
- The Gators are 68-65 all-time in 39 SEC Tournament appearances
- This loss snaps the three-game win streak Florida had after sweeping No. 22 Missouri in Columbia, handing the Tigers their first home series loss of the season.
- Austin Langworthy extended his hitting streak to eight with a single in the first. He finished his day 3-for-5.
- Brady McConnell drove in his team leading 47th RBI of the season. This is his 12th game with multiple RBI, the most of any Gator this year.
- Tommy Mace finished with six strikeouts, his most since April 18 at LSU. Mace has now recorded five or more strikeouts in eight games this season.
- All nine offensive starters for Florida reached base safely.
- Senior captain Nelson Maldonado has hit 14 RBI over the last 16 games. Maldonado also improved his stolen base attempts to 4-4. Maldonado finished the day 1-for-5.

Florida Coach Kevin O'Sullivan

Opening Statement ...

"Well, obviously credit to Texas A&M. They played really well and started off to a really good start. They were just a little bit better than us today, and we made a couple mistakes. You know, credit to our hitters. They battled against some of the best pitching in our league today and some of our young hitters had some really good at bats. We battled from behind obviously down by three and then we bounced back into it. I thought Tommy (Mace) gave us a great start and you know, a play here and play there, a pitch here and pitch there obviously it's a different outcome. But credit to Texas A&M. They played a little better than us today."

On the decision to bring (Jordan) Butler into the game

"Yeah, once again it was an easy second guess but that's become the history of our whole year. We score, we go around and we give it up. If you think about it, we gave up a solo home run, we got one-two guys on Frizzle and next thing you know we let them back on count, and of course he sees a lot of pitches and he gets a base hit to the middle and then the same thing happens with the next hitter. We just throw a lot of pitches and he runs into the ball. We gave up three runs trying to escape one out. We minimize the game and talk about it all the time and just felt like you had to give up a second. Don't give up two and fight like heck to not give up the third because you never know which one is going to come back to hurt you. We just didn't do a very good job to close out the eighth and didn't get that last out so credit to Texas A&M."

Florida Sophomore RHP Tommy Mace

On finding out if he was pitching ...

"When we were in Missouri on Friday I just asked Sully. It was kind of like, 'Hey should I throw bullpen or what should I do?' and we never really talked about. I never really asked; I think I just assumed. I want the ball and asked, 'Hey what do I do for today?' It wasn't really a conversation that was back and forth. I assumed it and he gave it to me."

On how he felt today with six pretty strong innings ...

"I felt good, no soreness or anything. I felt fine, just like a normal start. I've done it once before this season."

Florida Senior Outfielder, Nelson Maldonado

On strategy of defense moving players up

"Just hitting the ball hard anywhere. I was looking for a pitch up so like you said, the runner on third was going to go no matter what so I just had to put it in play and hit it hard."