



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

GAME 7 | Vanderbilt 11, Auburn 1 | NOTES AND QUOTES

POST-GAME NOTES

- Vanderbilt is now 48-37 overall at the SEC Tournament following its win against Auburn.
- The Commodores moved to 4-2 all-time against Auburn in the SEC Tournament.
- The win for Vanderbilt snaps a four-game losing streak at the Tournament dating back to 2016.
- Vanderbilt's walkoff win by run-rule is the first for the Commodores since VU walked off Alabama in seven innings on May 22, 2015 (16-1).
- The Commodores have now won 19 of their last 20 games overall.
- Mason Hickman's one-run effort marks the sixth time in nine starts the sophomore has allowed one run or less.
- Hickman punched out nine and has now struck out six-plus batters in nine of his last 10 outings.
- All nine Vanderbilt starters reached base safely in tonight's game with seven of the nine tallying at least one hit, four of which recorded a multi-hit effort.
- Seven of the nine Vanderbilt starters contributed at least one run with four of those seven putting together a two-run night.
- JJ Bleday set a career-high total for hits with his 5-for-5 night. His previous high for hits was three on 10 occasions, most recently at Alabama on April 20 of this season.
- The five hits for Bleday are a new SEC Tournament record by a Vandy hitter. The previous high for hits was four on four occasions, most recently by Andrew Giobbi against South Carolina on May 21, 2009.
- Bleday's five hits tie Ethan Paul for the most hits by a single Commodore this season. Paul finished with five hits on March 22 against Florida.
- The two doubles by Bleday and Pat DeMarco tie for the Vanderbilt single-game high this year. Commodore hitters had notched two doubles on nine other occasions entering tonight, most recently by Austin Martin at South Carolina on May 3.
- Stephen Scott's five-RBI performance matched his career-high total for RBI in a game. Scott also had five RBI against Middle Tennessee on May 15, 2018.
- Scott's five-RBI performance is a new all-time mark for the Commodores in the Tournament. The previous high for RBI was four on six occasions, most recently by Zander Wiel against Alabama in the 2015 game.

Vanderbilt Coach Tim Corbin

Opening Statement ...

"I think it starts on the mound. I think we have to point it to the first with Mason and his performance. He comes out with the positivity of the game and gets it going in the right direction. He flooded the zone with strikes and kind of pitched like he has all year. Just a great, consistent pitcher for us throughout the year. And from an offensive standpoint, we did a nice job of just passing along the bats. Duvall's at-bat early was good to get us rolling. JJ had a super night, hitting both sides of the field. Scotty had a nice night doing the same thing and we just had nice contributions from everyone."

On growth he has seen from JJ as a hitter ...

“He just never seems like he is out of balance. He never seems like he is trying to do too much. Even when he hits those home runs, it’s not like he is trying to recruit or make a fashion out of it. He’s just trying to get to the ball. And because he is, he sees good results. His strength has improved, but it’s not about so much that. It’s the 12 months of difference.”

Vanderbilt Junior Outfielder JJ Bleday

On Auburn’s approach today compared to recently in the season ...

“Not really. They got me during the three-game series. So, I expected to keep the same approach and not try to get ahead of yourself. Worry about each pitch and separate each one at a time. Thankfully, you get in the zone and see discipline and it makes all the difference.”

On knowing when Derek Jeter was there and his reaction ...

“I had no idea until right after the game till someone told me. Obviously, that is pretty cool, but at the same time I had no idea. I was focused on the team, focused on the win.”

Vanderbilt Sophomore Right-Handed Pitcher Mason Hickman

On importance of postseason value in depth ...

“Yeah, I think it comes to a point in this tournament where we are playing so many games that everyone is starting to come by a little for us. Second half of that last inning for Eder might come back to be super valuable. So, he gets to come back later in the week. But our whole bullpen is going to have to pitch at some point this week. All of our starters are going to have to have focus and try to pitch with some energy. It’s going to come down to a whole team effort this week.”



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- The Auburn Tigers are now 35-49 overall in the SEC Tournament. The Tigers' record against the Commodores is now 96-64 all-time and 3-3 in the SEC Tournament.
- This marked the 10th-straight game in the SEC Tournament the Tigers allowed the opposing team to draw first blood. Their record is now 4-6 in that span.
- Will Holland's solo blast marks a team-leading nine home runs on the season. The home run also extended Holland's on base streak to four games.
- Kyle Gray's start tonight was the third of his career and his first since Feb. 23 at UCF. Gray gave up his first run in the, 11-1, loss against Vanderbilt, after going three outing (7.0 innings) without yielding a run.
- Rankin Woley's double extended his hitting streak and on-base streak to three games.
- Auburn tied its season-low of two hits in a game for the third time this season. The last time it occurred was May 17 at LSU.
- The Tigers threw a combination of seven pitchers in the loss to Vanderbilt. This marks the third time this season that seven pitchers were used and tied a season-high of pitchers used in a single game for Auburn.

Auburn Coach Butch Thompson

Opening Statement ...

"Hard to put a positive on today's game. Mason Hickman is a really good pitcher and we watched a lot of video. He's a high-spin rate guy, so we really talked about how to see the ball down. We came out in the ball game but the first three out of four hitters really had trouble doing that and chasing balls up. I thought Mason had seemed to set his breaking ball a little bit and it took him a while before he was able to do that. Pitching wise, that was exactly our plan to make sure they saw somebody different every time. We did get a double play the first two innings, but did surrender a run on two strikes and just didn't execute a pitch. I thought the four-run inning in the third really distanced the ball game. We came to the ball park excited about a contest, to be right in the middle of it and thought it would just make us better. Just watching them in their lineup, I could see their guys getting ready early. Bleday definitely had a great day and a great year. But at the end of the day, we got one run on two hits outside of Will. His home run was on a wild swing, but he was the one getting ready early to get on time and do some damage. Too many of our guys watched early in more of a take-body language. I just felt like with us pitching, there were a lot of 2-0 counts and with them pitching, there were a lot of 0-2 counts. I was disappointed for that, and I would probably tell the ball club that, but I'd tell them we've got a wake-up call at 8 in the morning. I just thought we played too timid early in the ball game, we had no response and we never could do anything offensively."

Auburn Freshman Pitcher Richard Fitts

On what he could learn from his postseason debut on the mound

“This is a new experience for me. It was my first was my first time pitching in a tournament like this in the SEC. A lot of our guys were a little nervous coming in but as soon as we settled down, I felt pretty good about it. We have a lot of young guys on this team so we are just trying to give our hitters the best chance to win.”

Auburn Junior SS Will Holland

On bouncing back from tonight's loss, from a confidence standpoint:

“Baseball is a sport where you can have a short-term memory. I think as soon as we get back to the hotel room we need to take a minute to ourselves to try and forget about this game and wake up tomorrow with a new attitude, and get ready to go and take care of business tomorrow.”