



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

GAME 9 | Ole Miss 1, Texas A&M 0 | NOTES AND QUOTES

POST-GAME NOTES

- With today's win, Ole Miss stays alive in the SEC Tournament and eliminates Texas A&M. The Rebels now lead the all-time series 16-13 against Texas A&M and 2-1 all-time against the Aggies in the tourney.
- The win marks the first time a lower-seeded team has won in the 2019 SEC Tournament.
- Ole Miss also improved to 4-0 this season against Texas A&M. The Rebels swept the Aggies, April 25-27 in Oxford.
- The Rebels are now 39-40 all-time in the SEC Tournament.
- Ole Miss freshman pitcher Doug Nikhazy (7-3) now leads the team in wins and also set a career-high for innings pitched (8.0).
- Redshirt junior Parker Caracci picked up his team-leading ninth save of the season and 19th of his career.
- Junior catcher Cooper Johnson caught one runner stealing to improve his season total to 18, which moves him into a tie for second among SEC players.
- Junior Thomas Dillard's singled in the top of the ninth to break up the no-hit bid for John Doxakis. He stole his 15th base of the season to put himself in scoring position and eventually score the game-winning run.
- Junior Cole Zabowski tallied his 67th hit of the season and 43rd RBI to put Ole Miss ahead 1-0 in the ninth.
- The win was the Rebels' fourth shutout of the season and first since March 23, 2019, at Missouri.
- Ole Miss was flawless from the field, improving to 18-8 when the team commits no errors.

Ole Miss Coach Mike Bianco

Opening Statement ...

"I thought it was a gutsy and tremendous performance by Doug out there. It just shows you we talk so much about this league and the competition. Only on day three can you face a team that's ranked in the Top 20 and throws a first rounder, and a guy that throws a no-hitter through eight. It's just a game that you have to get a couple hits and maybe an error in one inning. We got two hits in one inning, and we were able to pull out the win. I'm not sure besides Doug and Zebo, the M.V.P. might be Chris Giatt. Chris Giatt is the LSU fan that cheers 'Go Tigers' all the time that you hear all over the country. He got the Rebel fans going today with 'Go Rebels'. He might be the M.V.P. today."

On his freshman pitcher, Dough Nikhazy, matching a future first rounder pitch for pitch ...

"I think he has so much confidence when he has the ball. He's one of those guys that just doesn't have bad innings. What I mean by that is that there are guys who lose it quickly and all of sudden you say, 'it was a good game up until that point.' That doesn't happen to Doug very often. He's a fighter and he's a competitor."

On staying with Parker Caracci after he gave up a double in the 9th inning ...

"I've said it for a couple weeks now, I don't believe we can win in the postseason without Parker Caracci. I just don't believe we can do that. He's won so many big games, and he's been in that moment a lot more than most kids in this conference."

Ole Miss Freshman Pitcher Doug Nikhazy

On facing a counterpart that had a no-hitter through eight innings ...

"It wasn't necessarily difficult today, it was just have a healthy mix of good pitches. I don't think I ever found it today on the mound, like having complete control of all of my pitches. I was able to work through it and my defense did a great job behind me, and didn't make an error. As far as (Texas A&M pitcher, John) Doxakis on the other side, just a really good performance from him. He's a tremendous pitcher. I just tried to keep my mind off of it, and know that our offense would pull through eventually."

Ole Miss Junior First Baseman Cole Zabowski

On the breaking ball he saw on his game winning double ...

"He had a good fastball, and a good breaking ball. After watching (Tyler) Keenan's at-bat, he threw him a lot of breaking balls, so I was just trying to see him up in the zone and hit the ball where it was pitched."



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POST-GAME NOTES

- Texas A&M's loss eliminates the Aggies from the 2019 SEC Tournament. A&M finishes with a 1-2 record in Hoover.
- With today's loss, A&M is 12-9 all-time at the Southeastern Conference Tournament.
- Texas A&M is now 13-16 all-time against Ole Miss, including a 1-2 mark at the SEC Tournament.
- Aggie pitchers combined for 11 strikeouts today, moving the 2019 staff to 631 on the season. The A&M pitchers eclipsed the single-season school record for strikeouts in game one of the Tournament with a 12-punchout performance, moving them past the old record of 612 set by the 2010 team.
- Texas A&M's no-hit bid was broken up with Thomas Dillard's leadoff single to start the top of the ninth.
- John Doxakis carried a no-hitter through eight innings before turning it over to the bullpen. Doxakis had never allowed fewer than one hit in a start prior to today.
- Doxakis' 8.0 innings of work tie for his career-long start. The junior tossed 8.0 innings on three occasions entering today, most recently against Auburn on April 12.
- The 10 strikeouts by Doxakis tie for his second-most in a start for his career. It is also the fifth double-digit strikeout performance of his three-year stint in College Station.
- His 10 strikeouts give Doxakis 249 for his career, good for 10th on the A&M all-time strikeouts list.
- Bryce Miller's appearance in today's game moved him to 31 for the season, the most among SEC pitchers.
- Braden Shewmake's 1-for-3 day moved him to 243 career hits, a total that paces all Division I juniors.

Texas A&M Coach Rob Childress

Opening Statement ...

"Another hard-fought and well played game on both ends, and incredibly disappointed that we're on the losing end of it. Just an amazing performance by John as well as Ole Miss' guys as well. We had our shot there in the fourth inning, first and third, one out, take the fast ball out over the plate and swing at breaking ball and pop it up but weren't able to cash in. But I really feel good about where we are right now, especially with our pitching and defense, what we did in game one from an offensive standpoint. Just a matter of catching fire for a couple of weeks and riding the wave, but it was a well played game, if you're a baseball fan of pitching and defense you got it again today."

On the 9th inning pitcher decision ...

"He was at a hundred pitches, he did more than we needed him to do, more than we asked him to do, just like he has all year long. He's going to be on the mound for us in eight days as well, and that's where the decision was made. He's as competitive as a guy as I've coached in a long long time. He leads from the front and sets the tone week in and week out. It was a hard decision to make but it was the right decision in our team moving forward."

On how the team feels after this game ...

"Well, certainly disappointed. We came here to win the tournament, we had two amazing performances on the mound, and we had around 13 or 14 opportunities with runners to score in position but weren't able to cash in."

Texas A&M Senior CF Jonathan Ducoff CF

On what worked in his favor today ...

“Just getting ahead early. If you get deep in the count against Ole Miss they're going to hit your mistakes or your strikes you throw so you know you got to get ahead early, so you can bounce the breaking ball.”

Texas A&M Junior C Mikey Hoehner

On what he attributes his success in this tournament ...

“Honestly i think it's just one of those tournaments where you don't have much time to think about it, there's so many games going on you know, so you just go out there and give it your all every pitch and just accept what happens, give your team a chance to win.”