



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

GAME 15 | Ole Miss 5, Georgia 3 | NOTES AND QUOTES

POST-GAME NOTES

- The win advanced Ole Miss to the 2019 SEC Tournament finals for the second-consecutive season and improved its record to 4-1 in Hoover. Ole Miss now leads the all-time series 4439 after eliminating Georgia.
- Ole Miss seeks its fourth tournament title and 10th conference crown.
- The Rebels are now 41-40 all-time in the SEC Tournament, including a 4-1 mark against Georgia. Ole Miss will be the 11th team in SEC history to play six times in the tournament.
- Ole Miss has trailed in three games this week in Hoover, and have won all three.
- Rebel starters have tallied 26 IP while only allowing six runs, 17 hits and striking out 18.
- Junior Parker Caracci tied the record of three saves in the SEC Tournament. The Rebels are now 30-1 when leading after the seventh.
- The Rebels' accumulated 11 hits to reach double figures for the 22nd time this season.
- Junior Grae Kessinger's two-run go-ahead homerun was his fifth of the season and 15th of his career. He also has 44 RBIs in 2019 and 97 total as a Rebel. Kessinger's three hits gave him a team-high 60 base knocks after going hitless the first three games in Hoover.
- Sophomore Anthony Servideo recorded his 22nd steal of the season, moving him into second most in the SEC this season. Ole Miss' 89 steals are is third highest in the SEC.
- Junior Thomas Dillard plated Servideo for his 49th RBI, the second most on the team. It was Dillard's fourth RBI of the tournament, moving him into a tie for second in the tourney.
- Dillard's hit gave him seven for the tournament (7-for-18, .388). Only Josh Smith of LSU now has more with eight entering Saturday.
- Dillard also drew his 54th walk of the season, giving him the third-most in Ole Miss single season history.
- Senior Ryan Olenek was hit by a pitch for the 16th time this season, which only trails Ryan Shinn of Kentucky (17).
- Junior Cole Zabowski secured his second multi-hit performance of the week going 3-for-4.

Ole Miss Coach Mike Bianco

Opening Statement ...

"I thought another well-played game by us. Obviously a huge home run by Grae (Kessinger). Probably our offense played today, after struggling all weekend long and really the last few weeks, but against two future big leaguers, I thought we really competed offensively and had some great at-bats and made it really hard for Hancock and Locey. Of course on the other side of the ball, Houston was tremendous and gave us everything on day five of a tournament after an inning of relief a few days ago, and then of course everybody that followed I thought was terrific out of the bullpen. Again proud of my guys. They showed up and played again. It's been tough this week. I know last year there was so much to do with the rain. This year, so much with the heat, as you saw with Tyler Keenan for our guys to show up like that and play like that makes me real proud."

On team's situational hitting approach...

"I think early on, one of the things I said to one of the reporters out there was that I thought was huge was for us to answer back a run after the home run. We get a base hit and Servideo stole a base, we bunt him over. Then of course Thomas (Dillard) who strikes out in I think maybe on three pitches his first at-bat, gets blown away. Shortens up, grounds out to first and the fielder's choice. It's one of the things that gets lost in the box and certainly the highlights. I thought that run was huge just to get some momentum back and to keep in the game. We had one bad inning, obviously the bases loaded with no outs. We got some balls blown by us by Locey, but besides that, even though we had some jam shots and balls fall our way, we also hit some balls hard right at people and really kept the pressure on Hancock. I thought that was the difference. After the first inning we had some really good at-bats. It just kept pressure on him, and it was probably the difference in the game

Ole Miss Junior SS Grae Kessinger

On looking for another fastball the home run...

"Got a fastball I could've hit earlier in that at-bat, and I missed it, but I felt really good about my swing. I felt like I was on, and I saw it well. I also saw a breaking ball in that at-bat that I picked up early. I saw that well, so I just told myself to get my foot down early, be on time for the fastball and got a good swing on it. I got it up, and it worked out well."

On the getting 11 hits against Georgia...

"Coach B always tells us, while we're waiting on the 11-hit game, we've got to get the bunt down. We've got to score the guy on third and all those things. Today, our offense did what we can do. We were really focused."

Ole Miss Junior Pitcher Houston Roth

On message to Max Cioffi...

"I just told him make the pitches and get outs. We talk about it all the time. If you're going to be the ace you've got to match the ace. With (Emerson) Hancock and (Tony) Locey, those are two of the best guys in the SEC. We had a match there in the fifth inning. I just told him, 'go out there and get outs and make those pitches.'"

On the physical and emotional preparation for Parker Caracci...

"Parker's a bulldog. He tells coach every day, 'I'm ready to go.' I don't think there's ever been a time where he's said he's sore and he can't pitch today. That just goes to show you how he is. He always wants the ball in his hands and end the game."



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- Georgia's fell to 39-44 all-time record against Ole Miss overall and 1-4 in the SEC Tournament.
- The Bulldogs have been eliminated by the Rebels in the SEC Tournament three out of the past four years.
- Following today's game, Bulldog batters drawn first blood 41 times this season and have struck within the first two innings 33 times.
- John Cable extended his hitting streak to six games.
- Cam Shepherd has reached base for eight-consecutive games.
- Mason Meadows' two-run dinger was his third home run and fourth multi-RBI game.
- John Hancock falls to No. 2 in the SEC ERA leaderboard after allowing three earned runs, which ties with his season high.
- The Bulldogs' pitchers stranded 10 base runners and combined for nine strikeouts.

Georgia Coach Scott Stricklin

Opening Statement ...

"First of all, I want to compliment Ole Miss. I thought they played an outstanding baseball game and they had some guys step-up for them on the mound and handle it. They made plays defensively when they needed to, they had some big at-bats and they got it done, they outplayed us today. We threw everything we had at them. We threw Emerson Hancock and Tony Locey and Justin Glover, but we just couldn't get the offense going. That's a credit to their pitching staff and their defense. The message that I gave our players is that they certainly should be proud of what we've done to get to this point, to even get to Saturday. Now we get to go home and rest up and get ready to host regionals."

On Locey's pitching ...

"I thought Tony battled. I mean that guy will make you nervous sometimes. He's the one that has a fast ball that's 95 or 96. It's effectively wild. He's going to fall behind in counts sometimes. That's what Tony has done all year long, but he finds ways to battle and compete and that's why he's 10-1. It's the way that he competes, and I thought he gave us some great momentum right there."

Georgia Junior 3B Georgia Aaron Schunk

On Team performance today ...

"I think we felt pretty confident at the plate today. The offense wasn't what it needed to be, but we barreled a lot balls hard and we had a lot of hard hit balls right at guys today. Ole Miss found some holes and gaps in our defense, and we weren't able to find that with them today. We're just going to keep rolling. We know what we can do, and we're going to take it to the regional."

Georgia Sophomore Catcher Mason Meadows

Emerson Hancock's injury ...

"I thought he was pretty much on top of his game, and he knew what he was going to throw out there. We have the regional coming up next week, and today he just went out and gave us all he had. Of course, the bleeding messed him up, but from what I could tell he gave us some great stuff."