



# 2011 SEC Baseball Tournament

## Game 1 – Wednesday, May 25 – 9:30 a.m.

### #2 Arkansas vs. #7 Alabama

#### GAME NOTES

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- Arkansas falls to 36-19; Alabama improves to 33-24
- Last time Arkansas and Alabama met in the conference tournament was in the first round of 2006. Arkansas defeated Alabama in that game 6-0.
- With the win, Alabama is 43-34 in the SEC Tournament. Arkansas falls to 19-29 in the conference tournament.

#### **Alabama -**

- This is the seventh straight appearance in the conference tournament for the Crimson Tide.
- In the top of the 1st the Tide struck early. After Taylor Dugas, Jared Reaves and Austen Smith loaded the bases, a balk was called on Arkansas pitcher Randall Fant, scoring the games first run.
- Dugas extended his hitting streak in the first inning to six games after singling an 0-2 pitch off Fant. He has the longest hitting streak on the team currently.
- Alabama has now scored 51 runs in the first inning this year. The most in any inning of any game this season. When scoring in the first inning the Crimson Tide are now 18-7 this season.
- After a fielders choice, Brett Booth singled the first pitch from Fant up the middle scoring Smith and Brett Whitaker and giving Alabama a 3-0 lead. Those were Booth's 24th and 25th RBI's for the season, good for fourth on the team.
- The huge first inning continued with a double by Andrew Miller, scoring Booth. Miller was able to advance to third after an error by Razorback right fielder Jarrod McKinney. Hunter Gregory then finished the scoring with a single, scoring Miller. The Tide led 5-0 before Fant was replaced at the pitcher position.
- In the Top of the 3rd, after a single by Booth and Miller, Gregory successfully executed a sacrifice bunt down the first base side to score Booth and push the score to 6-0 after three.
- Alabama had two sacrifice bunts on the day bringing their total to 55 for the season. Catcher Brock Bennett had the first sacrifice bunt and was his 20th sacrifice bunt of the season, good for first one the team and now ties for first in the nation.
- Nathan Kilcrease struck out the side in the third inning. He totaled six strikeouts after only three innings of play.
- Kilcrease finished the game throwing 8.0 IP and giving up four runs on seven hits with 10 strikeouts. It's the second straight game, Kilcrease has gone at least eight innings and ties his season high in strikeouts.
- Taylor Dugas hit the first home run of the 2011 SEC Baseball Tournament on a 3-1 pitch from Brandon Moore over the right field fence. That is his sixth homer of the year which leads the team. His home run made the score 7-3 against Arkansas after 5 and a half.

#### **Arkansas -**

- This is the eighth appearance for Arkansas in the conference tournament under Dave Van Horn and third straight.
  - Starting pitcher Randall Fant was called for a balk in the first inning. That's the sixth balk of the season for the Razorbacks and third of the year for Fant.
  - The two hits in the game by Collin Kuhn makes him now 20-for-39 against Alabama in his career. With five homers and 11 RBI.
  - Pitcher Randall Fant lasted only 2/3 of an inning for the Razorbacks on the mound. It was his shortest outing of the season. Final line for Fant: 2/3 IP, 5 R, 4 ER, 5 H, 0 BB, 1 HB, 0 K.
  - Razorbacks scored their first run of the game in the bottom of the fifth inning after a double by Collin Kuhn. Kyle Atkins scored on the play. That's Kuhn's 38th RBI of the year and 11th double.
  - James McCann's 2 RBI double in the fifth, pushed the score to 6-3. He now has 31 RBIs on the year, good for second on the team.
  - Arkansas had two errors in the game against Alabama, bringing their total to 68 for the season.
  - A lead-off double by Matt Reynolds in the bottom of the sixth inning, allowed Arkansas to advance him over on two sacrifice flies and score the run to make it 7-4 after six. Reynolds has now score 35 runs this season.
  - After coming in relief of Randall Fant, Arkansas reliever Brandon Moore had his longest outing of the season with 8.1 innings pitched. Giving up only two runs, six hits and throwing two strikeouts.
  - Catcher James McCann caught Taylor Dugas stealing in the ninth inning. That's the 16th would-be base stealer McCann has thrown out this season.
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## **ARKANSAS QUOTES**

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### **HEAD COACH DAVE VAN HORN**

#### *Opening Statement*

"First off I thought they played extremely well. They came out and just jumped all over (Arkansas starter) Randall Fant. I think in the first inning (Alabama) got four hits with two strikes, one up with the 0-2 (count) I think went to the wall. Dugas started off coming off two pitches. He did a nice job of slinging a couple sliders, hit it to left center. (We) just didn't do a good job locating pitches in that first inning. They did a great job hitting the ball. Offensively I don't know what to say about us. I'd say Nathan (Kilcrease) had a great ball game, pitched really well, pitched away a lot, pretty much got after us."

#### *Looking to tomorrow:*

"At this time we don't really have to say a whole lot. They know what's on the line. We don't need to go into it. We know we are going to play Mississippi State or Florida, and that's all we know right now. (DJ) Baxendale will start the game, and hopefully we will get a chance to be the second team to come in here and talk tomorrow."

### **BRANDON MOORE**

#### *Game being a confidence booster:*

"Immense confidence booster. Come in and throw strikes, I fell behind a lot of hitters early, thanks to Coach for sticking with me through that. I was able to get my feel and get more confident."

### **COLLIN KUHN**

#### *On Alabama starter Nathan Kilcrease:*

"I think he pitches really well. He usually doesn't pitch it the same way at every at bat. He just really mixes it up and keeps you off balance. We took too many strikes, I think."

## **ALABAMA QUOTES**

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### **HEAD COACH MITCH GASPARD**

#### *Opening Statement*

"I though obviously we had a quick start to the game, had a really good first inning. I thought the balk really kind of energized us to get started and then we delivered some heat and took advantage of some opportunities there to get off to a 5-0 lead. Obviously with Kilcrease on the mound helped us. It felt pretty good at that time. We knew he would find the strike zone and do a good job the rest of the way. One thing about Nathan that needs to be said, those that follow us and see us a lot know, this guy has delivered for us time and time again. Today was no different, it seems like every time we need one he gives one of his best outings. Today was the most strikeouts he has had in a game with 10 against an SEC team. A lot of credit goes to Nathan. I thought our team just competed extremely hard and did a great job coming out in an early ball game ready to play. "

### **TAYLOR DUGAS**

#### *On home run:*

"I think a little bit that helped today was the wind blowing out a bit. Just got a pitch that hung up there in the middle and put a good swing on it."

### **NATHAN KILCREASE**

#### *On recording a career-high 10 strikeouts:*

"You don't really know what to expect with a 9:30 a.m. game. The offense comes out with scoring 5 runs in the first inning makes it real easy to pitch. You know what to do, just attack the strike zone, get ahead and put them away early. Coach called a great game for me, he mixed and matched all my pitches and gave a good flow to the game."