



2011 SEC Baseball Tournament

Championship – Sunday, May 29 – 1 p.m.

#3 Florida vs. #4 Vanderbilt

GAME NOTES

- Florida moves to 45-16 for the season overall and Vanderbilt goes to 47-10 with the loss.
- This was the eighth time that Florida and Vanderbilt have met in the SEC Tournament.

Vanderbilt

- The Commodores were in the championship game for the fourth time in the last five years. They are 1-5 in those appearances.
- Left fielder Tony Kemp stole his 15th base of the season in the first inning. He now has four stolen bases for the tournament; second most behind Florida's Daniel Pigott (5).
- Shortstop Anthony Gomez tallied two singles in his first two at-bats of the game, making for his 20th multi-hit game of the season.
- Center fielder Connor Harrell went 2-for-4 on the day including a double. He now has 13 extra-base hits in his last 17 games.
- Right fielder Mike Yastrzemski was 0-for-4 in the game. It's only the third time in his last 17 games he has not been able to get at least one hit.
- Starting pitcher Taylor Hill struck out 8 batters on Sunday afternoon; bringing his total to 75 for the year and is third best on the team.
- Hill endured his first loss of the season and now sits at 4-1 on the year.
- Vanderbilt had two errors in the game. That makes their record now 32-6 this year when making at least one error.
- The Commodores were shutout for only the second time this season. The last time came against Kentucky on May 6, 2011 when they lost 2-0.

Florida

- This is the sixth SEC Tournament Championship for Florida and first since the 1991 season.
 - This marks the first time Florida has won four games at the SEC Tournament since 1991 when the team went 4-0 in Baton Rouge, La. to win the championship.
 - Florida is now 8-4 against top-five opponents this season and this marks the first win for head coach Kevin O'Sullivan over a top-five foe at a neutral site (1-5).
 - The Gators have now defeated Vanderbilt in two straight conference tournament games.
 - This was the 11th time that Florida has played in the conference championship game in its history.
 - Today was the first time that Alex Panteliodis started against an SEC opponent this year.
 - Catcher Mike Zunino struck out in his first three at-bats, giving him 44 for the season, which is tops on the team. The last time Zunino struck out three times in a game was against Arkansas on May 7th.
 - Daniel Pigott stole his 15th base of the season in the fourth inning and gives him six stolen bases for the tournament. It also ties for second most by a player in tournament history.
 - Bryson Smith went 2-for-4 in the game. It makes it his 10th multi-hit game of the season. Bryson Smith went 2-for-4 in the game. It makes it his 10th multi-hit game of the season.
-

VANDERBILT QUOTES

HEAD COACH TIM CORBIN

Opening Statement:

"Congratulations to Florida today. They earned this. They are the better team right now. They played eighteen innings yesterday, to get through that heat, to get through Georgia, an emotional two games. They just came out today, and they are the better team right now. It's unfortunate because we really had a good pitching performance by Taylor (Hill). He did exactly what we needed on a championship day to win a ball game."

On defensive miscues:

"Those were uncharacteristic. I like to think of our team as being very defensive oriented. We did .977 in the conference, .975. We work on bunt offense which means we spend a lot of time on bunt defense. I thought those errors were uncharacteristic of (Aaron) Westlake. He's played very good at first base all year. (Anthony) Gomez has had hell of a tournament. The short hop, those things happen in college baseball. It just happened to bite us a little bit."

TAYLOR HILL

On pitching – 8 strikeouts:

"I just wanted to go in there and throw strikes. They have good hitters. You know they missed a few pitches, but that's a great hitting team right there, and that doesn't happen very often. You also have to credit them. They battled a lot and they're great hitters. I felt like I located pretty well but they also got better hits."

CURT CASALI

On offensive struggles:

"Bat play was a little underneath today which allowed a lot of fly balls. Their pitchers were keeping the ball down for the most part so I give them credit for that. It wasn't a clutch day for us offensively."

FLORIDA QUOTES

HEAD COACH KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

Opening Statement:

"Congratulations to Vanderbilt. They have an outstanding team. I expect them to be successful in the postseason, but it all started on the mound for us, and Alex (Panteliadis) did a great job for us. We knew we would have to pitch well to get on top of Vanderbilt. The ball bounced our way early on. It's time to move on and enjoy this today, but get ready for the tournament in a week."

On having good pitching and defense in the tournament:

"It's reassuring to know you have the depth in pitching and defense. That's what we build the team on."

On the tournament that Daniel Pigott had:

"Daniel has had a great year. I don't know if it's one thing or another. He's hit over .300 all year long and he had a really good tournament."

On the performance of Alex Panteliadis:

"Alex was our Friday night guy last year. I would have been disappointed if he didn't give us a quality start. I didn't expect him to go as long as he did, but I knew he could have a performance like that."

On the quality pitching throughout the tournament:

"In a tournament like this with eight really good teams, you are going to have a hard time winning the tournament without the starting pitching that can have quality starts. Every game changes and you get in the postseason, you have to make adjustments and we did well this week."

On the impact of having Brian Johnson in attendance for the game:

"Having Brian (Johnson) here today lifted our spirits in the dugout. We dodged a bullet this weekend. We have a great medical staff that did a great job with him and hopefully we'll have him back next weekend, but that's up to the doctors to decide."

On the rest of the lineup having good production:

"It's huge for us to win even without our big bats having good production. It's huge. It should relieve a lot of pressure on those other guys."

ALEX PANTELIODIS

On his performance today:

"I felt really good today. It's always been there, but I haven't been able to find it, but I let my defense help me and it was good."

On his pitches in the game:

"I just tried to locate and mix my pitches and pitch to contact and it worked every time. My out pitch was my fastball. We've always wanted to go inside on hitters, but we wanted to catch them off guard when we went inside."

"I got in some jams, but the team helped me through it and even coach told me to take my time and make the pitches and if they hit it to let them hit it and let the defense do its job."

DANIEL PIGOTT

On having a good tournament.

"I just try to take a good approach to the plate every time. Try to hit the ball where it was pitched and get on any way I could."