

Southeastern Conference Men's Basketball Tournament

Friday, March 13, 2026

Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Bridgestone Arena

Florida Gators

Coach Todd Golden

Alex Condon

Thomas Haugh

Postgame Press Conference



Florida 71, Kentucky 63

THE MODERATOR: We're joined by Florida. We'll start with opening comments from Coach Golden.

TODD GOLDEN: Thank you. Good win for us today. Coming into the conference tournament, we hadn't played in about a week. I thought we were a little rusty. Played with good energy in the first half. It was kind of the same story each of the three times we played these guys this year. Got up big in the second half. We were up 17 with 13 to go, had an opportunity to extend to a point where they couldn't get back in the ballgame. We got sloppy with the ball.

I thought our execution and the way we played physically for the last 13 minutes was not good enough. That's something we can address and get ready for our opponent in the semifinals.

THE MODERATOR: Questions for the players.

Q. How weird was that to be playing just a week after you played them before, another white-knuckle game like that?

ALEX CONDON: Yeah, it was a bit weird. Just playing them already twice this year. We had the scout for them ready to go. I feel like we were a bit passive in the second half, cruising a little bit out there. We got to bounce back, play up to the competition. There's some good teams in the SEC and in March, too.

THOMAS HAUGH: Yeah, just what he said. Am I supposed to say something (laughter)?

Q. Thomas, you've done it a lot this year, but how have you grown to learn to impact the game beyond scoring?

THOMAS HAUGH: Yeah, I mean, that's just kind of how I played my entire life. I never was the flashy guy, go out there and play one-on-one ball. I try to do little things.

I think Condo is the same way. We came into Florida since we were freshmen, that's our play style, just a little scrappy.

Q. A lot of banging inside. You out-rebounded Kentucky. Was that point of emphasis?

THOMAS HAUGH: Yeah, obviously they played two games before this. That's going to tire out their guys. We knew coming in they were going to be a little slow at the boards and stuff like that. That just happens when you play in this tournament, three, four games back to back.

Credit to our coaches. They told us that at the beginning. That's how we played the entire year, fight for boards. You saw it in the beginning of the game and towards the end, too.

ALEX CONDON: Tommy hit the nail on the head right there. That's all I got.

Q. Tommy, can you speak to the careless nature with the ball, 12 turnovers in the second half? Can you comment, we've seen Xaivian Lee's shot before.

THOMAS HAUGH: Yeah, I think the turnovers we need to fix. We had that problem a little bit in the beginning of the year. We fixed it. We have to get back to playing who we are. We don't turn the ball over like that. That's pretty uncommon.

Xaivian, he steps up, hit big shots. Hit a shot against Vanderbilt like that. Saw it again.

ALEX CONDON: Shout-out to X. I think he did a good job of facilitating early, let the game come to him. Hitting the



big shot down the stretch, he likes that go-to move.

Any shot for us is a great shot, we crash the rebounds. We sort the turnovers out, get shots up at the rim, we're going to be good.

THE MODERATOR: Gentlemen, thank you. We'll continue with questions for Coach Golden.

Q. Would you talk about the overall defense. Also for Xaivian to hit the step-back again.

TODD GOLDEN: We're a very good defensive team. We have been all year. The times where we struggled today defensively were a product of our offense, in my estimation. Obviously we'll go back and watch the film. When we were bad with the ball leading to turnovers, they were able to get out in transition or get us in odd-man advantage where we weren't matched up properly. They had some success offensively.

Anytime we got them operating in the halfcourt against a set defense, it was challenging for them. That's where complementary basketball, take better care of the ball, they're not going to be able to put us in those predicaments.

In terms of X, that's a good shot for him. It's a tough shot, but it's one he's very comfortable taking. He has the ability to snatch that thing back and get separation from the defender. He's confident shooting that shot.

Obviously you want to work to get something that might be a little more higher percentage in that moment. We use clock, everybody else knew he was going to take the shot. We were going to put pressure on the offensive glass if he didn't make it. He stepped up and hit a dagger.

Q. 3 for 20 from the three-point line, is that a product of being rusty or something Kentucky was doing?

TODD GOLDEN: No, I think we're a little rusty. First time we shot in here was today. It takes a little bit to get comfortable back in the venue.

I thought we missed some really good looks. We'll go back, watch film. Out of our 17 misses, I would imagine 10 of those were open and uncontested.

I'm not too worried about it. We've been shooting the ball really well. We just haven't played in a week. I think it will take us a little bit of time to get back in that rhythm and flow we had ending the regular season.

Q. Would you also talk about the physicality of the

game. It seemed that played almost into your hands because you were very physical with them.

TODD GOLDEN: I think anytime the game is physical, that's going to be to our benefit, just with our physicality in the front court, our depth. We have strong, live bodies. I think that's a good battle for us to get into. I thought we did a great job the first, let's say, 27 minutes of the game just dictating everything that way.

But just started not doing a good enough job taking care of the ball. I thought once they got behind, the last 10 or so minutes, we were kind of playing not to lose, and they were playing free with no pressure because there was none left at that point.

We have to do a better job managing those situations if we're fortunate enough to be in them moving forward.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, coach.

TODD GOLDEN: Thank you.

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