

Southeastern Conference Baseball Tournament

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Hoover, Alabama, USA

Hoover Metropolitan Stadium

Vanderbilt Commodores

Coach Tim Corbin

Mike Mancini

Postgame Press Conference



Florida - 8, Vanderbilt - 3

THE MODERATOR: We're joined by Vanderbilt head coach Tim Corbin and Mike Mancini.

TIM CORBIN: Florida's pretty good. We had a tough battle with King. Knew he was good, but he competed well. Then after that, I thought their bullpen -- they closed gaps when there were potential gaps inside the game. They shut us down.

From an offensive standpoint, it was tough sledding. But I think from a pitching standpoint, we just didn't set the tone from the beginning. There was a lot of traffic out there. We were on the field a long time during the course of that game.

They hit the ball hard. We didn't have the advantage of the count. And when we did throw the ball across the plate, they did a good job of centering the baseball. So good team. First time I've seen Sully's team this year, but I knew they were good, but they beat us handily.

Q. What did it mean to just go out with everything else that you had left? And how do you feel, if you guys don't play next week, what's your biggest take on this year and what other stuff you want to accomplish next year?

MIKE MANCINI: Just a very young group. I'm excited for the growth that the younger guys are going to continue to have and the experience they had this year. They were put in positions that, if I was a freshman, I'm not sure I would have been able to handle it as well. So hats off to the young guys. This program's in good hands with who we've got.

Q. You all started actually hitting King pretty hard

around the fourth inning. What was it that allowed you to get those runs and good contact off him?

MIKE MANCINI: Just belief. We had belief throughout the game that we could do that and we could score. And when you have belief, stuff like that happens.

Q. A lot of you guys were sitting in the dugout for a couple minutes after the game. Could you just tell us what was going through your head in that moment and just the general vibe of you guys sitting in there?

MIKE MANCINI: Not a lot of thought. Just it's tough, it's tough losing this tournament and not having things in our control right now.

Q. If this is it for you here, how do you remember the season? How do you remember your career here?

MIKE MANCINI: Just the growth that I've had as a baseball player, but even more as a man. I give Coach Corbs his flowers right now. He probably doesn't want it. But the lessons he's taught me on and off the field, that will go a long way as a man and when I'm a father. So hats off to him right now.

Q. There's a lot of talk about playing free this week. Even though you guys knew what was at stake, just play like kids and doing that kind of thing. Do you feel you guys were able to do that? Or did you have any sense of what was ahead of you?

MIKE MANCINI: I thought when we were between the lines, I think there were times when we tried to do a little too much. But all in all, the talks before and after yesterday's game were great. And I felt like a lot of guys were playing free.

Q. If this is it for the season, what are you going to kind of take away from this year? Is there anything you've learned or would do differently?

TIM CORBIN: I can't answer that right now. We just came off the game, so I'm processing that right now. It's going to



take me some time to audit the program, which I've started to, and then I'll remove myself from emotion and just get to the point where I can look at things for what they are and not overreact either.

We're in this position because of reasons and play. Look, I can't believe Florida lost 18 times. Jesus. But I'll just have to assess it with a clear mind. Right now's not the time to talk about that, for me anyway.

Q. You mentioned assessing the program. Are there any staffing changes that you're planning on, whether it's adding somebody new to the staff or making changes to the current staff that you're planning on doing in the offseason?

TIM CORBIN: I'm not going to answer that question. I mean, no. I'm just not going to talk about something like that right now. Come on, we just played a game, with all due respect.

Q. I want to go back to your Florida comment. Why are you surprised, having seen them now in person, that they've lost that many games?

TIM CORBIN: I just think they're well-balanced. They're very athletic. Lawson's a Big Leaguer. And Cyr and Surowiec hit. McDonald can, too. Bowen's really good behind the plate. Stripling's got experience. Kurland's played as a high school kid, senior.

I like Sully's bullpen. And King's good. And we didn't see Peterson. I've seen him on TV. But, listen, I'm not putting anything on them, but to me that looks like an Omaha team. If they're able to stay at home, even if they're not, I would not want to see them in my ballpark.

That's a good team. That was a really good team. We would have had to play a whole lot cleaner to win that baseball game.

Q. Looked like you went for about three minutes after the game talking to the team. Is there any theme that you could kind of share with us about what you told them?

TIM CORBIN: No, not really. I'm just talking about the game initially. And I'm not going to talk about anything beyond that right now. I mean, organization of tonight and tomorrow, that type of thing.

But no, not right now. No, I just gotta put my thoughts together and get with them and take care of the next few days, whatever those days are. But these are someone else's kids. I want to take care of them -- emotionally, too.

So they're feeling it.

Q. What does it mean to have a guy like Reynolds behind the dish that's been really working hard since the fall. And just saving your bullpen from yesterday, which had you to tailor from it to today, just what it means to have a guy like him?

TIM CORBIN: Reynolds, the catcher? Well, even if he wasn't a young kid, he's done a very good job behind the plate. His throwing numbers are very good. He's mature beyond his years in terms of intelligence and know-how. He keeps the ball in front of him.

He's still learning. There's offensive skills that he's still growing.

But aside from catcher, he caught all 32 SEC games. When we were going into the winter, we had him third on our depth chart. So he elevated himself. His maturity started to blossom a little bit more.

Then when he was behind the plate and we gave him the ability to stay behind the plate, he just didn't want to ever come out, and we put it in his hands.

And this wasn't an easy staff to handle. There were some young kids. And, yeah, it was a challenge, but he did a nice job. He's a good, young player. Proud of him.

Q. This sport is in a spot where it's just changing constantly. What challenges does that present, or even opportunities?

TIM CORBIN: For me personally? I don't know. I don't want to do that right now.

I love it. It is challenging. I think the balance is trying to do things in the way that you're trying to stick to your values of what you deem necessary and important inside your program.

But yet, at the same time, it's a balancing act in terms of getting players, whether it's incoming high school kids, being able to acquire them -- finances probably helps to that some degree. We don't dip into the portal a lot. And really our opportunity in the portal is we probably have to go freshmen/sophomore. We can't get a junior. So we have our own challenges that way.

But I love college baseball. I love where college baseball is. I love where this conference is. I just look at it as, okay, we've got some good players coming back, but we need to better ourselves.

But I look at it as a nice challenge. I don't look at it and go, oh, my gosh. I just look at it and say I'm going to figure this shit out, some way, somehow.

Q. 19 years is quite a while in this sport to have that kind of regional --

TIM CORBIN: It's a child in college. (Laughter).

Q. I mean, when you took this job, I think they hadn't been in a regional in 20-something years. Would you have ever thought that the bar would be where it is, where -- I mean this obviously feels like it could be pretty disappointing.

TIM CORBIN: I just didn't know. I went in head first, but I was very eager and very opportunistic, and I felt like Vanderbilt could be like -- back then it was Rice, back then it was Wake Forest, back then it was Notre Dame, back then it was Stanford -- and I thought, why not, you know, why not this school from Nashville, Tennessee that's in the middle of the SEC? Yeah, I felt like we do something.

Now, consistency is really tough. I think you know that. Consistency in anything. Your job, how you show up every day. I mean, you have to a motor and you have to reinvent yourself a lot. And it takes a lot of effort and it takes -- I enjoy it.

But we've been very consistent for a long period of time, and we'll always be measured against those years that we were at the top. And that's okay. There's nothing wrong with that. But that's the challenge for the program is getting back to that point.

And sometimes, streaks are streaks are streaks. That's what they are. But sometimes when you don't go, a lot of times people start to understand, whoa, that really was tough. That was difficult to do.

Yeah, it's difficult to do, just to get back at it and establish yourself as a regional contender every year. So I don't worry about it.

We did what we did. It is completely out of our hands. If there were 64 teams, do I think we're a 64? I do, but there's measurement devices to all of this. So people may not think that. But who knows? Who knows what happens? It might be some teams that have won their conference that win their tournament and open up some spots. If they open up some spots, we'll be waiting.

Q. You've got a pretty good group of freshmen and sophomores that you could maybe bring back. What excites you, potentially, about the core of the team you

might have next year?

TIM CORBIN: I really like that infield. I love Ryker. I love Brodie. I love Ruster, Goodin. I love, I mean that's a good nucleus. They really did a good job defensively for us. I wish Mike had another year because I'd really like Mikey to be -- Mike's my type of kid. I like that kid. He's cool. He's great to be around. He's tough.

So I like that. I like the catching. We do have some young arms. And we'll just see what happens to the rest of them. So hopefully we can put a pretty good roster together.

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