2018 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
COLLEGE STATION REGIONAL – DAVIS DIAMOND
BAYLOR POST GAME QUOTES
GAME ONE – MAY 18, 2018
GLENN MOORE, HEAD COACH

Opening Statement…
"A lot of things happened in that crazy game. It was a very frustrating game to say the least. Our game plan going in failed quickly, and what we prepared for didn't work. It was probably my fault as much as anything because we have so many new pieces right now with moving people around, so we were overthinking a little bit. I thought Gia (Rodoni) did a good job. I certainly tip my hat to McNeese for having a game plan to come out and punch us quick. We were stunned for three innings, and I made probably one of the biggest mistakes of my coaching career by taking the bat out of the hand of (Kyla Walker), a .450 hitter's hands to try to make something happen. I was overzealous and tried to out guess them a little bit by thinking they weren't going to go after the runner with speed on third base. Then we were planning on trying to score on that if they did. It just didn't work out. Again, for the rest of my life, I will go through that one and regret making that decision with Kyla Walker in the box. I will take the blame of that one because the kids fought back hard. I am very proud of them, but we put ourselves in a huge hole initially. We fought back, but we can't have that kind of hole."

On overcoming their deficit..
"I felt like we had to score runs, and we ultimately did, but I think we panicked a little bit early. A five-spot in the first inning is hard to see that you can come back from. Although we did, it took us three innings, and they even piled on more. We were six outs away from being run ruled. I thought if we could have a quick inning or two it might change the momentum, and we could put up a fight. We came closer to coming back and winning that. They kept fighting. This team's had a lot of fight, but we do have a lot of missing pieces to the puzzle with moving people around. We have some versatility, but the left side of the field is so vital in this game. They exposed that in us very well. They did that the last time we played them. We knew they would. We coached for it and worked on it, but it still hurt us."

On the fight of his team…
"I am very impressed with the fight. I didn't think we were going to respond there for a while. We challenged them a little bit, but we let some things happen that were not typical of even our starters in those positions. Then we did show some fight and had a chance to win the ball game. You have to let the players win it and don't try to over coach. I over coached a little bit in that game, so I take the blame for this one."

On their pitching…
"Reagan (Green) pitched well against them last time out. We decided to come in here high risk high reward, but we knew that it was a risk. We tried to see if she could match them again.

Maybe they prepared for the change up. We probably were overthinking it again. We didn't consider that we had other pieces moving around with a new catcher, third baseman, and shortstop. We felt like at one point that we should stay with Gia (Rodoni), but we thought if we could knock off a win with Reagan, who pitched well against them last time, then that would even the playing field between the one- and two-seed. We knew it was a big risk, and we knew that taking that risk we could be put in this position. Now we are in this position, and we have used our starter in a hot game. It is exhausting out there. Our backs are against the wall as bad as they've ever been right now. We put ourselves in a bad position, and it certainly was a risk that we knew could happen in worse case scenario. I have a lot of respect for James (Landreneau)'s hitters over there because I thought they hit Gia pretty well. When we saw them in waco, they had seven hits on her in one game, and I thought they did a good job as well as anybody off of her. That helped us with the decision to go with Green. It wasn't disrespect to McNeese to go with Green because we felt that she pitched better against them. Taking that into consideration and the fact that it would be a huge benefit to have Gia rest and extra day, we went with it. It didn't work out, but that was our plan and our thoughts. You can look at how McNeese beat us earlier, and you would know that we have no disrespect for their hitters."

On his message to the team…
"We played out every scenario, including this one. We just had hoped not to use Gia the entire game. We thought at worse case that we would use her for three or four innings. We just need to put our heads together and see what we have left. You can tell by the way we fought that we are able to score runs on pitching. We didn't look that way initially because it was a no-hitter in the first three innings, but we can be explosive and create momentum and make things happen. We just need to put our heads together and see what we can come up with. We need to try to fight and try to even it up to see what we have in us."

On their fielding lineup…
"I am sure we will go back and think of things, but we don't have a lot of options. We are thin, very thin. We don't have a lot of kids who can play three positions, so we are moving them around and hoping for the best. I don't think right now that we made the wrong move. We need more practice time to try to get them prepared and get the ball hit away from them. It seems like they found every new person and that every new person in a position, the ball found them. The game is kind of funny like that, but I don't blame them for that. You're asking (Maddison) Kettler to play shortstop who hasn't been there since high school. Goose is probably not a third baseman, but she has volunteered to jump in there and do the best she can. We either have to get better with who we are or we are going to get beat. I don't think we have a lot of options."

HANNAH THOMPSON, FRESHMAN DESIGNATED HITTER

On fighting back after being down 8-0…
"We just had to make adjustments at the plate. In the beginning of the game we weren't adjustsing real well, but once we got through the lineup and started seeing the pitcher more, we started making adjustments. Then we just kept rolling with each hit and passing the bat. That's how we got runs on the board."
On her home run…
"I was just trying to get a base hit and get the offense going. She had been throwing me inside all game, so I just stepped off the plate a little to get the inside pitch. It came, and I just let loose."

NICKY DAWSON, SOPHOMORE SECOND BASEMAN

On getting the rally started…
"At that point really anything would get us going because I fully believe that hitting is contagious. We had to make adjustments, but I wish we would have made them sooner. In the end, we finally came together and got some things rolling. We were fighting as a team, so if one gets on, we are ready to put another on. I am not going to question our belief in what we can do. I think we should have come out a little stronger and put some more pressure on them, but those two innings were big for us. I think when we get going, we are hard to stop. If we have that same energy the entire game, I think we will be strong."

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MCNEESE POST GAME QUOTES
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JAMES LANDRENEAU, HEAD COACH

Opening Statement…
"Wow. Intense game. There was a lot of offense going on in that game. I thought (Alexsandra) Flores was pitching really well early. We were able to put up some runs for her. They started to be able to score some runs. We know that about Baylor. They have the ability to score a lot. I'm proud of our girls because things could have gotten away from us. There was a lot of momentum change in that game and we were able to still stay within ourselves and not try to do too much. We were able to stay focused and keep adding more runs. The difference was we were able to add runs throughout the game and we ended up needing every bit of them."

On the key to offensive success...
"If I had that answer, we'd have success all the time. Like our kids said, our game plan is to go out there and be disciplined and look for good pitches to drive. From the offensive side, I thought we were patient and when we got pitches over the plate we were able to square them up today. Our kids showed some great composure out there. They were locked in and had some good at bats. The biggest thing for us is I knew we couldn't quit scoring because that's a powerful Baylor team and they could come back and score a bunch of runs. They have a ton of speed out there with some pop on the bat. They have a ton of leadership on that team. You know they're never going to be out of the game."

On his team's composure…
"Our team is resilient. That's the way they've played the whole season. They've bounced back from losses, bounced back from innings and have played from behind. We've been in a lot of different situations and I think we were fortunate enough today that our kids were able to stay the course, trust in the process, trust in ourselves and just play the game one pitch at a time. We were rewarded for it at the end."

On if they shifted positions or if balls were just going their way...
"That's just balls going our way. I think we were fortunate. Like i said, we had some good contact. We were fortunate for some seeing eye singles and some balls bouncing to people. It's not that easy to be able to pick out someone and go after them. They're there for a reason. They're quality players. We don't focus on them too much."

On Caroline Settle's performance in the circle…
"Well a freshman was going to have to get it done. That's all we have. Caroline Settle has great composure. She's been that way all year. She doesn't show very much emotion out there. She's

pitching with some confidence right now. It's good to see her come in and have some success against Baylor."

On avoiding emotions after this game…
"We just have to be able to flush it. I think our kids understand that we're not just here to play one game. It's a complete tournament you have to play in. The most important game that you're going to play in this tournament is the next game. We have to make sure mentally we're ready and the recovery process needs to start. We need to make sure we're getting fluids in, we get off our feet and that our kids are well hydrated to play at a high level tomorrow."

On if the length and heat of the game might come back to hurt them...
"I guess time will tell. I guess we'll be able to look back at it. What we tell the kids is whatever happens, happens for a reason and you have to play through it. These were the cards we were dealt and this is how we're going to play through them. We have to do our best to make sure we flush this game and get focused. We've been working on one game at a time all season. This is where hopefully our training comes into play and that we can get ourselves ready to play. Our kids are in good shape. They take care of their bodies and they eat well. Hopefully that carries over to tomorrow."

On how to keep your players calm in intense games…
"You train your athletes for each situation. It's the way we live our life. We live in the moment. That's what we try to teach the kids. Good things are going to happen and bad things are going to happen. It's how you handle those things that is going to determine success long term. Our kids know that message and I trust that they're going to have that confidence. We've played from behind a lot this year. We've played up and blown some leads. They've seen just about every kind of momentum switch in a game. Today we had some good leadership on the field. They stayed the course and I think our dugout did a great job, along with our coaching staff. Our coaching staff kept coming in and talking to our players, making sure we stayed focus on this inning and let the past innings go. It was a total team effort today."

On potentially playing Texas A&M in this atmosphere…
"Our focus is going to be what it's always on. Can we play good, clean defense? Can we play one pitch at a time? Can we put together good at bats? We are going to try to let the outside noise just go away and make sure our focus is between the lines. When you actually start focusing on outcomes and other things that are out there, you get caught up in the crowd and excitement. We know it will be intense. A lot of these players have played in a regional the last two years so they've been in that environment where a home team was hosting that we played. This year we played in front of some pretty good crowds and so I'm sure it's going to be intense. I know it's going to be electric out here. It's going to be a great atmosphere. We have to make sure our focus stays on McNeese softball."

On the final play of the game…
"We were trying to make sure the winning run didn't get to second base. That was our goal. We were fortunate enough that Morgan did a great job, made a great decision closing the gap and got the tag. That's what we talked about before the game. Can we find a way to make sure the winning run doesn't get to second base. We have a play for it and it worked out."

ALEXSANDRA FLORES, SOPHOMORE PITCHER
On thought going into the fifth inning...

“Pound the zone. Get quality outs for my team and get my team in the dugout as fast as possible.”

On pitching to Baylor...
“They’re a tough team. Their eyes are great. We just needed to stick to our game plan which is to locate pitches and throw strikes.”

JUSTYCE MCCLAIN, JUNIOR OUTFIELDER
On the intense game…
“We’ve had a lot of games like that this year. Most importantly, we want to focus on ourselves and do everything we can to stay in the game and keep scoring runs.”

On how it feels to win the first game…
“It feels good but we know we have more that we have to accomplish and more great quality teams that we have to play. It feels good but we’re looking forward to the next one.”

On going 4-for-4...
“I was feeling good. I was just looking for a ball that I could drive or a ball that I could put on the ground through the infield.”

On how the heat might change recovery process...
“It was very hot. Alex (Flores) and I had to get iced out on our necks and our heads between every inning. It’s going to be a quick turnaround for tomorrow. I’m not sure what time we play but we will have to recover tonight, hydrate and just focus on tomorrow’s game. We’ve played in a lot of different weather this year so I think we’re prepared for it.”

On heading into day two with a win…
“It feels better to get that first win under your belt. It gives us momentum into the next day so we’re looking forward to it.”

On if there was something to prove against Baylor…
“I don't’ think so. We had to focus on ourselves. We say it a lot but we just have to focus on our at bats, our defense, catching the ball and throwing the ball the best we can. I personally didn’t feel any pressure.”