



2012 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I

GAME 4 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • JUNE 1-4

South Carolina 5, Clemson 4 (12)

South Carolina Head Coach Ray Tanner

There was just so much that happened in that game. It was just a tremendous college baseball game between two teams that didn't want to give in or give up. It was a battle all day long.

On where this game ranks in the Carolina-Clemson rivalry

We've had so many, there's no question, over the years. It's been incredible. It's great. Like I said yesterday, Coach Leggett and I, people think we're entirely different, but we're very similar. We like to compete. We like the competition. Both of us are very intense. We appreciate the game and the rivalry. We've had tremendous games.



On the play at the plate with Chase Vergason

The play at the plate on (Chase) Vergason, he probably was going to be out with a pretty good throw. As a runner, you don't know if it's going to be on the line or not, so he took an angle where he could reach back and tag, although he didn't get close enough where he could reach back.

On if he has an edge over Clemson in the recent series

I think we're even. You talk about this year, I guess we've won three out of four, but it could be 2-2 or 1-3. I don't feel like we have the edge or do anything better than they do. I don't feel that's the case. They're very, very good, and when we play, it doesn't matter what's happened in the past. It's two great programs. You step it up and raise the level of play.

On the interference call

I don't think I've seen it this year necessarily but it did happen in the SEC Tournament a few years ago where we played LSU. Same type of call.

On the pitching situation the rest of the weekend

Jordan (Montgomery) will start tomorrow. We'll pitch the guys that are available. Matt Price I'm sure will be out. He got in the 60's I believe. Tyler Webb might be okay. Evan Beal probably will have something in him tomorrow. We just have to evaluate it. Coach Meyers will tell me what the scenario looks like. We fought through this game today and now have the chance to play at 4 o'clock again.

On he and Coach Leggett knowing each other's tendencies

We've been doing this for a while. Together, how many games have we played, what 50, 60 since I've been here? I think we probably realize each other's tendencies. Sometimes we go against it, but I think we know how each other manages. Then the players go out and play. These games are really fun. You don't want to lose. You feel bad when you lose, but like I said yesterday, if you said hey we're going to get in a big bus and go to a deserted island and play a best out of seven and have dinner tonight, there will be some fun in that. These guys love to play this game. Nobody likes to lose, but you love to get in a game like this. I played college baseball and watched it grow. I watched the fans start coming and the media and all these things. We get a chance to have a game against a team in this state that showcases a great rivalry not only in this state but on a national level.



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Clemson Head Coach Jack Leggett

Just proud of my team. I thought we played extremely hard. We pitched really well and played good defense. We had some big hits when we had to and had some opportunities in the ball game. I thought we had (Michael) Roth on the ropes and couldn't quite finish off the other innings. We just have to collect ourselves and be ready to play tomorrow.



On who will start the two potential games on Sunday

Dominic Leone will throw the first game for us tomorrow. The second game I'm not thinking about right now.

On coming back out of the elimination bracket

We've been here before. We've done this thing before in terms of losing a tough ball game and turning it around. Now it becomes a mental game. We have to give Coastal Carolina our best shot and hope for a second ball game. I'm proud of my players. They played extremely hard. We had some opportunities, and we just couldn't quite capitalize on them early in the ball game. Daniel (Gossett) pitched a tremendous game for us. Our relief pitching was good, and our defense was good all day long. Just another hit here or there, and we would've been in pretty good shape.

On where this game ranks in the Carolina-Clemson rivalry

This is one of those classic games. You can go on both sides and think of little things here and there that could've made a difference. Both team played hard, both teams played tough and did things they had to do.

On the interference call

We played 62 ball games and haven't had one call like that all year. It's just a tough time for that to come to surface. Let the teams play and let us do our thing. I wasn't feeling that one too good, but that was a difference maker in a close ball game ... That was a tough one to swallow at that time of the game. I thought that was a big one.

Of all the games I've seen, I haven't seen it happen. We slide the same way into second base all the time. We know the rule. Unfortunately, it became something that was important at the time, but I haven't seen a call (like that).

On the play to throw Chase Vergason out at the plate

There were a lot of really good plays. We had a lot of big pitches and some opportunities and big hits, but that was a big play by (Thomas) Brittle to come and get the ball hard. (Chase) Vergason runs well. It was a big hit up the middle. He came and was aggressive. Close play at the plate, (Vergason) slid behind and (Spencer) Kieboom had the presence to come back and tag him. We were hoping that would be a play we'd talk about on the positive side as a difference maker for us. It kept the game alive and kept the game going for us. It gave us an opportunity.

Senior right fielder Brad Felder

On his home run

I was just battling. I had two strikes and just looked to put the ball in play and stay short. He threw a slider and left it up, and I got good contact.

On needing two wins Sunday to continue

You just have to put it behind you. We've played a couple of doubleheaders this year and have done well in doubleheaders. We just have to come out in game one and have energy and come out in game two and just battle.

Freshman pitcher Daniel Gossett

On his effective game pitching today vs Michael Roth

I felt like my stuff was working, so I was just trying to pitch the way I know how to. It's not that I outpitched (Michael) Roth. It was a great team game. It was defense all day, offense all day, and I was able to make my pitches when I needed to.

On playing in this atmosphere

The Clemson-Carolina game is always a huge rivalry, much less it's a (NCAA) regional, so it's going to be a great environment. The atmosphere is going to be crazy. I just had to focus extra on my breathing, keep my heart rate low and not get ahead of myself.

Junior centerfielder Thomas Brittle

On the key interference play

We couldn't really dwell on it because it was kind of a big play in the game. It took a run from the scoreboard. We just have to put it past us and put some more runs on the board and see if we can get something going.

On coming back out of the elimination bracket

It's a great challenge. We have to play Coastal Carolina again tomorrow. We just have to put this game behind us, come out tomorrow and put some runs up early.



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Freshman shortstop Joey Pankake

On the play at the plate with Chase Vergason

I wasn't assuming he'd score. I was hoping he would and we could win the game and get out there. We went to extra innings, but we grinded it out and we fought.

On the win

This is a great win for the team. We've been out here working hard all year trying to do what we can to help the team win.

On the interference call

I didn't really get a good view of it. I was watching the out at first. I saw him go on hard. The umpire said he grabbed Chase (Vergason). I was watching the play, and I'm glad they made that call. It brought a run back.

Junior centerfielder Evan Marzilli

On the mentality of the team

We're just thinking one run at a time. Just try to keep it simple, get our crowd into it and hopefully let them do some of the work.

On the Carolina-Clemson game

There's no average day in the office versus Clemson. It's always going to be a great game. They're a great team. You never know what the outcome's going to be or what the game's going to be, but it was a great one today. Fortunately, we came out on top.

It's a rivalry no matter what time you play them. Whether it's postseason or regular season, you're always going to be ready and be pumped up to go out there. They're a great team. We go out there and just try to do our best.

On the emotions of the game

It's a rollercoaster. Sometimes you feel like nothing can go wrong; sometimes you feel like everything can go wrong. Games like that are why you play the game. You came here to play great competition and great teams. We were able to do that. It's fun to play games like that.

On playing the late game on Sunday

They're (Coastal Carolina and Clemson) going to have a great game before us. We're going out there, and no matter what team we play, we're going to play them hard.

Junior third baseman LB Dantzer

On continuing the tournament after a draining game

We have a lot of veteran players that have been there before. Me and Joey (Pankake), its our first time, but Evan's been through it, his third time now. We have a lot of veteran leaders. They'll make us come out tomorrow, focus and go.

On being added to the list of Gamecock postseason heroes

I really can't describe it. I don't think it's hit me yet. I'm just happy we got the win and excited to go out tomorrow. As far as being on the list or anything, I can't say anything about that. I can't describe it.

On the atmosphere today at Carolina Stadium

It was an unbelievable atmosphere. I really don't think there's a better team in the country as far as fans and the energy going around the stadium today. A few times today, I had to step back and enjoy it.