

2018 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL REGIONAL

Beckham Field · Columbia, S.C.
Postgame Quotes – May 19, 2018

LARISSA ANDERSON, HOFSTRA HEAD COACH

Opening Statement

“It was a long day, and we’re pretty emotional right now ending the way we did. I’m so proud of this team and our seniors – our seven seniors – what they’ve done and how they represent our program and our university. I can’t say enough about them. They give everything that they have to this program. I’m just really proud of them.”

On if she had been in that situation of emotions swinging that much between the two games

“Between the two games? Yes, quite a bit. I’ve been in that situation, but I’m not the one playing the game. The players have to experience it. When you think back to where this team was a year ago, two years ago, they’ve come a long way. They competed very, very hard in winning our conference championship and competing the way we did today, which is why it’s so tough. They give everything they have all the time, and you look at our seven seniors and they’re never going to play again. I think that’s what’s so hard about it. It’s not the loss; it’s the fact that these girls can’t play the game that they love. They work so hard day-in and day-out to be able to have this opportunity. To see them give everything they have makes me so proud in who they are and what they represent. It is emotional because you give everything you have to what you’re doing. And, that’s all I really want for them as they graduate from Hofstra – to give everything that they have the same way they have on the field to everything they do in life.”

On what the underclassmen can take from this game

“Sophie [Dandola] is a freshman, and to experience this environment and play at this level; [Sarah] Cornell being a sophomore in her first time playing and competing in this environment at this level; even the kids on the bench now they’re hungry and they know what they’re playing for. You can always talk about it as a coach, but until they actually get to experience it, they don’t really know what they’re playing for. So it’s going to make them hungry to get back here again, and they’re going to educate the incoming freshmen for next year that this is what we do and this is why we do it.”

On if she expected the counterpunch from South Carolina and that fight

“At this level, anybody can come back at any time. We know, and our pitchers know, that. [Sarah] Cornell threw 100-something pitches, so 100-something times the game is on the line. If she leaves the ball and she makes one mistake, we know the ball can be hit out of the ballpark. Unfortunately she made one mistake at a very critical time in the game. That’s unfortunate, but that’s the level that we play at. So, yes, we know at any time –it could be the first pitch of the game, and [South Carolina] hit a two-run home run in the first inning – so at any time the game could be on the line in the first inning or in the seventh inning in a walk-off situation.”

SOPHIE DANDOLA, FRESHMAN PITCHER, HOFSTRA

On if fatigue became a factor

“I don’t think it did. We played our hearts out and left everything on the field. At no point did we think about fatigue ever.”

On the perfect game she threw against UNCG

“I just felt on. I felt that I threw my best stuff, and I wouldn’t have been able to do it without the team behind me, so it’s really a team effort in every sense.”

SARAH EDWARDS, SENIOR INFIELDER, HOFSTRA

On if fatigue became a factor

“I think we did a good job of turning the switch back on when it was time to play again. We had some time to sit and relax and everything, but when it’s go time, I don’t care [about fatigue].”

On mindset after being behind early and then taking the lead

“Just having confidence in each other, playing for each other, playing for our pitchers. Sophie [Dandola] and [Sarah] Cornell did do a great job and did what we expected of them. Just waiting for our opportunities to strike.”

BEVERLY SMITH, SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH

Opening Statement

“It’s that time of the year when games aren’t over until the last pitch is thrown. And we proved that tonight with this exciting ballgame. I’m so thrilled to be heading to the championship tomorrow. So we are going to get these girls fed and to bed, so we can come back and compete for the championship tomorrow.”

On her mindset as Krystan White stepped to the plate

“We’ve got so much confidence in all of our players, and time and time again this is has happened for us. We have won a lot of games late and that has given us a lot of confidence. We never feel we are out of the game. We really needed someone to step up after leaving so many runners stranded, and tonight it was [Krystan] for us.”

On her emotions after the home run

“I’d have to see a replay, but I was just jumping up and screaming. You know, immediately tears come to your eyes because you are so happy for the team. Also all of us knew her dad really well, so that is emotional. But this was a great win for us, and it truly showed this team’s perseverance all year.”

CAYLA DROTAR, SOPHOMORE PITCHER, SOUTH CAROLINA

On how she will adjust to Liberty’s pitcher Sunday

“I didn’t have my best day against her in the batter’s box. But I am going to attack in the box tomorrow and swing for my team. I can’t wait to play in the championship tomorrow.”

KRYSTAN WHITE, SENIOR INFIELDER, SOUTH CAROLINA

On the pitch she hit for the home run and how much it was for her father (who passed away in November)

“I was just trying to take it one pitch at a time. Jenna [Johns] getting on base was huge for us. I was just trying to get on base in any way possible and luckily one swing did it. I know Daddy was with me there.”

On if her last at-bat in the first game of the Regional was on her mind

“Yes, sir, for sure. Like we said after the game, I knew my dad wasn’t going to let me have another situation like that. So luckily it only took one swing there, and we get to play another day.”