



COLUMBIA REGIONAL • FOUNDERS PARK • JUNE 3-6

# GAME 3

SAT., JUNE 4, 2016

## POSTGAME QUOTES

### South Carolina 4, Duke 2

#### South Carolina Head Coach Chad Holbrook

##### *Opening statement...*

It was a hard fought game. I congratulate Duke. Coach [Chris] Pollard has worked extremely hard to get his team back in the NCAA Tournament. He is a great coach, and he has some great hitting players. They are going to be a force to deal with in the future in their league. They didn't play many upperclassmen today, so I know he is probably tickled with his accomplishments and getting back into the tournament so congratulations to him.



As far as our team, we found a way to win. We didn't play beautiful baseball by any stretch, and we left a few runs out on the field. I have to get our guys to relax a little bit, take a deep breath and enjoy playing the game instead of playing with worry or burdens on their shoulders. If we can do that we have a chance to get back in this thing. I understand we have our work cut out for us. Josh [Reagan] was terrific in the bullpen; he kept them at bay there. The story of the game was getting out of that bases-loaded, nobody-out jam. That was the ball game right there as far as allowing us to win. I am so proud of Hunter Taylor; he has been a great teammate to all these kids in the locker room, and if anybody in that locker room has a reason to gripe about playing time it would be him. He kept catching every bullpen, had the right attitude, and he deserved to get the game-winning hit in an NCAA Tournament game. If my sons, my two boys, become the same type of teammate Hunter Taylor is, I'll be a happy dad. That is about the best compliment I can give that kid. Other than that, we are tickled with the win. We will try to recover as best we can and get ready for tomorrow.

##### *On Josh [Reagan] getting the team out of a jam...*

He has a calm demeanor, and, I think, the stickier the situation, the better he pitches a lot of times. He throws off-speed pitches for strikes, and that's key in those situations; he is a cool customer. I love giving him the ball in those types of situations. He can get double plays and get a punch out. He can get a weak swing and a couple of weak pop-fly, which he did. He has a number of pitches he can throw at a hitter. That was a big moment. His work enabled us to win this game, no doubt in my mind about that. We felt like we had to go to him in that spot. If we had waited a couple more times the game could have got out of hand. He helped us win the game. It may put us in a pinch tomorrow or the next day, but he certainly enabled us to win that one today.

#### Jr. OF Dom Thompson-Williams

##### *On worries and burdens going on...*

I think that we just needed to focus on one pitch at a time. That's what we talked about before the game, not to worry about what the future holds. We come out and play and things didn't go our way for a little bit, but we ended up getting the bats going and pitching was terrific. Like [Coach Holbrook] said, Josh Reagan was the highlight of the game, and that was huge. It gave us a little momentum.

##### *On added pressure...*

I think there is always pressure knowing that you may not play again for the rest of the season, but I like the team that we have and the chips fall how they may. I like where we fall.

#### Jr. LHP Josh Reagan

##### *On pressure coming up to the mound...*

Throw strikes, that's the name of the game. Obviously, it was an important situation – bases loaded, no outs – but you've got to make pitches regardless of the situation, so that's what I did.

#### So. C Hunter Taylor

##### *On last at-bat...*

They brought out a lefty, Madison [Stokes] got the bunt down, and I was just trying to hit a fastball to opposite field. I was just trying to stay on it. and he threw me a change-up. I got out in front a little bit, but I was lucky enough to get a hit on it and hit the bag.



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#### Duke Head Coach Chris Pollard

##### *Opening Statement*

I'm proud of our team. I'm proud of the way we competed today. I'm proud of the way we competed this year, especially in light of the start we got off to in conference play. But I'm especially proud of Trent Swart. He wouldn't ever tell anybody, but he pitched that game on pure guts. To do the job that he did to keep us in the ball game and give us a chance to win was impressive, just really impressive. He's everything that is great about Duke. He's a terrific student; he's a terrific leader; he's a terrific competitor; and he's been very fun to coach.



##### *On luck in baseball*

It's baseball. I actually had a conversation with (South Carolina Athletics Director) Coach Ray Tanner about it last night. I ran into Ray on the concourse level and that was his message about it too, it's baseball. Let's be honest, you play 57 games. We've had some soft contact go our way too. My message to our team is always the same when it comes to things like that. I'm a firm believer that they even themselves out. We had some soft contact fall in against us this weekend. We had the ground ball that kicks the bag there in the ninth. But I think those things even themselves out. You just try to play through it and minimize it. I thought over the course of the middle of the ball game, and even in there in the second (inning), we did a really good job when they had a chance to have a really big inning, or put what we call a crooked number on the board. We did a really good job of getting off the field. Making pitches, making plays and turning two double plays to get off the field. One of which there was a runner at third with one out. I thought overall the game was played cleanly.

##### *On if his team had an advantage by playing the earlier game Friday*

I thought that part of it was to our advantage. That fact that those two teams had a back and forth ball game and a really emotional ball game, takes a lot out of you and to finish up late I thought that was in our advantage. You have to give South Carolina credit that they were tough enough to overcome that. I'm sure they're a tired club right now but they did a good job of competing through that fatigue.

#### So. IF Justin Bellinger

##### *On trailing heading into the bottom of the ninth*

I had no doubt in my mind that we would give the best we had to come back in the ninth. My first thought was that we have a great team behind us and we're going to put up some runs to win this game.

##### *On this season*

Baseball is definitely an up and down sport. There's days where you have your best and days when you have your worst. We just try as a team to make sure that on those bad days we can still contribute and find a way to win. In the beginning of the year we were feeling pretty good and in the middle it was a little rocky. But we found how everyone needs to contribute and everyone needs to step up and take their part. Our pitchers really did well towards the end. We had a great series against Clemson and another great series against Florida State. We definitely figured out what kind of team we are and what we are made of. Mental toughness is the biggest thing, just battling through every day. It's a grind. We had a 55-game regular season – it's a lot of games – but as a team we came through and put together a pretty good run for it.

#### Gr. LHP Trent Swart

##### *On the early innings*

I think early on I was falling behind. I made some good pitches, and they made some really good swings. But as the game went on I felt like I was getting ahead and, especially my change up I had a better feel for it, and it was down in the zone. So that really help.

##### *On this season*

I think the best part about it is we've been in that position before in my five years here, where we start ACC play struggling and then there's a tipping point. I'm proud of all of us for being able to stop that from happening. Then to come out and finish the season strong. I think that was the most exciting part of it. A lot of people didn't expect us to be in this position. It was exciting stuff for us, and I know they are going to keep it coming.