

## 2018 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL REGIONAL

Beckham Field · Columbia, S.C.

Postgame Quotes – May 19, 2018

### **BEVERLY SMITH, SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH**

#### **Opening Statement**

“That certainly wasn’t the game we wanted to come out and play today. But the great part about it is that our season is not over. We are just going to take a different path to get back for the opportunity to play on Sunday. But credit to Liberty. Their pitcher pitched a nice game and attacked. But one game is certainly not going to define our season. This is a strong team, and this is a strong offensive team. We’ll be back ready to play this evening.”

#### **On if the delay last night affected today’s game**

“No, not at all. Certainly last night’s conditions weren’t ideal. But that is part of the game, and you have to overcome adversity. Our team was ready to play today, and we just didn’t take advantage of the opportunities we had. We are not going to make any excuses for the way we played today.

#### **On if there is a challenge to facing a pitcher for the second time**

“I don’t think so. We just did not do a good job today of doing the simple things. We did not get any lead-off runners on base today, which is a big part of our offense. Today, we just seemed to keep getting hits with two outs, and that is not how we usually play. Their pitcher pitched a great game for six innings, and we are going to tip our cap to her. And then there was just one swing of the bat in the 7th inning that could have changed this game, but it just didn’t happen for us today. So we are going to rest and be prepared for our game this evening.”

### **ALYSSA VanDERVEER, SENIOR CATCHER, SOUTH CAROLINA**

#### **On difficulty hitting today**

“I tip my hat to the pitcher, she pitched a great game. But I thought we let some pitches go that I thought we should have hit. But it is what is and we are going to bounce back and respond well for the second game today.”

### **CAYLA DROTAR, SOPHOMORE PITCHER, SOUTH CAROLINA**

#### **On what was different today vs. the last time she faced Liberty**

“Liberty definitely came with some momentum at the plate. And some of my pitches weren’t really working today. But they played extremely well today, and they did their part.”

### **DOT RICHARDSON, LIBERTY HEAD COACH:**

#### **Opening Statement**

“I want to give the praise and glory to Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior. I’m blessed to be part of the largest Christian university in the world, in Liberty, and to play against an amazing team like South Carolina. The tournament’s not over, so there’s fight. I loved how they fought in the last inning showed a lot about their character and skill. I feel very blessed. And these, two beside me [Julia Dimartino, Sarah Robertson] and all their teammates out there were just loving the opportunity to compete, and it shows. I’m humbled to be the head coach.”

#### **On if she was nervous in the 7th inning**

“No, that’s fun. That’s fun, and I expected it. South Carolina is a really good team, and they’re playing really well. They’re going to fight. When the first pitch was drilled, I knew it was going to be a battle. But, that’s what all athletes want; they want that battle. It was really great for our team to close the door. Giving up one run in that inning, to be able to close the door was something that we needed to go through. That’s postseason play.”

#### **On message going into the day after losing to South Carolina earlier in the season**

“The way that I love to coach is about growth, about improvement. There are a number of top teams that we played earlier in the season, and we were blessed to have the opportunity to do that. So, the question

is, when you face them again what do you look like. Are you better? Today, we showed that we improved. That's what any coach wants. Are we getting better? Last time, Julia [Dimartino] walked three and, I believe, gave up a grand slam when she came in in relief. So, when she had the ball to start, I was proud of her and the growth that she had. But also, the intensity at the end with the players coming together with two outs and two runners on after giving up a run, we're up 3-1 – that drama, that excitement is what champions want. That's what competitors want. I can say that for both sides. You could see the crowd getting into it. I'm getting chills just reliving it, just because nobody gave up. It's growth; it's all a process. You have to be able to experience it. It doesn't help if I share my experiences or somebody else does; they have to go through it. I'm very proud of this team because they're representing our Lord in such a positive way, and hopefully everyone watching can see that.”

#### **On how much last night's emotional win carried over into today**

Any tournament that you play, it's always great to be on the winners' side. It's always a battle when you're working your way back up. The 10 innings [last night] and to have those two innings that were challenging with bases loaded, full count, the game's going to be over in the bottom of the 7th – to come out of that just energizes you. To go those 10 innings, for Julia to be able to do it but for the team to experience it, is a high. It's a high of just loving life and loving the sport, having the opportunity to experience it. Without a doubt, the team is realizing that if we play our game, we're going to compete. That's what happened today. You saw a little more free swinging, which is what I like. Our tam was a little tight in the first game, and they realized they faced some really good pitchers and hitting your strike and not the pitchers really makes a difference.

#### **On the more high-scoring offense today vs. last night**

“What I was really proud of was Jaclyn Amader. When Jac stole the base and then took the extra one to get on third, it changed the momentum of the game. We were in the driver's seat. Then when Sarah Robertson got up and was able to get that hit – in tournament play, it's inches, and that was barely fair. But Jaclyn, with her speed, just said, ‘Hey we're just going to give our best’ and that really opened the door for 10 hits off a team like South Carolina, which as some good pitchers.”

#### **JULIA DIMARTINO, JUNIOR PITCHER, LIBERTY:**

##### **On difference vs. South Carolina today compared to earlier this season**

“We definitely got in their heads a little bit because last time they had us when we were down a little bit. But, this time, we knew we can play against anybody, and it just proves that we can play at the highest level. I think that today, Coach [Cassie Gingerich] had a lot to do with it – her pitch calling. I don't know if [South Carolina] knew what was coming, if there was a pattern. But, that definitely got it done today.”

##### **On what was working to keep power-hitting South Carolina off balance**

“I would say that the changeup was working today. Earlier in the season, it was more rise and curve, but I had to get the changeup down. So, the changeup was definitely working today.”

#### **SARAH ROBERTSON, JUNIOR INFIELDER, LIBERTY**

##### **On offense going early**

“When we score first, it gives us extra confidence. Hitting is very contagious. So, as you can see, we got a lot of hits today. Once one hit goes around, we all kind of pass the buck along. It was a good day.”