



# 2013 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

## GAME 6 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • MAY 31-JUNE 3

### South Carolina 6, Liberty 4

#### South Carolina Head Coach Chad Holbrook

Congratulations first to Liberty. Coach [Jim] Toman did a phenomenal job with his team. I told Coach [Jerry] Meyers and Coach [Sammy] Esposito that when they announced the regional pairing, offensively, I thought they were an SEC-type team. They had our utmost respect when we played them earlier in the year, and they played phenomenal baseball to get here, and they played phenomenally today. We were very fortunate today. The two runs in the fifth gave us a little breathing room. Kyle [Martin] got a big bunt down there, and Graham [Saiko] got a big hit. Tanner [English] executed a bunt for base hit that was really critical. I'm proud of our team and our players. Liberty is a class act. Great kids, great players, and we think the world of coach Toman and his staff. We're very fortunate to have won, and we look forward to playing next week.



#### *On the approach to today, putting Liberty on its heels early...*

With how good they are offensively, I didn't feel comfortable at all with a two-run lead. I just wanted to make it three or four, if we could. The first chance to get a runner in scoring position, I kind of slept on it, and I was going to do it. Also, they were not in a bunt defense. If they had been in a real bunt defense, I might have thought about doing something else. They weren't really playing Kyle to bunt, and, I think, that took a little bit of the pressure off Kyle to make a perfect bunt. I thought it was important to put a runner in scoring position. Our pitching staff has been very, very good all year long. If we score over five runs in a game, our percentage is pretty high that we'll win. That's what my thought process was.

#### *On the team raising the level of play in the NCAA Tournament every year...*

One of the things that I noticed, the energy in our dugout this weekend was unlike the energy we've had in our dugout all year. I don't know why. I got kind of mad at them, to be quite honest with you, because we played a lot of important games before this point. I was thinking, 'why now?' But, they were wanting to win, and they competed every pitch. I thought we were a little tired today. I thought we had some slow swings, our bat speed not quite what it usual is and [we had] bad at-bats after we got the 6-2 lead. But our guys competed, and they played hard. ... I think they turned it up a notch this weekend, to be honest with you. I'm proud of them for doing that, but I'm also disappointed that they didn't or couldn't have turned it up a little bit in Hoover or something. They're young and they have energy, so they should be able to bring it every day. But, we're lucky to keep playing, and I'm proud as heck. There was a lot of pressure on our kids this week with the regional pairings and the talk of the possibility of playing Clemson again. That wears on our kids. They're human beings, and they don't want to let anybody down. For them to come out with the energy and determination that they did, concentration every pitch offensively and defensively, I couldn't be more proud.

#### *On Tanner English's bunt in the fifth inning...*

It's not the first time he's tried it. Any time there's a runner on third with two outs – we've been working on it in the fall – he has the freedom and the liberty to bunt. I actually encourage it all the time. If he bunts it, and it doesn't have to be a good bunt, it puts an incredible amount of pressure on the defense to make a play. He's worked on it hard. The guy didn't have great velocity, so he's an easier pitcher to bunt off, and he executed a perfect bunt. I was proud that he had the courage to do it. Even though he's done it before, he had the courage to do it. He wanted to win, and it's a terrific testament to Tanner that he had the courage to try the play.

#### Senior designated hitter LB Dantzler

##### *On team's performance during another regional sweep...*

Any time you're in a regional, it's never easy. If you look across the country, there's a lot of close games, and there is no team in the postseason that's a slouch. Everybody has earned the right to be there. Maybe if they didn't, that means they won their conference tournament and they're hot, so that's even tougher sometimes. So I think it speaks to the resilience of the past four years, but you know you got some breaks and played well and hopefully we will be ready to go next weekend.

#### Sophomore first baseman Kyle Martin

##### *On receiving the Most Outstanding Player award of the regional...*

I got comfortable, and I appreciate the opportunity to play. Hopefully the more I play, the better I get, and it just keeps improving. It was a great weekend overall. I have to give big thanks to my team for keeping me loose.

#### Senior relief pitcher Adam Westmoreland

##### *On pitching in the NCAA Tournament...*

It means a lot. I was telling them this is the first time I've actually pitched in the postseason since I've been here. So, it's been awhile, and it feels really good to go out and give us a chance to win.



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#### Liberty Head Coach Jim Toman

We give God the glory in wins or losses so I'd like to do that at this time. I am proud of my team and before I get into these seniors here I would just like to say that South Carolina put on a great show. Obviously they know how to run a regional and I appreciate the hospitality. The hotels were great and the meals were great, all the hospitality was great. You guys all did a great job. Obviously, we came up a bit short in that game but I couldn't be more proud of these guys next to me. I would have liked to go one more game and seen what could have happened later on but we didn't have too many bullets left in the gun. South Carolina is very good and very well coached, congratulations to Coach (Chad) Holbrook and Coach (Jerry) Meyers, I kind of figured that he was going to call a change up on that last pitch and he sure is good at calling those pitches. If we would have had one more hit we could have played a little bit more tonight. They are very well coached obviously with Coach (Sammy) Esposito and Coach (Brian) Buscher, Coach Holbrook and Coach Meyers. It is tough to play here, the fans do a great job and it is a great environment. I just wish them the best of luck in the super regional whether it is here or at Chapel Hill. You know I'll be pulling for the Gamecocks in the super regional and hopefully in Omaha again. As far as my team goes I am proud of these guys and they grinded it out and kept playing hard till the last out. I told them win lose or tie, actually I said win or tie I'd be with them. That was a joke, but win lose or tie I'm with these guys they grinded it out and I am proud of them.



#### *On the feeling of Trey Wimmer's last at bat...*

Well I thought it could happen and I thought it could happen when Justin Sizemore went up there as well. I keep telling our guys in the dugout that there is no clock in baseball and you have to get 27 outs and we were going to go down swinging, which we did. Unless they get 27 outs there is still a chance and I thought it could happen one more time and we could be playing tonight but my hat goes off to Tyler Webb who is one of the best closers in the country he got it done. As a coach you always stay positive with your guys and you just tell them that the good thing about baseball is there is no clock. You can't run out of time they just have to get you out.

#### *On what makes South Carolina so good...*

They are good especially at home with the stadium, and the win streak, and the fans, and then you are talking about Coach Holbrook and Jerry Meyers and Buscher who is a Big Leaguer and Sammy Esposito who does a great job recruiting. They have a great staff they have great fans and they have a great stadium and a great environment. Then you start (Nolan) Belcher and (Jordan) Montgomery and (Jack) Wynkoop who is only a freshman and in the bullpen you have (Adam) Westmoreland and (Tyler) Webb. You are talking about five lefties that are pretty darn good and (Colby) Holmes who comes in throwing 88 to 92 and he did a great job yesterday and today. It's hard to get five lefties who know how to pitch like they do and that's because of Jerry Meyers. Their other players are good also. (LB) Dantzler has been a big bat for them and (Max) Schrock can hit and they can run them down in the outfield. You saw (Tanner) English run that ball down in the outfield today, or was that yesterday, he caught one in the gap and I am thinking that was a pretty good catch out there. Then they have a top draft pick next year behind the plate in (Grayson) Greiner. So they have all the ingredients they need to make another run at Omaha. You have to get your breaks and play well but when you put all of those things together you get what Coach (Ray) Tanner would call synergy. You put all those moving parts together and everything is going together well and they have it going. It is just good coaching and good players and good fans with a good environment and when you put all that together that is why they are one of the best if not best program in the country over the last 10 years.

#### Senior catcher Trey Wimmer

##### *On the two South Carolina runs in the bottom of the fifth...*

Well Blake (Fulghum) threw well, he has always thrown well for us. He didn't executed pitches as well as he has in the past in the first few innings and South Carolina getting those first two runs gave them a little bit of momentum before we could get going and it was a little too late. The fastball that (Tyler) Webb threw you have to tip your hat to him he is a great pitcher and he knows what he is doing and he just beat me with it. I would have liked to get some barrel on it though.

##### *On how the team performed in this environment...*

As far as my team there is no one else I would rather strap it on and play with. We have had a lot of fun this year. Like he (Bryan Aanderud) said it was the first time most of us got to dog pile. We serve a big God and he gave us the opportunity to do big things and we said if we got a platform to share Him then we would and he provided us that platform to do that.

#### Junior second baseman Bryan Aanderud

##### *On how the team performed in this environment...*

Well to be honest with you I thought my season was over about eight games ago when we were down 3-2 in the ninth to Radford in the Big South tournament. Since then it has all been bonus for us. It has been weird pulling on your jersey every day and think that this could be the last time I do this but I was blessed to tell myself that for about eight or nine times. We finally got a championship, which was the first time we got to dog pile so that was fun. There is no shame in losing to South Carolina at their place because they are just about impossible to beat here but we did our best and I had an amazing group of guys to do it with.

#### Senior centerfielder Ryan Cordell

##### *On the impact of the Big South title and making it to the regional final on the program...*

It has been a good season and from the very beginning it has been our goal to get to the regional, so to be able to do that with this group of guys has been great. Like we have said, we want to use baseball as a platform to share the love of God, so we are just really happy that we were able to win the Big South and then get here and win a couple.