



# 2013 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

## GAME 5 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • MAY 31-JUNE 3

### Liberty 3, Clemson 1

#### Liberty Head Coach Jim Toman

Obviously we're glad to still be alive. We've been lucky out there. Clemson is a good team. Congrats to Coach [Jack] Leggett on another regional. He's got one of the most consistent programs in the country. I'm just elated to have another shot at South Carolina. We give all the glory to God, and I'm just proud of my team.

*On battling back after the 19-3 loss against South Carolina...*

They've done that all year when we're down and people think we're not very good. I can see that after last night obviously. They just come back and battled. Bryan Aanderud was 4-for-4, a senior, two RBIs. Trey Wimmer, I think, had a big fly ball. We've done that all year. We showed Clemson that we were pretty good, and then we struggled, and people think we're bad. But, when our backs are against the wall, we've come back. So, I felt good this morning when I woke up. I got a text from a lot of people saying that they're praying for us. And my wife said, 'The sun came up; God is good; and the Flames are still alive.' It was not a good night, last night, but this morning it's a new day, a new chance to be number one. I'm just proud of our guys.



*On Trey Lambert's pitching...*

I told him about the fifth inning that he needed throw a complete game. He almost had it – he had two outs there in the eighth and the ball had just gotten by [Alex] Close. The Clemson catcher [Garrett] Boulware is a good hitter, and he hit the ball in the 3-4 gap. At that point, we definitely had to go with [Ashton] Perritt there. He's our closer for a reason, and [Shane] Kennedy had some power, and Lambert was down to 84-86 [mph] at that point. I knew Perritt would come in throw a little bit harder, and he ended up striking them out on a curve ball to get out of that inning. In the ninth, there was a struggle. Usually the innings haven't been that hard for Ashton lately, but Clemson had some great hitters and that made it very interesting. It went down to the last pitch basically. That helps our bullpen a little bit, and Perritt threw 34 pitches. I have to make a decision on whether to start him the next game or throw [Blake] Fulghum, and I haven't made that decision yet. I'm going to talk to my pitching coach Garret Quinn. I might throw him (Perritt) back out there. I don't know.

#### Junior starting pitcher Trey Lambert

*On preparation for Clemson...*

I talked ahead of time to Josh Richardson. He already faced this team. I just had a good idea on how to approach them. Josh went at them with two seams and changeups and was very effective, so I took the same approach. I just tried to keep the ball down, roll the change up over away from barrels and go from there.



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#### Clemson Head Coach Jack Leggett

Obviously a very tough loss for us. Anytime you end a season, whether it is here, at a super regional or in Omaha, it is like a runaway train that comes to a stop. It hurts. I am very proud of my team. We have a great future and have a lot of things to look forward to and a lot of really positive things that happened to us this year. We battled all year long, and I thought we had a good ball game going today. We had some opportunities. We had six leadoff men on base and just couldn't come up with the big hit. I guess that was the big story of it. We had some opportunities to get things going. I thought (Matthew) Crownover and Patrick Andrews and Clay (Schmidt) battled for us on the mound and did a good job for us. As always, it is very tough to lose and end the season that way, but we will rebound and be ready to play next year. We will be back. We have a lot of good things ahead of us. It was a really well-run tournament. The people here did a superb job running the regional, and we are glad to be a part of it.



#### *On this being the toughest year for him as a coach...*

Absolutely. This is a very tough time of year, when you lose your last game, and only one team won't lose their last game. I am very proud of our team and what we have ahead of us. I am proud of how we battled and how we worked hard all year long. We have been in a lot of games like this, and we have garnered 40 wins against the fifth-toughest schedule this year and got 16 wins out of our freshman pitchers, which gives us something to look forward to. Almost half of our wins have been against NCAA tournament teams, and five of those teams are hosting regionals. We have played a tough schedule, and it has been a grind. It has been a learning experience for our young players, and these two guys (Steven Duggar and Garrett Boulware) embody what we have for the future. Garrett Boulware was a warrior for us this year. When we had one of our catchers go down, he caught virtually every game over the course of the year and every inning, and that is a tough thing for someone to do. He has done a great job for us. He battles; he grinds it out, and he is going to get some rest, though it is a little earlier that we want it to [be]. He is going to be a really good player for us. Steven Duggar has a great future . . . along with our other freshman. The first game we played the other night, we had seven new guys who had never played in a regional before, and six of those guys were freshman that started for us. I have to feel good about that, and I choose to look at this as a positive year with a positive future, and all those positive Clemson people we have will feel really good about what we have ahead of us. It is difficult to end for sure. I go into that "PSD" -- that post-season depression -- for a couple weeks, and it is very difficult. But we will get back and prepare for next year and win one or two more and hopefully play in front of our crowd and get ourselves into a little bit better situation for a better ending.

#### *On whether the end of this year is easier to handle because the team is so young...*

That is the positive part of it, because the tough part of it is over. Tomorrow, we will start preparing and thinking about next season and what we have to do. We will meet with the players and see what we need to do to get better. There is a lot of preparation to do for us to get where we are now. So it is all disappointing, but the good part is I feel good about what we have coming and coming back and how hard we practice and how hard we prepared to win this year. Like I said, we did a lot of grinding in ball games this year, and the conference is probably as tough as I have seen it since I have been a coach in it. It made every weekend a grind, and one or two games here or there or one more game, we may have been playing at home, which would have helped us this year. We made our own bed, and we played hard and that is something to be proud of. These kids always represent Clemson very well and college baseball well, and they handle themselves well, and I am proud to be their coach.

#### Freshman right fielder Steven Duggar

##### *On feeling as if the season snowballed in the wrong direction...*

I think it goes back to the problem of not getting big hits at the right time. Even at the Florida State series, we out-hit them all three games I believe and then getting hits and getting guys on base wasn't the problem; it was getting them in. You have to score runs to win ball games, but we approach every game as a new slate, and I didn't feel like it snowballed. We just couldn't get it done when we needed to.

##### *On what is ahead of Clemson baseball moving forward...*

We are going to go back to Clemson and regroup and do everything we can in the fall because there will be some new guys coming in next year that can help us out some. We just need to continue to get better and work on our weaknesses, and maybe, this time next year, we will be celebrating.

#### Sophomore catcher Garrett Boulware

##### *On the double play in the fourth inning...*

I thought that was going to go up the middle. I was having trouble seeing because it was so bright out today, so I was trying to track the ball and trying to find it. When I did see it, I saw that it went to second base and then tried to get back. It was really a confusing play to be honest with you.

##### *On not being able to bring the leadoff men home...*

No, I was just hoping that we could get men on in the seventh, eighth and ninth as well. That is the way you score runs, and I was just hoping that we could keep going because it has to come down for us eventually. It didn't work that way, but getting a leadoff man on his huge, and I was just hoping we would keep doing it.