

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • FOUNDERS PARK • JUNE 3-6

Rhode Island 5, South Carolina 4

Rhode Island Head Coach Raphael Cerrato

Opening Statement

Honestly, that is probably the biggest win in our program history. It is our first NCAA tournament win; we have only been in the tournament twice. We showed a lot of toughness in that game especially this guy right next to me [Tyler Wilson]. I think there are a lot of four seeds out there that if they were down 3-0 with two home runs and it's pretty much over. I think we showed a lot of toughness as a gritty team that just kept playing. We beat a very, very good team, very good. They are the number one seed for a reason and hosting a Regional for a reason. It was a pretty exciting game. It was a hostile environment for us, but we did a great job, and I am really proud of our team.



<u>GAME 2</u>

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016

POSTGAME QUOTES

On if he was surprised to win...

I don't know if I would say surprising. I said our goal was to win the Regional, and that is our goal. We expect to win games. I think the way the game went, it makes it even more exciting and slightly surprising, especially being down 3-0. Yes, I was worried in the first inning. Being down 3-0 in the first inning, I was hoping the game didn't get too big and speed up for our guys. It shows what this group is made of that we can hang in there because the game could have gotten away from us big time in that first inning, even the second and the third. We just kept hanging around and saying 'get good at bats'. We knew Tyler [Wilson] was going to settle down, and he did. It isn't surprising to win, but the way the game turned out with all the excitement, it was a big win for us against a big team.

So. LHP Tyler Wilson

On what got him settled into the game...

After my first inning I went back to the dugout and talked with coaches and realized that everything was off point, my fast balls, my off-speed, and that's why they were getting hit. After that I made an adjustment and started to live down in the zone and then everything started to click.

On thoughts after first homerun...

I just thought to myself to keep making pitches, keep battling. I'm not one to give up especially when I am out there because I am out there for a reason. As long as I can stay out there and keep getting outs, that's all I'm trying to do.

Fr. INF Brett McManus

On center-field catch in fifth inning...

It was nice to put the ball in play, our approach was to try to get runners in less than two and having done that was just what the goal was at the at-bat.



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South Carolina Associate Head Coach Jerry Meyers

Opening Statement...

Obviously, a very disappointing effort tonight in terms of how it ended up. It's a quick turnaround and we have to keep our season going tomorrow. You've got to give them all the credit in the world. [Tyler] Wilson got off to a slow start. We did some damage early, and he then settled in a little bit and they put up six goose eggs there towards the end and the two guys out of the bullpen came in and threw strikes. That's a good ball club. Obviously, that's a game that was there for us to win. We had a chance to win it - had a lot of opportunities throughout the game, we just didn't execute here or there or didn't get a gap-shot that we needed. You have to tip your hat. That team came in here and took it to us after a really slow start with their best guy out there. We had a 4-0 lead and couldn't hold it.



GAME 2

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016

POSTGAME QUOTES

On Head Coach Chad Holbrook's ejection...

I was surprised. I think he wanted to voice his opinion during that whole circumstance and it escalated. I was surprised. He was sticking up for our team and he has always got our team's back. He's going to fight for all of our guys and that was just one exhibition of him doing that. I think everyone can appreciate what he was trying to do from our team standpoint within our team. I think they respect him for that even more.

Jr. OF Gene Cone

On the team's confidence in RHP Braden Webb tomorrow ...

We are very confident in Braden Webb. He has shown everybody why we should be (confident) all year. I think we are going to go out there and play the same way we did today. Hopefully, the balls fall our way tomorrow.

On having to win four games...

We have to try to flush this and move on. Like we have been doing the whole season, take it one game at a time. I think we will be fine.

So. RHP Clarke Schmidt

On the fourth inning...

I felt real good going into it. I was executing pitches early on I feel like. Towards the fourth inning I didn't make the pitches that I needed to make in big situations, and I let a few pitches get away from me. It came back to bite me in the butt.

On his velocity...

I feel like it was pretty much what it had been. I don't know what exactly it was. I'll find out later what it was, but I felt fine. I thought I had a lot of life in my fastball, was still getting a lot of strikeouts on my fastball and they were still a little late on my fastball. Then, I left a few over the plate and they got punished, so I have to do better next time, and I'm going to do better.