



2012 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I

GAME 1 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA SUPER REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • JUNE 9-11

South Carolina 5, Oklahoma 0

South Carolina Head Coach Ray Tanner

"We're very fortunate we were able to get on the board there in the second inning. I thought we had some pretty good at bats that inning. Payne runs a ball in the alley. We had the sac fly. We got one on the wild pitch. And Roth was like he has been in his career; he was outstanding. He had a couple of runners on a couple of times but was able to get out of the inning, just did a heck of a job. And they pitched outstanding as well. I thought [Dillon] Overton was very special. And Webb comes in for us, and he was really good there at the end. It was a great win for us, the kind of game you almost expected from the two of us. Runs and hits are hard to come by, and we were very fortunate tonight."



On the plan for Roth tonight...

"Coach Meyers, he spends so much time breaking down opponents and watching video and trying to figure out hitters and putting together a pitching plan for our guy. I had a conversation with him during the game on how he may be pitching to certain guys so I can change the infield and Coach Holbrook can move the outfield. Of course, sometimes Michael gets a change-up going and then he gets his breaking ball going and starts locating his fastball. We try to play defense according to what his plan is. Our pitchers have to go out and perform, but Coach Meyers does a heck of a job putting together a plan, and, if they can execute, we always have a chance. Michael had a couple of runners on there a couple of innings, but he was able to battle hard and get out of it and give us a chance to win. It was a special performance, no doubt about it."

Senior starting pitcher Michael Roth

On his last appearance at Carolina Stadium...

"Well I'd be lying to you if I tried to tell you it was just another game for me. I just tried to go out there, and there was something special about tonight. I'm glad to leave on a high note at this stadium for me, personally."

On coming back out of the dugout after he left the game...

"All the guys were telling me that the fans were calling for a curtain call. That was my first and last one here, so that was pretty cool."

Junior first baseman Christian Walker

On watching Roth pitch...

"It's just classic Roth. Like he said, there was definitely something special about tonight. We knew it was probably going to be his last start here. He did a great job like he always does. He puts everything on the line for you, and it definitely is exciting playing behind someone like that."

Junior centerfielder Evan Marzilli

On getting an early lead...

"It's very important to go out there and establish an early lead like that, especially in a game like this. We have a veteran pitcher up on the mound and a couple of veteran of guys on the team, especially with a team like that, they're a great team. You can never have too many runs, and we fortunately came up and won."



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Oklahoma Head Coach Sunny Golloway

First and for most, wow, what an environment. I've been to a lot of regionals and played some tough places on the road. There are some tough environments. I can remember early on Mississippi State, in the 90s, and Virginia was not easy, but wow, what a terrific environment. I told our guys down the line, 'Embrace it, how fun is this?' I told them I felt cheated being in the third base coaching box because I wanted to go run and slide and get dirty in front of all those people. That's what we've got to do tomorrow. We've got to come back tomorrow and embrace it. Michael Roth, there are a lot of things you can do over the course of a career. I still think as much as we wanted to win, it's poetic justice for him to have that kind of outing. What he's meant to this program, what he's meant to the last two national championships. We had designs to not let his night be that good, but as a baseball fan and somebody that really loves the game, it was poetic justice. He's going to tell you he wasn't quite on and he was missing our side, but he was tough. He was really tough when he had to be. We had runners on, and that's what I told Ray, he said you guys had runners on, and we did, but he didn't let us have the hit when we needed it. I thought it worked to his advantage early on when I sent Caleb on a 2-2. I was counting on Michael being really close right there, and the ball was just too far off, and that's where I thought it worked to his advantage. I mean we helped him a little bit, but tip your cap, what a special guy that you guys have had in your program. It's probably the way it should be for him to be able to run off the field the way he did."



Senior shortstop Caleb Bushyhead

On Roth's pitching...

"Like Coach Golloway said, he's probably going to say he didn't have his best outing, but it did work to this advantage at times. At the same time, he had some deception here and there. I think our guys were chasing some pitches out of the zone. The big thing for us is we weren't getting hits at the right time. We just never came through in the clutch, and that's something we've got to work on before we go out tomorrow. But just tip your cap to him; he threw a good game, clearly because we didn't score any runs."

Sophomore relief pitcher Dillon Overton

On his outing...

"Coming in, no, I wasn't expecting to, but Coach Golloway told me before the game be ready whenever. When I came in, I was just trying to minimize the damage."