



2012 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I

GAME 6 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • JUNE 1-4

South Carolina 4, Clemson 3

South Carolina Head Coach Ray Tanner

It was another one of those great baseball games that we tend to have when we play Clemson. It was a game where we scored early and Jordan (Montgomery) was outstanding. Tyler Webb was outstanding. We played good defense. We scored enough to hold up. We knew they were going to come back at us, which was to be expected. We had a great game today. That was about as good as we can play. I'm so proud of these guys' effort. We've grown up a lot during the season. We had some veteran guys, but a lot of young guys listened to the older guys and tried to work together and get better to become a pretty good team at the end of the year. We've been involved in some close ones. We've won our share. I can't say enough about Coach Leggett and his team and how talented and good they are. They wouldn't go away. (Spencer) Kieboom got a hit through the right side to keep things going. They're a great program. We pitched to (Ritchie) Schaffer as well as we could possibly could have. (Phil) Pohl is outstanding. We probably can't play any better. We put a complete game on the field today with defense and great pitching and enough runs to hold up.



On today's pitching...

The plan was to go to (Evan) Beal, especially with their right-handers. He was pretty good. Tyler (Webb) has been a guy who contributed in a big way for us the entire year and his entire career. Today there was a little bit extra. His change up was as good as it's ever been. He was able to locate. His fastball had a little more life today. When he got out there, I said this looks pretty good to me. We had Beal down there ready to go to face those righties. His (Tyler's) stuff was so good. Probably for the first time in Tyler's career, he said, "I'm good, don't come get me." He's never said that. He's always the guy who's been happy with the role that he has to make a contribution to be a set-up guy and to do what he's asked to do and not say much about it. He was really good today. I think he realized it and said he could finish this thing up. I was good with that. Now had that last guy reached we were ready to flip him for Beal. He was ready to go.

On the aggressive start to go up 3-0 in the first inning...

We have scouting reports on all the opponents, especially with Clemson, having been so familiar with them. We have a report on all their pitchers, and they have a report on all our pitchers. We knew they were going to start a right-hander. When we found out it was (David) Haselden, the scouting report was he was going to throw a lot of strikes early. He did walk a lot of Coastal guys early the other day, but he got out of it. When Coach Holbrook went over the offensive report with the hitters, he said let's take some hacks early, he's going to ball in the zone early and try to get you to get some outs. Let's take some aggressive swings. We got a few early. We were fortunate enough to put some runs on the board.

On playing at home...

Wherever you go, whatever sport it may be, teams are a little better at home. We feel like we're a pretty good team all the time, but we're better at home. Our guys play with tremendous awareness, and our fans elevate that. Our fans don't want us to lose. They try to do their part to keep our guys going and picking us up. It's the best environment you could possibly be in. I can't say enough about the support we get and our fans. They're committed to us. We're talking about being on television locally, and we still get a lot of people come out. It's been so important for our program and our players. They appreciate it, and that's not something we take for granted. We played really well. Clemson is outstanding. Today we probably couldn't play any better.

Freshman starting pitcher Jordan Montgomery

On going to the mound with a 3-0 lead...

It's always good to go out there with a lead. I had a lead the whole game. It's good to have a cushion. Even if they got a hit, just hold them.

On retiring 12 straight batters...

I got more comfortable on the mound. I guess I wasn't as nervous in front of that crowd. Having that lead, I knew I just had to pound the zone and use my defense.

Senior right fielder Adam Matthews

On being able to contribute in the postseason...

Past couple years, it's been frustrating not being able to be a part. Last year, I was hurt. This year, it's an honor to play in front of our fans at home and be able to contribute in a big way. It was a lot of fun. It's an honor.

On being named MVP...

It's an honor. My four years here have been a roller coaster ride. Playing what will be my last regional, it's an honor to be named MVP. Playing out there and with this team and this coaching staff is a dream come true. I grew up a Carolina fan my whole life, so to have a opportunity to play here and be on the field versus in the stands has been a blessing.

Junior relief pitcher Tyler Webb

On how clutch this team has been in the postseason over the years...

When you look back at it, it's hard to believe - the clutch hits, the pick that (Robert) Beary made last year and all that. When you step back and look at it, it's pretty amazing. It definitely never gets old.

On getting the leadoff man out...

That's always our goal to get the leadoff man. When you get him, it's harder to bunt over and get anything going. That's always our goal. Just try to pound the zone and get that first out. It definitely makes it easier.



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Clemson Head Coach Jack Leggett

Obviously a tough loss for us. I'm proud of our players. We played hard all day long, (starting with) the first ball game against Coastal and giving ourselves a second chance here. We just got started off on the wrong foot in the first inning and had a hard time recovering from that. Meyer came in and pitched well for us. It was just a little bit of a microcosm of our season. We've had a lot of close ball games. Anything we had a little trouble with over the course of a game, whether it be picking up a runner or an error, a pitch, whatever it might be has come back to haunt us. Unfortunately it did today. I respect how our team battled and how hard they worked. These guys gave me everything they've got during the whole course of the day and whole course of the season. Now we've just got to get through this postseason depression, as I call it, these next couple of weeks and get ourselves better and back in the thick of things again next year.



On the decision to start David Haselden on the mound...

He had that senior experience, and he's pitched well against them before. He throws strikes, so we decided to go with him. We had some tough plays. There was a really close play at the plate that I think could have gone the other way. We had a double play ball that would have gotten us out of the inning that happened to hit the kid. They swung the bats pretty well, but we could have gotten out of it with one run or none. We made the right decision to go to (Jonathan) Meyer quickly. They were just seeing the ball really well right out of the gate against Haselden and Jonathan we knew could spin some breaking balls up there and throw some strikes. He got in a pretty good rhythm once he got going. I still thought we had a chance for our offense to catch up. Their kid (Jordan Montgomery) did a pretty good job pitching against us today. He threw the ball on a downhill plane. He was using his change up for a while there, and his breaking ball and fastball had a little tail on it. They got some easy outs. They got some choppers at third for easy outs and got some quick innings. That's why he was able to last so long. We just had a rough first inning. It's unfortunate because the kids were ready to play. They played very hard in the first ball game, and it was a long, hot day out there. We played really well last night. One little thing goes one way or the other and we wouldn't have to play two today. That's the difference in the game. We've got to get one pitch better, one hit better, one execution better. We've got to go home and figure out how to do that so we can be a little more consistent during the course of the year.

On the advantage of being at home in the postseason...

It's a huge advantage. That's why you have to play well and consistently over the year to get yourself in that position. We were very close in two or three games over the year that would make a difference in whether we'd be playing here or at home. That's something we have to address. We've got to get a little better in those areas so we can be playing at our place. It's hard to play in front of 8,500 people and two hundred of them are Clemson people. It's an advantage to host a regional, no question about it. South Carolina played well. They did the little things that they had to do, and they pitched well. That's what took care of business for them. There's an advantage to play at home, there's no question about that.

Junior third baseman Richie Shaffer

On playing in Columbia...

Going on the road is always difficult, but especially here. It's a hostile environment, there's a lot of fans. They are very passionate. Sometimes it is tough, and you have work through it. Those are the types of obstacles that you need to be able to get to Omaha. I'm just proud of the way we've fought all week-end long and all season long. I couldn't be more proud to be a part of this team.

On being down 3-0 early...

A whole nine innings worth of baseball to play. We hadn't even stepped foot at the plate yet. It is a bit discouraging to be down 3-0 right away, but we didn't expect anything to be easy today, for sure. We took it as a challenge, let's see what we are made of. Can we come back and make this a game? We did a good job stopping the bleeding and limiting runs. From there on, we just tried to chip away and have good at bats and find away to close the gap. We just weren't able to do that completely, but we gave it our best shot.

Senior designated player Phil Pohl

On playing two games today...

We were all pretty excited coming into the game and move onto tomorrow. I thought we played great. A lot of energy. Great job by Dom Leone, we were riding the high off that game into this game. I wouldn't say we were tired or worn out. I would say we were excited about the opportunity we had tonight. Proud of our guys and how we battled all day long. John Meyer threw a great game. I'm proud of our team, proud of our guys.

On the season...

It's definitely a little disappointing to end tonight. About the year and the past four years, I wouldn't change anything. It has been the best four years of my life. I'm glad I'm a Clemson Tiger. I would go to fight with these guys any day of the week. We got in the tournament, and we had the opportunity to make it to Omaha and unfortunately we came up a little short. Looking back, I don't have any regrets on the season. I think we played well. I think we played hard. I think we had great chemistry as a team. I love all these guys on our team, all 35 of them and the coaching staff. It's been a lot of fun for me this year and the last four years. I have no regrets on this game or the season. I don't think we came up short.

Junior relief pitcher Jonathan Meyer

On what pitches worked for him today...

Early on, it was the slider away. As the game went on, my arm was loose, and I was able to locate a fastball to both the outside and the inside to righties.

On entering the game so early...

It's always tough in front of a lot of people, down 3-0 and the crowd's in it. I've done it before this season. I've come in early and stepped up to the plate that time, so I felt like I could do it this time.