



2014 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I

GAME 1 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • MAY 30-JUNE 2

Maryland 4, Old Dominion 3

Old Dominion Head Coach Chris Finwood

It's just a tough way to lose, back-to-back hit batters. It was a good ball game and you have to give them, Maryland, credit for fighting. I thought our guys did a pretty good job fighting against Stinnett (Jake), he's awfully good and we had some big hits, from Mike (Perez) and Ty (Urps) in particular. You know, it felt like we had done enough to win the ballgame but you have to play nine innings, not eight and we just couldn't finish it up. Our bullpen has been very good for us throughout the season and today they didn't get it done, and unfortunately that happens in baseball, and it was a tough time for it to happen to us.



On pitcher Brad Gero...

I'm going to have to take some credit for that. Our pitching coach had talked about how Conner Overton might have been a better match up for these guys or Ali (Dean) or Gero (Brad), just because he's a bit more of a power guy and they have guys that can slap the ball around. Conner went out there and he has his slider, so he was kind of a one-pitch guy. Then, he hung a 0-2 curveball and the kid hits a double. If it had to do it over again I might have left him out there. It's easy to coach that way. Brad has been our guy all year, he gets a ground ball and P.J. (Higgins) normally makes that play but it was hit pretty good. It was very out of sorts for him to be hitting guys, he hasn't done that his entire career.

On his message to the team...

I told the guys first of all to make sure they pick Brad (Gero) up. He's such an amazingly, wonderful kid and he's been picking us up all year. He set a school record for most appearances, had 12-to-13 saves coming into today and it was just a bad day for him, but that's baseball and he'll be back out there tomorrow if we have a lead late. We haven't lost more than two games in a row all year and we play great when our backs are against the wall. So, I told them, go shower and wash this one off, come back out and watch and see who we're going to play tomorrow.

Senior shortstop Tyler Urps

On trying to get out of the 9th inning...

We definitely wanted a double-play ball, it just feels good getting it to happen. We most definitely expect it to happen, and that's what we want.

On his mindset for tomorrow...

We're going to come ready to go. We could play all night.

Junior catcher Mike Perez

On the last two at bats that hit the batters...

Well, there's not much to say. We just didn't make a pitch there at the end. We were confident going in there that we'd make a play ball or get out of it somehow.

On his mindset for tomorrow...

I mean, we just, we have been doing it all year. We lost our opener in the conference tournament and then we reeled off a couple wins. So, we know what we have to do, a quick turn around and we'll be ready to go tomorrow. I'm confident in that.



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Maryland Head Coach John Szefc

I think as I said yesterday, every team in this tournament is good. You're never going to play a poor opponent in this tournament. I thought Old Dominion was probably one of the better teams we've played this year, I really did. I thought their two left-handed pitchers were as good as any two lefties we've seen all year. The bullpen lefty [Ryan] Yarbrough was the best bullpen lefty we have faced all year, so I have to give them a lot of credit. That's a tough way to lose a game obviously in this tournament. I've been on the end of that a few times. I have to give our guys a lot of credit. They hung in there when it wasn't really pretty game for us, really the first two-thirds of it. I give our pitching staff a lot of credit. They had a very efficient start for us, kept things close and gave us a chance for a win late in the NCAA Tournament, and that's all you can ask for.



At the end of the day, when you count up the runs, it's either a win or a loss, and our guys did what they needed to. They've been doing that pretty much all through the month of May, so (it's) really not surprising to me that we won coming from behind. It's been one of our staples in the latter part of the season.

On the importance of the win...

For us, the coaching staff, that was a really quality win for us as you're building a program. To have guys experience that in the NCAA Tournament, coming from behind, regardless of how it happened, you can't put a price on that. That will pay major dividends down the road

On the strategy of staying in there...

If we have a straight take on it, I tell the guys to get on the plate and if it hits you, then it hits you. I think our assistant Rob Vaughn does a good job of that with our whole philosophy of standing in there and taking it if we have to take it.

Sophomore third baseman Jose Cuas

On the team's start to the game...

I wouldn't say we were nervous. I would just say that we let the game speed up on us early throughout the game. Our coaches told us in the fifth, sixth innings to slow the game down and play baseball the way we know how, being extra aggressive which I think worked late in the game.

On the team's mindset when trailing...

There's never a sense of doubt in the dugout. We've been playing as good of baseball as anyone in the country during the month of May. We never doubt each other whether we're up or we're down.

On getting hit by a pitch in the ninth inning...

I was just looking for an elevated pitch, didn't think he was going to hit me. I saw a slider coming, kept my ground the way the coaches emphasize and took the hit by pitch.

Freshman second baseman Brandon Lowe

On their philosophy that leads to getting hit by pitches...

We've always lived by the rule, don't let a pitcher move your feet so if a pitch comes in, don't let him move you, keep your stance. If it hits you, it hits you.

On his late-game hit...

I just found a pitch elevated in the zone and hit it hard, didn't really overthink it, just know your approach and get after it, just seeing the pitch and hitting it.