



# 2014 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I

## GAME 4 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • MAY 30-JUNE 2

### Maryland 4, South Carolina 3

#### Maryland Head Coach John Szefc

Obviously it was a really good night for us and a really good night for the program. This place, this atmosphere is a very strong atmosphere, and I was really happy with the way our guys responded under some pretty duress situations. We have a lot of young guys in our lineup, obviously Mike (Shawaryn) is a freshman on the mound for us, and he has answered the bell so many times this year. But we felt pretty fortunate to give him a four-run lead and he is a master of minimizing negative situations – him and (Kevin) Mooney both. I thought they both were really at their absolute best tonight, and (Bobby) Ruse, too. I thought Bobby came in the game and minimized.



It was really a night of minimizing defensively, playing pretty clean defense. Our offense obviously didn't get a whole lot going after we put up that three spot, but it's a matter of doing what you have to do to get to the end and hanging in there. We did a great job of hanging in there. I was at Louisiana-Lafayette with Tony Robichaux, and Tony had a saying about creating and negating the three run inning. We were able to put a three spot up in the third, and I thought the turning point in that game was when they had second and third, nobody out, and Mike was able to minimize that to two runs and kept them away from a three-run inning. I thought that was real crucial. Obviously we had some big points beyond that once he left the game, but that was a spot that really kept us in there.

Obviously we're really happy to be sitting where we're sitting at this point in this regional, but it is just a second win, and we are not here to just get two wins. We are here to finish this thing off and that is our mindset going into tomorrow.

*On getting his team ready to play...*

I didn't really do anything or say anything different than any other day we've played. Baseball is not football, and you can't put shoulder pads on and have a guy try and run through a brick wall and beat somebody up. Over the years I've learned it's a game that you have to get your guys to relax as much as possible. An effective baseball player can pitch and play the game when they're relaxed, when they can reset themselves and slow themselves down in a hostile environment. So, you don't have to get guys pumped up to play here against these guys. If your players cannot get pumped up to play here you got the wrong guys, and we clearly do not have the wrong guys. It was just a matter of trying to get them to be easy and relaxed, and I think we were able to do that.

#### Freshman starting pitcher Mike Shawaryn

*On the atmosphere...*

The fans are great, even though we are the opposing school. This is the type of atmosphere that you dream of playing in, in these types of situations. One of the big things is to embrace it, but to also put it out of your mind. I think a big part of what happened was calming down, slowing the game down, and going pitch by pitch. Our pitching coach (Jim) Belanger always says, 'Reset, get back on the mound and just focus. The target doesn't change. It's still 60 feet, six inches.'

*On getting a big lead and settling in...*

I thought it really helped me settle in, any time you get a four-run lead it's very nice, and it's pretty good work for your offense. But I go into every game just as any other game. If you get caught up thinking that it's a regional start, you let the game take over you. So when I go out there, I just try and throw strike one and see what happens.

*On making the lead stand up...*

I just try and go out and throw zeros on the board to put us in a good position to win. For a couple of those innings I wasn't able to put up a zero, but Coach (John) Szefc and the whole coaching staff always tell you about being mentally tough, and I knew I had to be in that one inning that they had the two runs because it easily could have gotten out of hand. I just try and do my best and make the best pitches.

#### Sophomore first baseman LaMonte Wade Jr.

*On the team's approach tomorrow...*

We just have to come out with our same mentality – attack, attacking the opposing team, play clean defense and keep up with our plan at the plate. We got a little away from it tonight, but we just have to get back on track with it tomorrow.

#### Sophomore relief pitcher Kevin Mooney

*On his mindset in the 9th inning...*

Coming in, especially in that situation, I have been there before at the end of the game with a few guys on. But it just comes down to slowing the game down, going pitch by pitch. It's not really thinking about rearing back too much, kind of just throwing it, hitting spots, and it turns out that I hit a good spot and got a good ball, a nice two hopper to (Brandon) Lowe at second, and we ended the game right on the double play.



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#### South Carolina Head Coach Chad Holbrook

Congratulations to Maryland. They played a little bit better than we did tonight. The freshman pitcher that they had, he threw the ball extremely well for six innings and a third. We had a few opportunities there to win the game, to tie it. We put some good swings on it, and it just didn't go our way. Max [Schrock] hit a ball on the nose to the right fielder, Joey [Pankake] came up and hit one right to the second baseman. Kevin Martin's ball that he charged was a foot from going out of the park. It was a foot here, a foot there. They made the plays tonight, and we weren't very clean early in the game and spotted them a four-run lead. We just couldn't overcome that.



I felt like our guys were into the game, they were engaged. We were battling our tails off each and every at-bat to make something happen, and the innings that we had an opportunity to score more runs, we had our guys up at the plate. You start the ninth inning first and third with one out, we would sign up for that every day. We had our chances. Two unearned runs on the board and we lost by a run, and we had some opportunities at the plate. I told the guys that we pride ourselves on pitching and defense, and we did that for seven innings. In the postseason, you have to do it for nine.

#### Sophomore second baseman DC Arendas

*On having to win three games now...*

We have to come out and attack Campbell early. I think we know that Maryland did that to us today, so hopefully we can put together some good at-bats early in the game tomorrow like we did late in the game today.

#### Freshman relief pitcher Taylor Widener

*On having to step up in the postseason...*

Just realized that I had to go out there and the main focus was to just get one batter at a time. Just make sure I was getting outs and try to keep the team in the game.

#### Junior first baseman Kyle Martin

*On his double off of the wall...*

I got ahold of it pretty well, but I thought it was a little low. It ended up hitting the top of the wall. Not much you can do about that.

*On his team trying to fight back...*

It was tough, but we have a good enough team to come back. We've done it before. We fought, and we scratched as hard as we could.