



2012 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I

GAME 1 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • JUNE 1-4

Clemson 11, Coastal Carolina 3

Clemson Head Coach Jack Leggett

“Overall I thought we played two good complete games it seemed like. After the first five innings, (Kevin) Pohle did a good job. We played well definitely, and we got some big hits with two outs and some two out RBI’s. Phil (Pohl) had a big day for us. Second half, David (Haselden) went out and did a nice job for us. A couple of sketchy moments and we pitched out of it. We came out the gate scoring runs to give us a cushion. Offensively, we had a good day. Defensively, we played well. It was a good day for us.



On having the right frame of mind in the postseason

“We always talk about the frame of mind because that controls everything you do physically. The minds have to be in the right place. After we got done with the ACC Tournament, you flush that and go on to the next one. Going into the (NCAA) Tournament, we’re excited about being here and the challenge we have. To me, it’s always about frame of mind. It’s a huge mental game. We had a good approach. They’re excited. During the rain delay, we went to the weight room, and when the delay is done, they’re excited about going out there again.

On Phil Pohl’s day

“Hitting is a confidence thing that’s contagious. Phil (Pohl) is a battler. He’s intelligent and tough physically and mentally. He’s one of those guys that I don’t mind seeing at all. If they want to pitch around Richie (Shaffer), when Phil goes up you know you’re going to get his best effort every time. He’s strong; he’s tough. He takes some rough swings and rough at-bats sometimes, but just when you think he’s out of an at-bat, he works his way back into it because he’s tough mentally. He did a really nice job for us today.

On two-out hits and contagious hitting

“Two-out hits are back breakers. If it happens against you, it’s disheartening to the pitcher. It’s a tough mental hurdle to get over. Offensively if you get them like we did today, then it’s a really positive thing. It’s positive energy. The kids feel better about themselves. There’s more enthusiasm. It’s contagious. You see one guy get a big hit, it makes the next guy think he can do the same thing. Good teams do those things a majority of the time. If you’re struggling, those things come few and far between. We had some ups and downs throughout the year, and today happened to be a good day for us.

On getting out of a bases loaded jam

“One of the big points of the ball game was when we had the seven-run lead. They had the bases loaded with no outs, and we got out of that cleanly. That was a big turning point of the game for us and for (Kevin Pohle).

On who will start Saturday’s game

“We’re going to wait and see who we play and go back and talk about it. Our options would be (Dominic) Leone and Daniel Gossett. Those will probably be our two options. We’ll wait to go to the hotel, see who we play tomorrow and weigh our options after that.

On Kevin Pohle

“It was a tough day to pitch. The umpire, Jim Garman, is a very good umpire. I’ve known him 20 years. He calls them as they are. A ball’s a ball, and a strike’s a strike. Sometimes you get more or less in certain spots, but he’s very fair and very adept at what he does. I think we had to make some adjustments early in the game. Kevin (Pohle) was having a little trouble with his breaking ball, so we tried to get his two-seamer and get some ground balls. We made some nice plays in the outfield. Our kids made a good adjustment. He’s a very good umpire, and it’s one of those things where we had a little trouble trying to make that adjustment throwing strikes where we needed to early in the ball game.

On a potential matchup with South Carolina’s Michael Roth

My philosophy is never talk about a game I don’t know about. It doesn’t matter to me if it’s South Carolina or Manhattan. Either team will present some problems for us and challenges for us. I guess if it were to be against him (Michael Roth), you know you have your classic matchup again. He’s pitched well against us. We have to make some better adjustments than we made in the past and solve some problems we’ve had in the past with him. We’ve had close games with him. If it comes to that point, we have to figure out how to get it in our direction. It won’t be a high scoring ball game, I wouldn’t anticipate. We have to pitch well, play really good defense and get some timely hits again. But I really don’t like talking about it. I just want to play one game at a time. Whoever it is, we have to be ready to play them and accept that challenge.



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Coastal Carolina Head Coach Gary Gilmore

"The difference between winning and losing and this level... We just didn't make them, simple as that. Don't make the pop up in right field. Two people who would have had that ball all year...then we don't cover first base...You can't do that against good people and get away with it. Sometimes you can get away with that...today wasn't going to be one of those days."

"We'll pitch (Tyler) Herb tomorrow and see where we go from there. We've had to piecemeal this thing. We've been playing like this for almost two months. I'll be honest, we've probably got the weakest starting pitching of the 64 teams. That's where we are. We recruited this kid (Austin Wallace) to be a situational pitcher. But I'm having to start him because they're all hurt. We're trying to piecemeal. He didn't pitch well today. He didn't do anything to help himself and we didn't do anything to help him."

"It is what it is. Give Clemson credit. If you don't make a play, they punish you. With respect to our conference, that's the difference between a Big South team and ACC and SEC teams. You open the door, and they slam it shut. The way we played today, we wouldn't make our conference tournament. It's probably one of the worst performances we've had. It was very bad. It's going to be interesting to see how we respond. I'm already fired up about it. It's going to be interesting to see if we show up and play tomorrow."

On rebounding tomorrow...

"We did the same thing to UCONN last year. You look at what they did, turned around and came back in the losers bracket. Whoever it is tomorrow at noon, take a deep breath. I totally believe the toughest recovery is the night game when you have to turn around and play the next morning. I think UCONN..."

"I'm going to try to use that as motivation. The first day is the best day to recover. You've got all night to think about it. If you lose the night game, you expend so much energy and you've got a short recovery. I think there's some positive things. My message to our guys, is this how you want to go out? We haven't played like this in quite awhile."



Junior pitcher Austin Wallace

On his performance today...

"I know for me it's a learning experience. My first time at Division I baseball. We'll relax the rest of the night. Tomorrow is a new day. Anything is possible."

On responding tomorrow...

"We're a very high-energy team. Tomorrow is going to be a completely new day. We're very good at coming back from losses like this."

Senior first baseman Rich Witten

On his advice to the rest of the team...

"Today is over. We've got to learn from some of the mistakes we've made. We're a young team with no regional experience, but after today, that's not an excuse anymore. We've got to come out tomorrow and play how we're capable of playing. Tomorrow we'll look forward to playing to our ability."

On the play at first base...

"It was a tough read off the bat. Wind was blowing a little bit. It was a high ball. I was expecting some help...Going as aggressively as I could...We were able to...between the three of us out there."



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Senior designated hitter Phil Pohl

On the team's offensive production

It was huge. Today going out gives us some momentum going into the next game. We're excited about the way we're swinging the bats. We had a bunch of big hits with two outs today, so hopefully we can keep that going.

On his strong performances at Carolina Stadium

I don't know if there's anything with the stadium. I was fortunate to see a fastball in a pitchers count and thankfully put a good swing on it. A couple of years ago (when he hit a grand slam), it was the same thing. I think it was wind-aided. I don't know if it's anything about the stadium.

On the early lead being good for pitcher Kevin Pohle

It gave us momentum early. To get the lead like that was able to settle Kevin (Pohle) down. I think it came at a good time for us to give us momentum off the starting block.

On batting behind Richie Shaffer in the order

Richie has done a great job all year getting on base and being patient. They're careful the way they pitch him. Anytime to get him on the base paths and move him up to score a run will be big on our team. He's, in my opinion, one of the best hitters in the country, so being able to hit behind him has been a treat for me.

On his performance this season

It's definitely a good feeling. It's happened all year. I think most teams try to pitch around Richie (Shaffer) because of his caliber, but being able to step in and get quality hits gives confidence.

Senior right fielder Brad Felder

On the bottom half of the lineup hitting well today

It was big for the bottom half to get production. It's always good when everyone's hitting.

On the offensive production being good for morale

It was just good to come out and get a win and put some runs on the board. We had some confidence, and it was good to just come out and do it and have some momentum going into tomorrow.

Sophomore pitcher Kevin Pohle

On the team supplying early run supports

Getting early runs is big for us. It kind of shakes the nerves a bit to know you can work your fastball to the hitters, get ground balls and let these guys field behind me.