



2013 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

GAME 2 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • MAY 31-JUNE 3

South Carolina 7, Saint Louis 3

South Carolina Head Coach Chad Holbrook

Obviously it was a big win for our team. Saint Louis is a very talented offensive team and I thought their pitcher Clay Smith did a great job keeping us at bay a little bit. I thought we had some great at bats, I thought we competed. I was proud of the way our team played and Nolan Belcher pitched his rear end off. We got some big hits up and down the line up; Grayson (Greiner), Kyle (Martin), Graham (Saiko), Connor (Bright), had some big hits. We played very well outside of our two defensive errors that we made. It was a great win, the 40th win of the year, and gives us the right to play tomorrow night in the winners' bracket game. At this point in time I told the guys after the game, tomorrow night is the biggest game of the season. I think they understand that. We had some adversity strike and I told our guys all week long the guys who handle adversity the best hang around the longest. I was proud of the way they handled adversity in the eighth inning. A great win for our team and I am very fortunate. We beat a good team and we look forward to playing tomorrow night.



On Saint Louis' performance...

I knew we were going to have our hands full. They're a very good, sound offensive team, they have a great plate approach. Like I said, Clay Smith can pitch, he doesn't overwhelm you with stuff but he can pitch. Nolan (Belcher) doesn't overwhelm you with stuff and he can pitch. You don't worry about the strikeouts facing a guy like Clay Smith, but you worry about bunching enough hits together because he can change speeds and move the ball around using both sides of the plate. The middle of their line up can hurt you, they have a number of guys hitting over .300 and we were very fortunate. Outside of Chase's (Vergason) two plays we played darn good baseball. We will pick Chase up, he had a tough night but that's part of being a team. He was the happiest kid in our locker room when the game was over, he'll pick himself up off the mat, we tend to do that around here.

On the team bouncing back from a tied game...

Well, I was proud of the way they reacted. Every day this week in practice I told them that adversity was coming our way and you'll play a long time if you handle it the right way and you won't play long if you don't respond to it, that's the nature of the NCAA tournament. As soon as that inning happened, I told them all, I told you it was coming, and it's come. They responded the right way, we had six outs left and they have three. That was my message, we have six outs to score, they have three. The advantage is still in our dugout even though the game is tied, lets try to go win. That's all I told them and they responded the right way, Joey (Pankake) with a stolen base and I contemplated bunting LB (Dantzler) there, he's our best hitter and I don't put LB in the lineup to bunt, but then he stole a bag. Grayson (Greiner), Kyle (Martin), and Graham (Saiko), put some good swings on it to open the game for us.

Junior left fielder Graham Saiko

On the mood in the dugout after the eighth inning...

Like Coach Holbrook said we've played a lot of close baseball games this year and like he said adversity is going to strike. This is when you figure what you're made of and when the good teams step up and make plays to win baseball games. And having the team we do, and having pitchers like Tyler (Webb), and people like Kyle (Martin) at bat, the whole team, we were confident that we could be able to stay in the game and get a win.

On the change in batting order...

I'd like to thank all the coaches for believing in me. I spent a lot of time hitting at batting practice and working on the swing here in the past week, because obviously I did struggle down in Hoover and I have been lately. But it doesn't matter where you hit in the lineup. I'm going to hit wherever coach puts me and luckily I put some good swings on the ball and helped the team win.

Sophomore first baseman Kyle Martin

On earning the start...

It was a great opportunity, I was happy to get back in there. I just try to do what I can for my team and make plays as much as possible and that helped out a lot. I'm glad I got the opportunity to get that.

Senior pitcher Tyler Webb

Coming back in the ninth inning...

It's always a good feeling to come back, but as a pitcher you have to pretend the game is still tied. You don't want to take a breath or take anything for granted. The cushion is great in the back of your mind, but as a pitcher you still want to pretend that it's a one-run game.



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Saint Louis Head Coach Darin Hendrickson

I think the setting was great tonight. I thought our guys competed well and, in my book, you tip your cap to their guys. They made pitches when they needed to. We had chances to get runs early; we had chances to get runs late. You have to capitalize. You can't let these guys off the hook. We needed to stay on the gas, and we didn't do it. The bottom line is that they have a lot of good strike throwers, and they compete. They were certainly the better team.



On South Carolina's experience late in close games...

You always preach to a team when you score runs you have to have a shutdown inning. In the eighth inning in a tight game – and the game got tighter – we felt that the pressure turned to them. We were kind of playing with house money there. It is 3-3, and we are at South Carolina. I would have taken that before we even got the day started. To start the inning the ball just kind of cue balled off the bat and had some funny English on it. (Alec) Solé will usually make that play, and that was a big play when Joey (Pankake) got on to start that inning. I thought we threw the guy out at second, but the umpire said we didn't tag him, and that was another big play. After that you have to tip your cap to them. They made pitches, and they shut down our rallies. You're right, they are a seasoned team, and we are still learning and growing. But I am really proud of our guys.

On the range of emotion in the eighth inning...

The air went out of the balloon. I brought (Marco) Mejia in, and he got hit, and you tip your cap. I believe their five through eight hitters had eight hits. We shut the top of the order down a little bit and statistically some of their better hitters. That eighth inning, though, was a wild ride. If you tie the game and you see the ball air mailed by their third baseman, you think that we have a chance. We have Grant Nelson up with a guy on second base that could put us ahead even. It could have been a good inning, and it could have gone either way. It didn't, but that is baseball.

Sophomore first baseman Mike Vigliarolo

On the single by Kyle Martin in the eighth inning...

Once the ball got down I just got ready to jump up, and it hit just off the end of my glove. It was a good break for them and a tough break for us.

On the runs scored by South Carolina in the eighth inning...

They are a good team. They have a lot of speed, and they get on base and make stuff happen. They got that leadoff runner on, and that put some more pressure on us, and we couldn't shut the door. That was a big inning for them, and then they kept getting hits, and that was it.

Junior pitcher Clay Smith

On going so deep into the game...

Going into the game, I knew I was going to have to pitch around some guys in certain situations. I needed to keep the ball down, and the wind was carrying out. You just try not to leave the ball up in the zone. Even later in the game when I was putting zeros up in the inning, I had to try and do the same thing to keep us there.

On the experience of playing in front of the big crowd...

The fans were great. Being here was really just fantastic. I know in some situations I had to pitch around the crowd and not get the crowd too involved in the game. I think I did that for the most part, just have to try to go out there and give our hitters a chance.