



# 2013 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

## GAME 1 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • MAY 31-JUNE 3

### Liberty 8, Clemson 3

#### Liberty Head Coach Jim Toman

Praise the Lord. I'm proud of those guys; (that) could be one of the biggest wins in the history of Liberty baseball. To beat Coach Leggett, who is one of the top coaches...obviously Clemson, being an ACC team, that was huge for us. I'm just happy and proud of these guys. Early on, we didn't start well, and I told our guys we need to play good defense behind Josh (Richardson) in the first inning. (It) seems like every start he has, we make an error, and we did it again today. I told Josh, strike that guy out, get a double play and get out of the inning with one run, but he's a little bit of a slow starter. He's going to get a hit or two in the first, and we're going to make an error, you can pretty much count on that happening. And it happened again, but after that he pretty much mowed them down. We had a lot of hits. Trey Wimmer is the senior catcher for us; he's one of our starting leaders, a spiritual leader as well. I'm proud of him as a South Carolina guy to get the opportunity to play on this type of stage. Obviously Alex Close had a big day as well. We played pretty well. We didn't play perfect, but pretty darn well. That's about as well as we play.



#### *On starting Josh Richardson and Clemson's lineup...*

We knew they had a bunch of lefties, but Josh (Richardson) is always good with lefties. They had a lot of switch hitters. There was some thought process earlier in the week, maybe we'd go with (Jared) Lyons, but Josh pitched so well in the championship game against Campbell in the Big South Tournament that we thought he deserved the ball. Jost just put three guys on base in the first inning, because you knew we're going to make an error in the first inning, and he's going to give up a few hits. That happens every time he pitches. Luckily, we got out of that inning with one run, and usually when we get out of that first or second inning with just one run or two, he settles in. Now we thought he's tune it up to 88-92, but he didn't have that today. He pitched two games in the Big South Tournament, and he's a little tired. It might have helped him because he had an awful lot of movement, a lot of sliders, threw a lot of two-seam which he calls his changeup. He didn't do it with velocity; he did it with a lot of movement and changing speed. The pitching coach did an awesome job calling pitches. They couldn't get him locked in and had them a little off balance for a while there.

Well we felt all along that we didn't have any pressure on us. We're not even supposed to be here, and this is, to Clemson and SC, we're in pretty good position. Let's face it, it's very different for Coach Leggett and Coach Holbrook to be concerned about us and Saint Louis even though as coaches they're telling their guys Liberty is pretty good (and) Saint Louis is pretty good. But you know in their mind, it's because of the rivalry and it's hard as a coach to get it through that these guys aren't that bad. You've got to focus on that one game, but I think we were at a little bit of an advantage there. If it was a close game and we had Lyons ready in the (bull)pen, then we had our closer but thank God we didn't have to use them. So that sets us up a little better for tomorrow.

#### Junior pitcher Josh Richardson

##### *On his performance today...*

I pretty much just spot up. I knew from warm-ups I couldn't get it up to the 90-93 range like I can, but I knew my fellow pitcher Brooks Roy telling me that velocity doesn't necessarily have to beat everybody. You just have to spot up and change planes. That's what Coach Quinn told me to do too.

##### *On his pitching arm, post Tommy John surgery...*

When you try to be too fine, you end up throwing balls, and what you need to do it just hit the sports that the catcher puts up for you. And strikeouts, it doesn't really matter to me as long as were making the plays and getting them out. That's all that really matters to me. That's all you can count for.

#### Senior catcher Trey Wimmer

##### *On Josh Richardson's performance and career-high six RBIs and home run...*

First of all, hat's off to Josh. He'll be the first one to say that he didn't have his best stuff today. He sits (at) 89, (but) he threw low-to-mid 80s most of the game. But (he) told me he was going to let that two seam just run away the lefties and let them miss barrels, and they did, so hat's off to him. He did a good job. That's no shocker to us; he always gives us a great chance to win. As far as my day, I think I was just seeing the ball really well. I got a lot of first-pitch fastballs and swung on those. As far as the home run, yeah I knew that was going.

##### *On playing against Clemson...*

I never really had a dream of playing for Clemson. I just had a dream of playing Division I baseball, but it would have been awesome. When I was in high school, everyone wanted to play for Clemson or South Carolina, the best two teams in the state and top even in the country. It's nice to get win against a team that you grew up liking and cheering for. It's a little different not cheering for them, but it's a lot of fun just to get a win.

#### Sophomore first baseman Alex Close

##### *On his home run...*

It definitely felt good off the bat. I just missed the first one in the second inning, so when I finally got it up in the air, it felt good. As far as batting practice went yesterday, (Coach Toman was) just trying to get us to get the barrel out front and not hit the inside pitches deep like we sometimes do. I think both of ours (home runs) are fly outs to left at our park when the wind was blowing in, but it definitely felt good to get it out.



# 2013 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

## GAME 1 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • MAY 31-JUNE 3

### Liberty 8, Clemson 3

#### Clemson Head Coach Jack Leggett

We got out played, simple as that. They got the big hits when they had to, and when we made a poor pitch they took advantage of it. You have to give them credit. They played and pitched and really did a good job. I thought we had them on the ropes in the first few innings. I thought we had a chance to get something going offensively and their pitcher settled in. His two seam fastball was working for him, and we didn't make many adjustments. I think he retired 17 guys in a row, and he didn't walk any body – and we didn't walk anyone all day. We just couldn't make the big pitch or get the big hit and were very average defensively. In all the phases of the game, we weren't that good today and they played well.



#### *On pitching plans for the rest of the weekend...*

We will gossip tomorrow and go game by game. We have been in this situation before or at least I have been in this situation before. This happened in 1999. We got crushed by Northeastern Missouri or Southeastern Missouri, and we went four games in a row in the Arkansas Regional to reach the Super Regional. So it can happen. We just need to play a lot better than we did today. We allowed them to get the confidence early, and the bad pitches we made, they hit them with men on base. And that is how you win ball games. That is the simple story of the day, I think. Their catcher had five RBIs, and they got a run in the first inning, and they executed well there. We executed a hit-and-run in the first and scored a run there. We had men on first and second with nobody out and came up dry in the middle of our order. It would have been nice to score a couple runs there and keep it going, but we came back in the third inning and got a run. The game was right where it needed to be, and the three run home run in the sixth put a dagger in it for us and made it 7-2. At that point, I thought we had a good opportunity to come back and find a way to win.

#### *On having young players at key positions...*

Before the game I was looking out there and saw that we were starting seven new guys out in the field that had never been in a Regional before. Six of those were freshmen. I was thinking that two things can happen today. We can either play well because we don't know the difference or play like we hadn't been to one (a regional) before. We took the second route, which is unfortunate. Now we have a tough battle coming the other direction. Hopefully we can come out here tomorrow and relax and just play with that mindset that you have nothing to lose and go one game at a time.

#### Freshman right fielder Steven Duggar

##### *On how to get the offense back on track...*

As of right now we are playing for our season. Guys are going to have to be aggressive and stay with their approach. We are going to have to make some adjustments during the game, but right now we are fighting for our season and some guys' careers.

##### *On the streaky nature of the Clemson team this season...*

We have played some tough ball games. We won the first game 8-2 down at Florida State. The next game after that, we dropped a 2-1 game. So that was very close. The UNC game went into however many innings it went into and lost that one. That was a tough one. NC State was a great ball club, so it wasn't like we weren't playing very good baseball. That is just the way it goes sometimes. We just have to be ready to bounce back in the morning.

#### Senior centerfielder Thomas Brittle

##### *On what Josh Richardson did to keep hitters off balance...*

I think the biggest thing that he did was keep the ball down in the zone. Any time a pitcher keeps the ball down in the zone, it is tough to make a good swing. We had some pitches that we should have been able to hit and didn't make the adjustments like Coach (Leggett) said. He pitched a heck of a game, and anytime you pitch a complete game in a regional, it is going to be a good game. He just kept the ball down in the zone and kept us off balance, and we didn't make many adjustments.

##### *On the first three batters accounting for the majority of the hits...*

It's not really surprising sometimes. That is just how baseball works, and sometimes you don't have the at bats that you want. And that guy pitched a heck of a game. He kept us off balance, and we weren't able to string together many hits to get things going.