



COLUMBIA SUPER REGIONAL • FOUNDERS PARK • JUNE 11-13

GAME 2
SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016
POSTGAME QUOTES

OKLAHOMA STATE 3, SOUTH CAROLINA 1

South Carolina Head Coach Chad Holbrook

Opening Statement

Congratulations to Oklahoma State. They played some great baseball. They pitched very well and played great defense. They had some timely hits there. They should be congratulated for making the College World Series. It is no easy task. As far as my group, I couldn't be more proud of my team. I am some responsibility for not being able to win two more games. DC [Arendas], [Marcus] Mooney, our seniors, all our players—they have invested a lot. It is difficult right now but we will look back as a team. I have been coaching for 20-some years, and I don't know if I have enjoyed a team before as much as this one. We set the goal in September to put this program back on the map after what happened last year, and they certainly did that and accomplished it. It hurts like crazy that I wasn't able to help them make that one last step. It is a group that I am proud of, and they were awesome in every way, from the classroom to the community to the way they went about their business every day. They will always be one of my favorite teams.



On using the bunt and trying to string things together...

It's tough when you can't put any plays on – can't really hit and run or bunt when the leadoff guy doesn't get on. On top of that, you can't put too much on when you're behind as well. You have to give credit to Oklahoma State. I hate that we had the fifth inning that we did. That's just something that was a little out of character for us. If we make that play there, who knows, maybe we win one tonight. That's baseball. You can't have a bad inning in Super Regionals. You just can't, or you don't advance. We just had a bad inning against the wrong team at the wrong time. We have been very, very good defensively all year long. I'm proud of Clarke [Schmidt], too, by the way, for how he pitched. He was terrific. For a kid that struggled a little bit of late, he certainly gave us a chance to win. That was a really neat start for him. He's a special kid. I know he'll go back to work and commit himself to having an even better year next year. That fifth inning was tough and out of character for us, and it ended up costing us.

On a season coming down to running into a couple hot pitchers and not a lot of opportunities...

Baseball can be awfully cruel. It's a cruel sport. We had three great at-bats to end the game. DC [Arendas] fought his way on base. [Marcus] Mooney ended his career here with one of the best at-bats against a quality pitcher as he has had in his career here. Gene [Cone] squared one up, but sometimes you hit an out. That's just baseball. We won 46 games, with 20 in the league. We had a heck of a year. Yeah, it stinks that we weren't able to win one more series here at home. We ran into some outstanding pitchers and a great defensive team. Unfortunately, we gave them a couple of runs there in the fifth that put the ball and momentum in their dugout.

On the fans...

I want to thank our crowd. From what they did for us last weekend and what they tried to do for us this weekend, they were awesome. I know our players appreciate it. I appreciate it. They tried to will us to win. They did a darn good job of it last weekend, and they tried like crazy this weekend. We just couldn't get that big play. It was ready to explode a couple of times; we just couldn't quit finish it off with a big play or swing of the bat. Our fans were terrific. That's why we have won a lot of games here at South Carolina and certainly why we had a great record in the postseason. Founders Park can be special and not because of the great facility that it is. It's special because of the people in the seats. They were terrific. It was fun to play in front of our fans this weekend.

Senior INF DC Arendas

On how hard it was to get ahead on offense...

Their pitchers were doing a good job working ahead. In the last three innings, I think we had runners in scoring position. We had opportunities, [but] we just didn't make the most of them. A lot of that had to do with how well they pitched.

Sophomore RHP Clarke Schmidt

On the three runs in the fifth inning...

I felt good, it is tough to have an inning like that. We were playing clean baseball until then, and then we had a couple of errors. It kind of throws you off a little bit, but I felt good. I felt like I did my best to minimize the damage. I felt like I had a good quality start, and it was a tough inning we had there. You have to push past that and keep moving forward. It was a hot day, so it did gas you out a little bit. It is hard to go in and out with as much energy as you can. It was tough, but we battled all day, and we just couldn't come up with a big hit in big situations. It was tough.

On the feeling around the team after the loss...

It was a tough loss, but we will be back. Playing with a group of guys like this, I don't think I have played with a team as fun as this one this season. The seniors dedicated their lives to this, and those guys that got drafted and will be returning next year, I couldn't thank them enough for everything they did for this program. DC [Arendas], [Marcus] Mooney and Vinny [Fiori] laid a foundation for us, and we are going to carry that on. I can guarantee you we will be back next year. I think we are going to Omaha next year. This is just a scratch in the surface of what we can do. This is just the beginning. We are ready for what is coming forward. To come back the way we did after last year, we are just getting started.



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Oklahoma State Head Coach Josh Holliday

Opening Statement

We are humbled, very humbled, to come here and play well enough to advance to the College World Series. It's an amazing journey. It pulls a lot of thing out of you along the way. It's particularly special because of the kids to my right. I could tell you a story about each one of them and what they mean. Too, what we have tried to do here in the last four years. It's very special to our school. Having been a program with amazing baseball history to have not gone since 1999, to go back gives us a feeling of being whole again from a baseball standpoint. The credit goes to the players. They took the opportunity to go on the road together against a challenging bracket. Nobody thought anything about this team. We gave up two nine-spots or eight-spots in the eighth inning of the conference tournament. People were down on us, and these kids turned their focus to getting better. They went out for the past two weeks and played beautiful baseball. They are writing the script that they will never forget. I couldn't be more proud of them and humbled to see them smile and celebrate and know that we get to keep playing baseball together. That's the greatest thing about this - we get to spend a few more weeks with each other, because that's what teams do.



On the emotions of going to Omaha

To be honest with you, the thing that was most fun for the past few weeks is that we are together and that we have shown up each day getting to see each other and practicing and playing and travelling and eating. It's the energy and connection of those moments when those kids just articulated for you how they're feeling that just make you go. When teams can get to that point where that energy is right, which it is for our team, we are going to keep expecting to play well. That's it. We are going to an environment that brings you to life. The positive energy, the people, the stadium, the experience, it brings your heart to a place. We won't have any trouble concentrating. We won't, because they've learned how to do it. I think you've heard the kids say how they learned to navigated how to finish this experience two years ago. We fell short against UC Irvine last year. We ran out of gas. This year, we understand the mental discipline it takes to stay in the moment. Your program has to grow into being mature enough to handle that. Once you have learned those lessons, you then have to police yourselves by staying in the moment and talking about the right things. We are just going to talk about the right things, but we are going to do it with an amazing smile on our face because we were aggressive today. At times it worked, at times it didn't, but we aren't going to get tentative, we aren't going to get afraid. We are going to let our hair out. I don't have any hair, but the kids are going to let their hair out. We are going to play aggressive baseball because we play our best that way.

Junior RHP Tyler Buffett

On pitching out of trouble...

I never lost confidence in the guys behind me, my catcher and my pitching coach. I knew the right pitches were going to be going down, and the couple hits that they got, it seemed like I made a good pitch and they just found a hole. It was really just a matter of telling myself to keep making pitches and trust that the guys behind me are going to make plays.

Senior INF Donnie Walton

On what Omaha means to him...

It would be hard (to put it into words). I'm just very humbled, like Josh (Holliday) said. The last few years we have come up short. It still hasn't hit me yet. I just want to thank my family, my teammates, our fans, all of my teammates over the last three years and my coaching staff. I couldn't have done it without them. These guys pitched great tonight, so it's just very humbling.

Junior RHP Trey Cobb

On the final out...

I was just hoping I wasn't going to get crushed. The only thing I could think of was that we're back. It took a little too long. I know for our fanbase, they got used to going every year, but it's hard to get there. We made it, and that's all I could think about was just we're back.