



COLUMBIA REGIONAL • FOUNDERS PARK • JUNE 3-6



UNCW 11, Duke 1

UNCW Head Coach Marc Scalf

Opening Statement

It was a great start for us, no doubt. When Ryan Foster has eight ground balls out of the first nine hitters, we felt really good about it. That's what he does. He fills up the strike zone, sinks, slider and an occasional breaking ball and changeup. He's going to get more ground balls than fly balls. He got us off to a really great start. Offensively, Nick Feight got us going there in the second with a lead-off single, and then we put some back-to-back with a walk, and we were fortunate with Daniel Stack's single that dropped into right center. The two big swings in the back of that inning with Steven Linkous' double and Brian Mims' single to drive Linkous in and take it to 6-0. It put us in really good shape. Then the next inning, Mims had another big double with two outs in the corner to drive in three runs after Robbie Thorburn's at-bat to keep it going. Offensively, the thing we were able to do today is similar to what we've been able to do a lot of days this year, and that is bunch quality at-bats together and put multiple runs on the board.



On today's pitching

It certainly keeps us fresh and gives us an opportunity to have our better arms available for tomorrow. If we need to go to the bullpen early, then they're fresh; and if we need to pull the trigger in the third or fourth, we will. That's always nice to have all those arms available and have some options depending on if the game is tight or if we're struggling on the mound then we have that option. If we get behind and we need to try to slow it down, then we have two or three different guys we would go to. It feels good to be able to have that ability tomorrow.

Jr. CF Robbie Thorburn

On NCAA Regional Play

We just go about our business like we've always done all year. It's easy when you have a guy like [Ryan] Foster on the mound filling up the zone and getting quick innings. Then we can do what we do and put quality at-bats together. When we string a few like that together, that's what happens – we put a lot of run on the board.

On today's play

We wanted to come out and put our best foot forward and do what we do. I think Ryan Foster set the tone in the first inning and then it's our job on offense to come out and put good at-bats together, and that's what we did.

So. 2B Brian Mims

On effectiveness at the plate

Our coaches have us attack fastballs early in the count. We get that from one through nine in the lineup. We just try to motivate all of us to attack and be the best offense we can be. When we put good swings on it, good things happen.

Sr. RHP Ryan Foster

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On his stuff

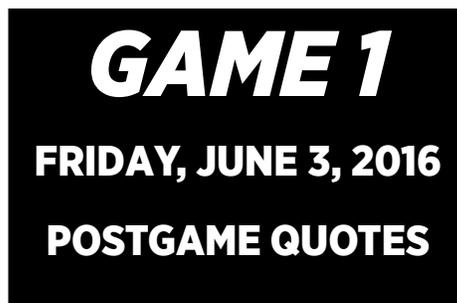
I attacked a lot with fastballs early and got a lot of early outs there. Coach talked about getting a lot of ground ball in the middle innings. In the later innings I didn't get as many ground balls, it was more fly outs. The balls were squared up, but it's my job to keep pitching. So, not my best stuff but my better efforts.

On the offense

I like to think it's my job to go out there and give my team a chance to win every time I take the mound, but I think they gave me a chance to win today putting up 11 runs there within the first three innings.



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Duke Head Coach Chris Pollard

We got punched in the mouth pretty good by a very good UNC Wilmington offense. I tip my hat to Coach Scalf, his guys swung the bat very well. We got down early and I think once we dusted ourselves off and started to compete one pitch at a time over the last five innings of the ball game we played okay but we had dug ourselves in a very big hole at that point. Credit Ryan Foster, I've known Ryan for a long time, I recruited Ryan to come to Appalachian State. He is a terrific young man and he's had a great year. He knew exactly what to do with a big leap, he went out and pounded the strike zone and got a lot of quick outs which allowed him to get deep in the ball game but I am pleased with the fact that we had several guys come off the bench and really give us good at bats and I also can't say enough good things about the job that Bailey Clark did to come in and give us those five really strong innings which allowed us to keep our bullpen fresh. We have four ball games to win now so we will need every hand on deck and the job that he did allows us to have plenty of arms left to fight our way back in this thing.



On how he got his team reorganized...

We are really young positionally, we came over after the bottom of the third to the top of the fourth and we had a group of guys that were really wide eyed and we hadn't been in that spot in awhile. We just talked about relaxing, dusting ourselves off and competing from that point forward. Chris [Procter] is right, after they scored six there in the second we came out and gave away a couple of at bats there in the third. I thought from that point forward, the fourth inning and on we had pretty good at bats and we hit some balls hard. We did string an inning together, they made a couple of good turns, double-play turns but the one thing I want our guys to understand is, you lose a ball game 2-1 or you lose a ball game 11-1 it doesn't matter it is a loss and you are in the bracket you are in now. I was there in 2012 when we beat Oklahoma in the first game just like this and they came back and beat us twice in the championship round to advance to a super regional so it happens. The thing you need to do is you have to preserve your arms and that's where Bailey Clark stepping up and allowing us to preserve our bullpen was big and we relaxed our at bats got better and better over the second half of the ball game. I also make mention when I took [Brian] McAfee out of the ball game, today didn't go the way he wanted to. He is a tremendous competitor and he has had an unbelievable year and we aren't sitting here having this conversation if it isn't for the job he has done all year.

Gr. RHP Brian McAfee

On if USCW was that good at bat or he wasn't bringing his best today...

A little bit of both. They were incredible, any time I missed a spot they let me know. Obviously, didn't have my best stuff today.

On what challenges did UNCW propose while being on the mound...

They hit breaking pitches pretty well. They were on time for pretty much everything. Hats off to them, they are a well coached and well hitting team.

Fr. C Chris Procter

On what did [Ryan] Foster do well on the mound...

He was pounding the zone like Coach Pollard said. He was staying low in the zone so it was really hard to get an elevated pitch that we could really drive. Towards the end of the ball game he elevated a few, but all game he just varied speeds and flicking at the string, that's pretty tough. It's pretty tough as a hitter when you go in 0-1 just keeping it down.

On mood in the dugout when they went up 11...

I didn't think we were dead. I don't think we died the whole game. We did a really good job of trying to put together really good at bats. After the six-five (running spot) we let them have a five-pitch inning and then after that we bared down and said we are going to grind at bats out and grind at bats out. I feel like the last four innings we controlled the game.