



2012 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I

GAME 5 POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • JUNE 1-4

Clemson 5, Coastal Carolina 3

Clemson Head Coach Jack Leggett

I thought we played a good ball game, pitching wise especially. Dominic (Leone) was really good for us. He battled for us, and he sucked up, threw strikes. He had a good velocity on his fastball, a good breaking ball and I thought Scotty (Firth) pitched really well for us as well. So pitching was excellent. Our defense was not all that good at times, but we overcame that. We had some big hits, got behind, lost the lead, got the lead, that kind of thing. We were able to keep our two-run lead, and it became a one-run lead real quickly. I'm just proud of our players. We have just got to be ready to go into the next ball game now.



On his pitcher for the next game
David Hazelton.

On Jason Stolz

He did a nice job for us. He's been a little up and down offensively for us at times. He gets hot; he has got a good feel for it. He hit the solo home run and the two-run homer after that. He has been playing great defense for us all year long. To see him put together a good offensive game for us when we needed it was a good thing for us today. Without a question, he was the player of the game other than our pitching. I thought offensively he was seeing the ball pretty well today, and we were able to capitalize on it.

Junior pitcher Dominic Leone

On yesterday's game's impact on today...

Really I just wanted to through strikes. I told coach in about the fifth or sixth inning go ahead and ride me try and save those other guys for as long as I can go. My mindset was just take it one pitch at a time, one inning at a time. Coastal is a good team. They put the ball in play; they make you work. You couldn't really think ahead and prepare for batters ahead, you just had to focus on one pitch at a time.

On the tragedy in his family...

It was tough. I found out, I think, Sunday morning after we got back from the ACC Tournament, and I didn't really have much time to process it. I was on a plane that night, and it was a tough week. I got back, and I think the most comforting thing for me was having all of my teammates around me. They were very supportive. I got a lot of hugs when I got back in the dugout. It was like that release when I got back to the baseball field and I could focus on baseball again and kind of keep it in the back of my mind and not let it affect me.

On Stolz's performance...

I watched the first one fly out, and I was pretty pumped. I said I think you're going to be pretty hot today. Everyone kind of gave him a pat on the butt and said you're swinging it well, you're swinging it well, and sure enough next time he goes up and gets another one. That jacked me up pretty good. I can't say enough about Stolz, not only defensively, which he has been phenomenal all year for me, but now today at the plate he was phenomenal. I can't say enough good things about him.



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Coastal Carolina Head Coach Gary Gilmore

I'm proud of how my kids competed today. They competed really hard. I'm just disappointed that we didn't get it done. It was not from lack of effort.

On Ryan Connolly's performance today...

We wouldn't be sitting here if it wasn't for Ryan and for Aaron Burke. They've been saviors to a beat up and depleted pitching staff. Ben Smith is going to be special. Javier (Reynoso) is going to be really good. We've got some good young arms like Tyler Herb that pitched yesterday. There are a lot of good things that have come out of this whole thing. For three years, he's (Connolly) been special here. For him to come in here against Clemson, where he had some troubles a year ago, and be able to pitch the way he did today and keep us in the ball game... we're a base hit away a couple times from changing this game. Those guys have great arms. Last 10 or 12 games, we've been averaging 10 or 12 strikeouts a game. We got punched out nine times today. There was a very liberal strike zone out there today, but they struck us out more than we've been doing. A lot of that credit goes to those guys. I thought they pitched very well.

On how to break through and make it to the College World Series...

I'm sitting here trying to figure that out. There are moments I think we are close. And there are moments I'm not really sure. It's having all the pieces. It's very difficult to be any mid major in the country to have all the pieces that all the BCS schools have all the time, every year. Last night, watching the game, they flashed up how many times South Carolina and Clemson have been to Omaha and the two national championships. That's what I'm fighting. We have to make it all work. Two years ago, these kids were a part of that team, and we were so very close. Hopefully we can do that again sometime. Hopefully some of these young kids who are a part of it now, we can build around them and continue to move forward and get back. Every time we come to one of these, it's an opportunity.



Senior right fielder Daniel Bowman

On bouncing back from the Friday game against Clemson...

We knew on Friday, we didn't come out and play our best ball. Coming out today, I think we had a different mindset today. Maybe more relaxed, I'd say. I think we weren't play as tight; we were a little looser. We knew we could play a lot better than Friday. I think we showed that today. We just didn't get a few hits when we needed them. Sometimes that's how it goes.

On his career at Coastal Carolina...

It's a hard way to go out. I would have loved our season to continue. It's been great four years here. I'm glad I stayed for my senior year. This year has been a great year for me as well as the team. I wouldn't trade this for the world.

Junior relief pitcher Ryan Connolly

On his performance today...

My job is to come in and throw strikes and keep the other team where they're at. I didn't do that today. We fell a couple hits short. That's the way it goes sometimes.