



# 2014 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION I

## GAME 6

### POSTGAME QUOTES

COLUMBIA REGIONAL • CAROLINA STADIUM • MAY 30-JUNE 1

## Maryland 10, South Carolina 1

### South Carolina Head Coach Chad Holbrook

Congratulations to Maryland. They have a terrific team. They were exceptional tonight. They played great defense, great offense. They just beat us tonight. You get beat 10-1 in your own park, you have to tip your cap to the opponent. They thoroughly outplayed us. Our guys gave it all they had. We just couldn't get any momentum going after the first inning from a run standpoint. Kind of there in the fifth and sixth, 4-1, 5-1 kind of deflated us a little bit.



Our guys over the course of the season gave me all that they had. They handled adversity. They represented this program the right way. Joel [Seddon] started the game today, and that was a new experience for him this season. I think he was an All-American closer, and he pitched his heart out for us and kept us in the game, which is what we asked him to do. We just kind of ran out of gas there at the end.

#### *On Maryland pitcher Jake Drossner...*

He was effectively wild. We had some pitches to hit. Thought early in the game we took some good swings. Like you, I was sitting there in the third inning saying that it feels like we should be up by more than 1-0. We kind of let them off the hook a little by not getting a big hit with runners in scoring position.

#### *On the team's season...*

There was a point in time this season that I was worried about making the postseason, to be quite honest, when we were scuffling so bad and could barely field a team. I'm proud of my players. I'm proud of my team. That was good season, but good is not good enough around here. I understand that. We have to do better than good, and that's going to be the attitude as long as I'm the coach.

#### *About the core group...*

I love those guys to death; Grayson (Greiner), Joey (Pankake), K-Mart (Kyle Martin) and Joel (Seddon), those are the guys off of the top of my head that will have an opportunity to sign professionally. They're great kids. They've been here and given us their all. They're baseball rats, and I hate that it ends like that for them, and I take some responsibility in that and not helping them more than I did. There's just no easy way to end the season, especially when these kids have given us all that they had, but it's a special group.

### Junior centerfielder Tanner English

#### *On the game...*

It sucks. We're done playing for the year. I think we definitely fell short of what we wanted to do. Obviously to lose like that in that fashion, at home in front of your fans . . .

#### *On their bats struggling versus Maryland's pitching...*

We hit a lot of balls that were hit right at people, kind of got underneath balls and things weren't really rolling our way and everything was rolling their way.

### Junior starting pitcher Joel Seddon

I just tried to go out there and treat it as a regular outing. Even Coach (Jerry) Meyers, we went through more like bullpen routine, coming in like a relief appearance, so I didn't really feel any extra pressure going out to start. It wasn't too much different. I just tried to go and keep us in the game and go as hard as I could and as long as I could.

### Junior first baseman Kyle Martin

#### *On the team going 0-7 with runners in scoring position...*

Obviously it's not something you want in a ballgame. We work really hard on that, but we haven't done a very good job of it. 0-7 is tough, and that's not a good way to win ballgames.



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### Maryland Head Coach John Szefc

Obviously, it was just a pretty incredible night for our program, for our athletics department and for the state of Maryland, in general. I haven't been living there long, less than two years, but I'm really happy for our athletics department, our program and for all of the supporters of Maryland baseball, which has begun to collect some people. We're really happy to represent the state the right way. I couldn't be happier with our guys. I'm just really, really happy for our coaching staff and for our players. These guys worked very, very hard to get to this point. This is not a very easy place to play. I have coached at a lot of different SEC [stadiums], I've been to nine NCAA regionals, and this is, by far, one of the top two toughest atmospheres I've ever coached in. The people here in South Carolina are tremendous as far as Regionals that they put on. The atmosphere of play is very difficult, very hostile environment, and in order to be successful here you have to have very good players and very tough players. They have to be very resilient, and that is exactly what we have. I feel very fortunate that we have a group that is as resilient as they are, and now they get to enjoy it, for a few days, before we get back to work and head out to the Super Regionals.



*On what separates them from other good teams...*

That's a really good question, and I don't think I have a very sound answer for that. I mean, I'm sure there are teams that have come in here and have more talent than we have. I know how good the SEC is. The one thing I can tell you is that we have some tough kids and kids that, in the last 40 percent of the season, have showed some things that I rarely see in college baseball in 20 years – very, very mentally tough kids, very driven kids and also kids that can perform on a high level under duress. Down the stretch, we swept Notre Dame, Pitt, beat West Virginia, and those were big RPI games that helped us get into the postseason. Then we went and beat Virginia and Florida State in back-to-back games to open [the ACC] Tournament. I just think it was more of a mental thing than a physical thing. There are teams in the country that are more talented than we are, but I think it came to a point where these guys just said, 'We want to keep playing. We want to play on a big stage and enjoy it, and we're going to come to absolutely get after you every single day. Win or lose, you're going to know when you walk away from it you're going to have to work your backside off to get us out 27 times.'

### Junior relief pitcher Bobby Ruse

*On his confidence from yesterday's outing...*

I played a big part of it yesterday. The crowd was absolutely crazy and to get those outs. My confidence was definitely boosted, and today I just listened to Kevin (Martir), and I threw strikes and got the job done.

### Senior shortstop Blake Schmit

*On being in the tournament and winning...*

Obviously it's huge for our program. This has been our goal since the beginning of our year in the fall, and we just are really happy with where we are. We are a hot team right now, and we have been putting together great ball games. Like Coach (John) Szefc said, this is a tough place to play. But we came in, and we played really great and came out with a Regional win. So, we're really happy right now, and we're excited for the Super Regional.

*On his at bat in the fourth inning...*

I got down early – I think it was 0-2 – and I was just trying to do my best to put the ball in play and make them make a play. (Joel Seddon) left a slider over the plate, and I got enough of it to get it to the left side of the field, and we picked up two runs. That was probably one of our big turning points of the game right there.

### Sophomore catcher Kevin Martir

*On the difference in their play late in the season...*

I think the difference is that we've been attacking people. That has been what our coaches have been talking about since the beginning, to attack. That's the only way we're going to win, if we attack. I feel like everyone bought into it and followed through to the goal.

*On their confidence...*

Just playing hard. That was one of our main things – play hard and leave it all out there on the field. That's what our coaches told us, play hard and that's really it. Leave it all on the field.