

2015 Big Ten Baseball Tournament - Quotes

Iowa



May 21, 2015

**Iowa 5
Michigan 8**

Iowa Head Coach Rick Heller

Opening Statement

“It was an ugly day at the ballpark for us. It didn’t go as planned from the get go. But, as bad as it was, we really haven’t played like that all season long. I think we gave up 13 bases tonight and we had zero yesterday, but we still fought back and gave ourselves a chance.”

On how the catcher, Jimmy Frankos, is doing after the collision at home:

“It doesn’t look good with the concussion situation. Our trainer felt like it’s looking like it’s a concussion so that will probably hold him out for quite some time. The way that it’s done now, they have to pass the tests and this will probably hold him out of the regionals even though we’re hoping that’s not the case. We’ll just have to wait to see how bad it is.”

On his discussion with the home plate umpire after the collision:

“My fight was that they didn’t follow the rules. The rules say that you can’t run into the catcher no matter what – period. I’d have to see it on film to get a better judgment. He saw it one way and I saw it another way, and we just have to go with what he called and move forward. It’s just unfortunate that it hurt Jimmy.”

On what the team lacked today:

“We only really had one error today in the field and one was a catcher’s interference. The other one was just a throwing error that got away from Jimmy and the guy was picked off. It wasn’t like we were kicking the ball all over the ballpark. Things just really weren’t going our way, bottom line. Our team is built on catching and defense; we’re not built to outslug people and Michigan was dialed in. Their hitters were good tonight, and we were making poor pitches. It was a frustrating night to try to call pitches, but they found a way to fight back and get into it a bit. In the end, it just wasn’t enough.”

Iowa Senior OF Eric Toole

On sloppy play:

“Normal we play better defense than that. Three errors is pretty uncharacteristic of us. We’re one of the better defensive teams. We just have to put it away and come out ready to play tomorrow.”

On scoring his first career home run:

“It’s exciting, getting my first homerun. Unfortunately, we settled in after that and we couldn’t get anything going offensively. Otherwise, yeah, it’s nice, but I wish it would have gone the other way for us.”

On their approach against Indiana:

“I think we need to just go in playing like we normally do. We have to come high energy, high effort, high intensity. Get out to an early lead quick. [...] Just do the little things right, and I think we can go out and compete and have a lot of success.”

Iowa Senior OF Kris Goodman

On confidence in making a comeback:

“Yeah, I think we have the confidence to do that. We saw that in the sixth inning. We were able to scrape up some runs, and it kind of gave us some life. I think there’s a lot of fight in this team, so I definitely don’t count us out.”

On what got them back in the game today:

“I think that every time we come off the field, whether it’s Coach Sutherland or Coach Heller, they’re talking to us and giving us some positive vibes. Also, it comes from within the team. We need some leadership as well. I think that helped a little bit. We saw that, like I said, in the sixth, but it’s got to start earlier.”

Iowa Junior Pitcher Blake Hickman

On if his mentality or game changes depending on the opponent:

“No, not at all. I don’t worry about who’s in the batter box. In the end, it just wasn’t my day. I felt like I let my team down today. I just didn’t compete how I usually do. But it doesn’t matter who’s in the box, I don’t care who it is. It just didn’t go as planned today.”

On turning around after this game:

“I just have to put this behind me. Like coach said, I didn’t have my best stuff. I just have to put it behind me and compete better than tonight.”

On his command in today’s game:

“I feel like my command was terrible today. It just wasn’t a good day for me. I’m just going to wipe it away.”