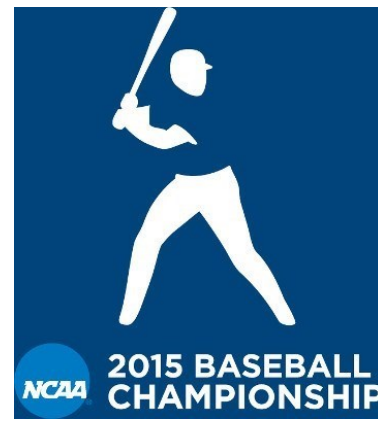


June 6, 2015



An Interview With:

ULL

THE MODERATOR: We have No. 13 Brenn Conrad, No. 15 Dylan Butler, No. 31 Wyatt Marks, and of course Coach Robichaux. Wyatt, talk about your outing a little bit, please.

WYATT MARKS: It took a little while to get settled in, but once I did, just had to keep on making the pitches.

THE MODERATOR: Dylan, two doubles for you at the plate tonight. Talk about facing Lange and your offensive night tonight, please.

DYLAN BUTLER: We knew what type of offensive approach we needed coming into this. He's got a good breaking ball. We just had the approach we had to sit on the breaking ball and hunt the fastball, and luckily I got two good pitches to hit and capitalized on it.

THE MODERATOR: Brenn, big pinch-hit home run there. Talk about that at-bat, please.

BRENN CONRAD: Well, I was able to sit on the bench and watch the whole game, watched him throw to every single batter, left-handed, right-handed batters, I was talking to Chau before my at-bat and asked him what to expect, and he said, just go up there and hit the fastball. That's the first thing I saw, belt high, and put a good swing on it.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, a few comments, please.

TONY ROBICHAUX: Well, again, Wyatt threw a great ballgame for us. Our biggest concern was to try to slow the game down. At first the game got a little fast and as the game deepened, Wyatt got better at keeping it slower, and so I thought he did an outstanding job for a true freshman. He's been very good for us all year. Our whole pitching staff, all our starters have

been true freshmen, so we had a big task on our hands tonight. We knew the kind of freshmen we were also going to be faced with. He was very, very good. Our goal was to try to stay as close to him as we could and hopefully try to make it relevant at the end when his pitch count got up some, so Wyatt did a great job for us because the only way you're going to beat a guy like him is if you don't get him early you can maybe try to get him late. Brenn came off, had a nice night tonight, then Brenn came off the bench tonight, got the big lick, tied it up, and their kid came out and did what a great team does, stepped up and got a pitch that he could get out of the ballpark, and he got it out, the difference in the ballgame. You know, came down to that one pitch. We had a lot of opportunities. Again, I'm really proud how our true freshman came into here and slowed the game down, settled in and kept us out of our bullpen.

Q. Coach, what do you tell your team after that, you go from the high of the home run in the top of the ninth to then giving up a walk-off home run? How do you get ready for tomorrow now?

TONY ROBICHAUX: Well, you know, we've had this throughout the season with this group, and the big chance they have now is to show people who they really are, to keep coming, to come back. You know, this wasn't going to be an easy task. If I would have lied to them and told them this was going to be an easy weekend, then they would know that I lied to them. But if this was easy, everybody would be doing it. This is not easy. But our team put ourselves in a position to win.

Our freshman threw lights out for us, and, and they got a ball up and out of the ballpark. It takes two to get to Omaha, and again, it's not going to be easy, but we get a chance to come back tomorrow and show people what this team is made of.

Q. Wyatt, what were you told there early and what did you do to just kind of slow things down?

WYATT MARKS: Just to not let the game spin out of control, control what you can control, and just make your pitches.

Q. Brenn, coach mentioned the range of emotions. What were they for you personally?

BRENN CONRAD: Well, obviously it's a big moment in the ballgame, tying the ballgame up in the ninth, but I mean, they came out and responded. That's the biggest thing about baseball is responding, and they did a good job of that tonight.

Q. What was it like, the atmosphere out there, just at the start of the game? It looked like it might have affected y'all just a little bit.

BRENN CONRAD: I mean, you know, we haven't played against -- we haven't played in this type of atmosphere all year except for the time we played in New Orleans versus LSU. But I think -- I mean, the beginning of the game I felt like we were fine to be honest with you. Throughout the game I felt like we kept getting more relaxed and more relaxed.

Q. Coach, seemed like every time you looked up Robbins was making a great play at third base. How nice was that with a freshman on the mound?

TONY ROBICHAUX: Huge, huge. He really did a great job down there because these guys are going to put the ball in play and put it in play firm. They're a great hitting ballclub 1 through 9. There's no easy innings. You can't take an inning off with them. They're going to put the ball in play firm, and he really, really made some nice plays tonight for us. It really helped because those are doubles if he doesn't finish those plays and they get down the line.

Now they're working to pull away, and that was my biggest fear is we knew how good their arm was going to be, the one thing we didn't want to do is try to let they're hitters pull away from us too far because now you can't catch him as good as he is. But Joe really helped us. You know, that ball that went to the backstop, you know, Brenn's home run would have put us ahead right there if that ball would have went to the backstop and fairly hit that two-run homer and really should have been

probably a solo, but that could have been a difference in the game right there.

But again, we played a very good club and a very tough venue, and we've been on the razor's edge all year with this group. They've done a great job of just staying in ballgames and hanging around and not letting anybody knock them out, and fortunately we thought we got the big knock but it just tied it up and then they came back and got the big knock.

But Joe did a great job for us. We played well defensively tonight overall, and we knew that. We told our guys, we've got to play good defense. We've got to get the freshman off the field when we get the chance to get the freshman off the field, and we came out, let them get some big innings brewing because these guys can put some big numbers up in innings if you don't stop. But we did what we were supposed to do. Our number one goal here as a pitching staff is to pitch away from the three-run-inning, and we were fortunate not to give up the three-run-inning.

Q. Looking at Wyatt, it seemed like his secondary stuff really got sharper as the game went on. After the first inning what did you see from him?

TONY ROBICHAUX: Well, you know, mid-season he's got -- sometimes he's got closer mentality, and he threw it against Troy in the conference tournament, and they hung five on him in the first inning, and in the first inning I had to come get him, and a day later we sent him back out again, and we just told him just to slow down a little bit, slow your motions down, and he threw a great ballgame for us.

So that's the big thing with him. As he settles in and starts to pitch, that slider starts to work, and his secondary stuff gets better as he settles in and pitched, and he did a great job for us. He could have let the game spin out of control early. Those guys can spin a game out of control on you, and he didn't let that happen. He settled down a little bit, and he's really matured. I've coached 29 years, and I've been in here a lot in my career, and not many freshmen come in here and live to tell about it.

Q. Your thought process as to staying with Will in the ninth inning instead of going with Dylan Moore?

TONY ROBICHAUX: Well, we were tied

right there, so we didn't want to burn arms. Tomorrow we've got another true freshman coming out, got Milhorn behind him, now I've got Moore. Bacon was my eye. I was going to stay with him. We were tied, and if we could get ahead, then Dylan would come in.

Q. Eighth inning, started to rain a little bit, started to really come down. Did it ever cross your mind that maybe play should be stopped for a little bit before the rain went off?

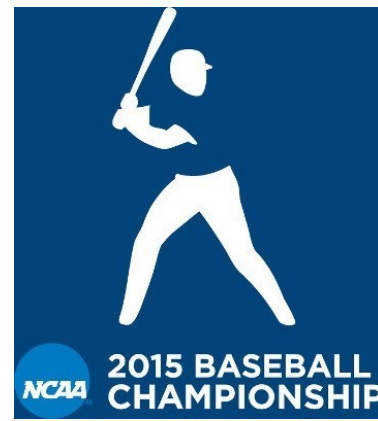
TONY ROBICHAUX: You've got good guys hitting behind you right there handling the NCAA, so it's in their hands, and you know, it's a good umpire and crew, and we've got some guys that got a lot of experience in doing what they're doing, and they felt we could roll, so I support that.

Q. Pitching plans for tomorrow?

TONY ROBICHAUX: It will be Gunner Leger.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

June 6, 2015



An Interview With:

LSU

THE MODERATOR: Let's start with Alex. Please talk about your outing a little bit.

ALEX LANGE: I felt good. I had my stuff working tonight. One walk tonight, so the command was there. Made some bad pitch tonight and the guy put a pretty good swing on it. That's one thing I want to have back. But I'm just really glad we won. This is a team effort. Defense played great, and obviously these two guys in the offense stepped up big for me.

THE MODERATOR: Jake, three RBIs in the first two at-bats, home run and a double. Talk about those two at-bats, please.

JAKE FRALEY: Yeah, for most of the year I've been being pitched out, not a lot of balls inside, but early today with the first two at bats, they came in on me and I was able to get the barrel around on it and was fortunate enough to get those runs in.

THE MODERATOR: Chris, talk about that last at-bat maybe.

CHRIS SCIAMBRA: Well, first of all, Alex kept us in that game. We really made it way too tough on ourselves and on him to keep us in that game like that. He did it last weekend. He was able to go the distance, but this weekend he wasn't. Right whenever he gave up that swing in the top of the ninth I started focusing my attention on -- I knew I was going to get an at-bat in the ninth inning. I stopped being a fan for a second and ready to cheer him on for a complete game and got my mind ready to go up there and hit, and honestly had two not great swings to start the at-bat off of, and I got a decent pitch to hit again, I missed my first one, and I got that one and I just put a good swing on it and just -- just an unbelievable feeling for me.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, a few comments, please.

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, first of all, I'd like to compliment Louisiana for the way they played tonight. They just played tremendous. I told Wyatt Marks after the game how much I thought he'd improved and he competed really hard. His stuff was good. Jake put a couple of good swings on him early in the game, and then he kind of settled in and didn't give us a lot of good pitches to hit, and when we did hit them, the third baseman Robbins just made some unbelievable plays. The shoe was kind of on the other foot tonight, we got out-hit just like they got out-hit all weekend last weekend but found a way to win. This game they out-hit us and somehow we found a way to win, and I think Chris said it right. Alex Lange just put the team on his shoulders tonight and gave us a real chance.

I wanted to see him finish there in the ninth, and when you throw a first pitch fastball for a stroke, he's doing exactly what he should do, and the kid hits his first home run of the year, how can you predict something like that is going to happen. You give credit to him. It's a shame Alex didn't get the win.

I thought Parker Bugg's job that he did coming in out of the bullpen in relief of Alex and getting the three quick outs, you know, gave us a chance then in the bottom of the ninth inning, and so it's not how you draw them up, but we'll take it. I've been in this game a long time. I've seen just about everything, but that was one for the ages there.

Q. Chris, you mentioned you swung out of your shoes. Looked like you almost left your cleats there right before that. Do you look back and think maybe you just joined Warren Morris in that pretty unique club?

CHRIS SCIAMBRA: No, I can't say that. Maybe I joined the Tyler Moore club, but I don't

think anything -- being in Omaha like that, that's just an unbelievable comparison, but I don't think in my mind, no. But I do love LSU baseball, and to be compared to that, that's pretty awesome.

Q. (Inaudible).

CHRIS SCIAMBRA: Yeah, he threw me a changeup over the plate and I tried to stay back. I was telling myself not to hit a home run that at-bat. I wasn't trying to. I just got big, which I tend to do sometimes. That's what I'm trying to work on to improve, keeping my swing short, and honestly just got too big whenever I saw that changeup floating over the plate.

Q. Paul, you've moved Jake up and down the batting order quite a bit this year. What went into your decision to bat him second?

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, obviously he had a great night. I'm sure he'd like to have one at-bat back. I wanted to put Laird in the leadoff spot. Laird tweaked his shoulder last weekend on a swing, and had to go see the doctor, and so we had to give him a couple of days off swinging, and then when he came back, I thought his batting practices were really good. His bat speed was better than it had been before, and I just wanted to get him in that lead-off spot, and then Jake got a new bat at the beginning of the week. Right, Jake? And I'll tell you, he had some really good batting practices all week, as well. I thought his bat was like lightning all week. He was hitting the ball as hard as I've ever seen him hit it. So I just decided to stick those two guys up there at the top of the order, see if they could make something happen, and I thought with the young kid, freshman pitcher in this environment that he might have little command issues, first batter of the game, and Laird is -- we made him be kind of patient up there with some take signs and he Drew the leadoff walk there which got us going, and then of course we got lucky there with the fastball, got him to second base, and then Jake came through with the RBI double. I guess it worked out pretty well there, and then of course he hit the big home run later on.

Q. Chris, Cannizaro gave you a pep talk before you hit in the ninth. What exactly did he tell you?

CHRIS SCIAMBRA: Nothing about hitting. Just going up there and the way we compete at the plate and how bad we want to win this game and

the approach that we should have. But it was nothing physical about hitting or the way the guy was pitching us. It was just to give us a little -- to keep playing the game and to pick us up a little bit and tell us it's a tie game, we haven't lost this game, we're still in it, let's go get 'em.

Q. Alex, pitching through the rain, I think it was the eighth inning or something, what was that like, having to deal with that?

ALEX LANGE: You can't control the rain. You've got to pitch through it. Nothing you can do about it. They had to deal with the same thing at the plate, and when they went back out for the inning.

It's part of the game. It's something you have to deal with, and just a little adversity that you have to overcome. Really try not to let it affect your game.

Q. Chris, for as much as you rooted for LSU as a youngster, what do you think you would tell little 12-year-old Chris that went to Omaha and cried for LSU? What do you think he would think about this, and what does this mean to you for as much as you grew up rooting for this team, to come through with such a clutch moment?

CHRIS SCIAMBRA: Well, you prepare your whole life for an at-bat in a situation like that. You play the game, it's to get to the next level and the next level and eventually to come to LSU. If I had to tell him something, you know, back then, it would be just keep playing, keep playing hard, just like I would tell any kid right now out there, keep going at it and play the game the right way and good things will happen.

Q. Coach, obviously a huge series here, tons of people in the stadium, and you've got two freshman pitchers out there just kind of dueling. What does it say about those guys to be able to kind of put that huge moment down and just go out there and pitch?

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, they might have been the two guys displaying the greatest amount of poise of everybody out there. The two of them really competed hard against each other, and they were both tremendous. I already spoke about what I thought about what Wyatt did, but I wouldn't trade my guy for anybody in the world. Alex Lange is the ultimate warrior out there, and he just battles,

and he's obviously got great stuff, but he makes big pitches at big times and gets himself out of jams because he's got great stuff and he's got the fortitude to make great pitches.

Alex is a winner, and it's great to have him on our team.

Q. Alex, you were pretty dominant most of the night. Do you feel like ULL changed their approach at the plate as the game went on or was it just they had seen you enough times that eventually it was going to come around for them?

ALEX LANGE: I don't know if any team just comes around. I made a couple mistakes and they just capitalized like a good hitting team does. This is the reason they're in the super regionals is because they know how to get jobs done, and when you make mistakes over the middle of the plate, you get hit, and that's what happened.

Q. Coach, have you decided on a pitching plan for tomorrow yet?

PAUL MAINIERI: Jared Poché will pitch tomorrow.

Q. What's the message for the team tomorrow? Obviously y'all are coming off a big win and very high, but how do you keep them kind of level after that?

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, I don't think that'll be very hard. I thought ULL played a great game tonight and in some regards we were fortunate to win, obviously. We obviously have a very formidable opponent on our hands. We need one more win to get to Omaha. They understand that. They understand how the whole thing works. There's nothing I need to say to them to make them understand the gravity of what's going to happen tomorrow, so we need to come out tomorrow and we need to start swinging the bats. We're putting such pressure on our pitching staff that one mistake can end up costing them the game or costing them a lead or whatever, and we've just got to start getting back to swinging the bats the way we know we can. We've been struggling for a handful of games now and just part of it is they made some tremendous plays, but we had a runner at third base with nobody out. That's got to be a run for us. We've just got to tackle them there and we let them off the hook there, and we've just got to get better. We're not nearly as good as we can be.

Q. You mentioned the hitting, but Alex Bregman hasn't really gotten it going yet, but he still makes the big play in the eighth.

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, you know, like a broken record answering that question, you know that, because last year went through a terrible slump and just played tremendous defense, and I think that shows the true character of a person when they don't do well in one aspect of the game, particularly in hitting, where it's such the dominant part of your game, but yet you still want to win so badly that you go out there and you don't pout and you don't hang your head and you go out there and play hard and make the plays that you need to make. That play in the eight inning was an enormously clutch play and China made a great play at first base and it gave us a chance. It kept us with a one run lead at that point and those things add up. I complimented the first baseman for them, but you could look at our guys, too. They made some important plays when they needed to, and we made some big pitches, as well.

Hopefully we'll play a little bit better tomorrow and hopefully we'll have a good all-around game.

Q. Paul, you touched on it just there, China with the scoop on that play, that's something that early on in the season he struggled with a little bit. What's that say about him, to come back after the error that kind of let the inning get going?

PAUL MAINIERI: Yeah, was that ruled an error? They called it a hit? I couldn't tell was it a throw on-line, should he have caught the ball? Well, it's obviously a play we thought should have been made, whether it needed to be thrown a little bit better, it was a pretty important play in the game. But I will say this: Chris is a winner, and he's worked hard. He's been a clutch hitter for us all year, came here as a catcher and we've converted him to first base, and he's worked real hard at his defense. He goes up there off the pitching machine, we set it up and fire balls in the dirt to him every day at practice and he picks about 50 of them. So he ought to be getting pretty good at it as much as he's worked at it. But the kids are also older and they've understood as we keep preaching to them about the little things and how much of a big difference they make, and if you want to win close games against good teams in the NCAA tournament, you know, you can sit and talk

about I want to be a national champion, I want to go to Omaha, but the reality is you go out there and you work at those little aspects of the game because you know they're going to rear their head at a pivotal time in the season, and when China made that pick the first thing I thought of is all those balls he's practiced over the course of the year picking off the machine, and we got it when we needed it.

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