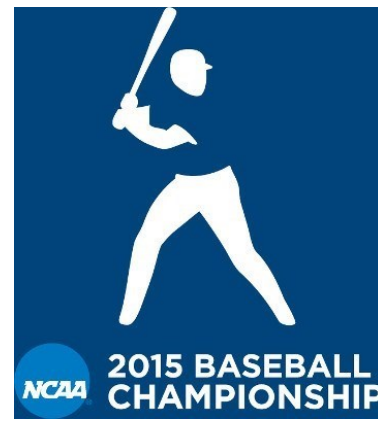


**June 7, 2015**



An Interview With:

## ULL

THE MODERATOR: Let's start first, Tyler, talk a little bit about your year and also your career here.

TYLER GIROUARD: I mean, it was a great year. The best five years of my life, and I just can't be thankful enough to Coach Robe and God for giving me an opportunity to come back and play. Coach Robe has taught me so much not just about baseball but just about being a man, and I know that's going to help me in my life, and I'm just so thankful for being able to come back and him letting me come back and all the guys having me back. I'm just really appreciative of it.

THE MODERATOR: Gunner, great outing. Talk a little bit about your outing, please.

GUNNER LEGER: Just, you know, game plan was to come out and throw strikes, and keep them down for five, six innings. The home run was just missed my spot, center cut fastball, and against a team this good, a lineup this good, you can't do that. They strung a few hits together, balked that guy over, just got to be better. Got to do my job.

THE MODERATOR: Kyle, a couple great defensive plays, also the RBI there in the eighth with a base hit in the fourth. Talk about your day both offensively and defensively.

KYLE CLEMENT: First of all, I want to give all the credit to this guy. I know he's not going to give it to himself, but he pitched a heck of a game. We were trying to leave it all on the line. I was doing everything I could. I just wanted to leave it all out there on that field in case this outcome happened, but we weren't expecting it. It was a great season.

THE MODERATOR: Tony, a few comments, please.

TONY ROBICHAUX: Well, one, we knew we had to come out and pitch real well again. Again, their starter, we knew he was going to be tough, and he was. Give him credit. Gunner threw a great game. Our two true freshmen just came in here and threw lights out for us. That's all you can ask as a head coach is to be able to come out here and put in true freshmen in the conditions we were in and keep us where we were. I stuck with him all the way through, and if I had the choice to do it again, I'd do it again, because he's not just a freshman, he's a man. He mans up and he gets after what he has to get after, and I gave him that opportunity tonight, and you know, credit Bregman, he got a ball back through the middle on us and we let one inning get away from us in two days. So that's pretty good when you talk about coming in here against such a quality opponent.

Again, Shug could have walked out in the sunset on us with a 58-10 team last year and went and took care of a knee injury throughout the fall and came back in through the door and wanted back in, so I can't say enough about his leadership. If I was in corporate America tomorrow, I'd hire him. He understands servant leadership, he understands what it takes to be a leader, great clubhouse presence, helping us manage these freshmen this year. I don't think the freshmen would be where they're at this year without our five seniors. And Clem, the job he did for us all throughout the season in the outfield and continuing to grow and mature as a player, he's going to do big things next year.

So I'm proud of these guys. They fought all the way through this. We came into one of the toughest places in the country to play with two freshman starting pitchers and really pitched against a three-run-inning except for just one inning, and that's really what you have to stay away from in this ballpark, but that's not going to take away any respect I have for these guys. They did not let their season define them. They defined

their season. For that I'm appreciative of their hard work and their effort. I'm proud of them.

**Q. Gunner, how did you feel in the eighth and how did you feel like your stuff was then compared to the middle innings?**

GUNNER LEGER: I mean, it felt fine, felt normal. My job was to get us to the next day, and just got to make better pitches.

**Q. Tyler, I know that you were unsure for a minute whether to come back for this year. And now that this year is over, looking back on that decision, just kind of take back what it meant for you to come back.**

TYLER GIROUARD: I wouldn't take it back. I'm so happy I came back. Getting away from it for a while, it made me realize how much I missed it, and I didn't want to miss this. This was unbelievable. It was so much fun this year.

Being around the guys, it's just -- I don't know, it's just awesome. I made the right decision coming back.

**Q. Clem, can you take us through those two catches in the fourth inning and knowing that you guys were going to need to keep the score down today to have a chance to win?**

KYLE CLEMENT: You know, it didn't really -- the situation didn't fully sink in yesterday because it was Game 1. I knew our season was on the line, not that we were playing tensed up or anything, but I knew that I was going to leave it all out on that field. Like you said, we have five seniors. I'm really close with all of them and I wanted to do it for them. I wanted to get us to the next day just to enjoy another day with them, and I think that's what really let me get to those balls in the gap was just knowing I was going to do everything I could in this game to get us to tomorrow.

**Q. Coach, how much did you suspect that you would see what you saw the first six, seven innings with two of them going at it, and how did that affect how you approached things, if at all?**

TONY ROBICHAUX: Well, you know, we thought we'd have some chances and we had some chances. We just couldn't get a timely hit off of him. He made the big pitches when he needed to. Gunner did an excellent job of getting outs, and a lot of the outs weren't really hard outs. He was

really in control of everything. Bregman is a great hitter. We wanted to try to expand the strike zone and try and get down there and use that changeup that he's been using the whole game off of him, and he really had poured bats off of him, but it is what it is. He made a good pitch and he did what a great player does. He hit a two-hopper through the infield.

We felt that our whole motto in this situation is to keep the game where it is and just do what we do, and that's all I kept telling Gunner every time he went out is just do what we do, just keep doing what we do, and that's all you can do at that point in time. Hopefully the hitters can get a timely hit. We just never could get a timely hit. Credit Poché for that. When he had to make big pitches, he made them.

**Q. Gunner, it seemed like early in the game especially, you were kind of using your off-speed to keep them off balance and then kind of coming in with the fastball late. Was that the plan on those guys?**

GUNNER LEGER: Yeah, that was the plan. I mean, I just could tell they're explosive. You make a mistake, they're going to hit it over the fence. Yeah, that was the game plan, kind of expand the zone, go in, out, up, down. It was tough against this team. Our defense played great. We scored I think it was three or four runs, and that should be plenty. I mean, really, man, they force you to be almost perfect because you make one bad pitch and that guy hits it 400 feet, and that changed the complexion of the game right there. So yeah.

**Q. Tony, you did have first open, but Bregman obviously had been struggling. Was that even a debate for you?**

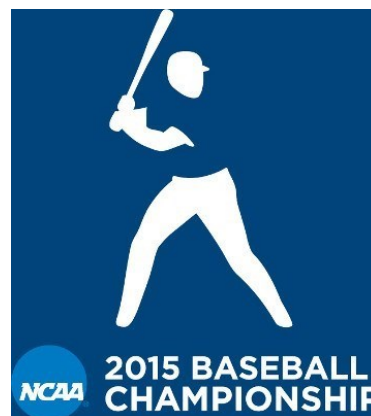
TONY ROBICHAUX: We kicked it around. We knew we had first base open. We felt we were going to go changeup down and hopefully if he stayed off of it we'd give him first base. We wanted to try to pitch him there if we could instead of intentionally walking him. Sometimes intentionally walking and loading up the bases sometimes can spook pitchers at this level. They do it all the time in the Big Leagues, but we don't always do that in the college game. I just looked at it and saw what Gunner had done with him the whole game and felt that he was my guy. He had brought me to this point and we were going to go

with it.

Again, he didn't hit a ball off the wall or out of the ballpark, he hit a two-hopper back through the middle. Credit him, but I stuck with my freshman because I believe in him.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**

**June 7, 2015**



An Interview With:

## LSU

THE MODERATOR: We'll get started with Kade. Two things if you'd talk about, please, obviously the home run in the seventh but also the pitching performance of Jared tonight, please.

KADE SCIVICQUE: I mean, let's talk about the pitching performance first. That's the most important. Jared went out there and competed. He threw well. The guy just -- he dominated. He threw strikes at all times. It was an awesome performance by him.

The home run, I was looking for a pitch to hit, something that I could hit hard through the infield, and got a good pitch to hit and put a good swing on it.

THE MODERATOR: Jared, back-to-back great outings. Talk about tonight, please.

JARED POCHÉ: Just kind of wanted to go out there and at this point of the game you just want to go home, so I just kind of wanted to go out there and give my team the best chance to win. I couldn't have done it without these guys on the side of me and the rest of the defense. Those guys played great behind me, and it was a great night.

THE MODERATOR: Alex, Coach Robichaux talked about your at-bat being the key at-bat, talk about your at-bat, the two-run single in the eighth, please.

ALEX BREGMAN: Zardon did a great job to lead off the inning by drawing a clutch walk, then Laird got on, infield single, and Fraley moved them both up. So without them being on base, I wouldn't have had that opportunity, and just got a pitch, changeup up in the zone that I could get on top of and I was fortunate to put a good swing on it. He pitched well all night, kept us off balance, throwing

the fastballs and changeups and breaking balls. I was happy to come through right there.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, a few comments, please.

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, I would like to, first of all, congratulate Tony Robichaux and his staff and his team on a tremendous season. The sad thing about being on that end of it is the finality is so hard because you have hopes of going to Omaha, and we've been there before, so I just want to congratulate him and his team. Remarkable how they held it together and they really played great down the stretch. They've got some wonderful young men on their team, as well. A lot of them are friends of our players, and they have a lot to be proud of.

When I woke up this morning, I knew we were playing to go to Omaha, and I talked to my good friend the baseball coach at Virginia, Brian O'Connor, who clinched a spot in Omaha, as well, and he was talking to me about how his nerves were just terrible yesterday before the game and how he wasn't feeling good and so forth, and I came to the office and I started reading my email, and I had an email from a guy who one of his best friends was Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron. Lance Bergeron is one of the National Guard members that died in the Blackhawk crash in April, he along with three of his National Guardsmen and seven Marines, and he wrote me an email, and he asked me if I would put Lance Bergeron's initials on my hat today to honor him, and then if I could give my hat to his widow after the game.

You know what it did, it just really brought everything into perspective for me, it really did. I wasn't nervous at all about the game today. I just told the kids, just forget about what the stakes are, let's just go out and play and have fun. Those brave soldiers do what they do so that we have an opportunity to play games out on the baseball field. It seems kind of irrelevant.

But when we're out there, we're supposed

to do the best we can, and I'm so proud of our team of young men. They have such high expectations of them here at LSU. I mentioned to Joe Alleva before the game, you know, it's amazing, we've won 52 ballgames going into tonight, and if we hadn't won that 53rd game somehow the season would have felt unfulfilled in so many ways.

This team deserves to go to Omaha. They've played at a high level all year. We haven't lost two games in a row, one time the entire season. Different aspects of our team have done the job, taken turns doing the job, and it's a very selfless team that plays well together. They genuinely like each other, and I couldn't be more proud of a team going to Omaha. That's where we belong, and we're looking forward to going up there.

**Q. Kade and Alex, both you guys and Conner finally got ahead in the count, in your three at-bats. How big was that against Leger because it seemed like he was ahead all night long?**

KADE SCIVICQUE: Yeah, he kept us off balance all night. He worked his pitches well. He threw well. But getting in a hitter's count always helps, and getting a good pitch that you can hit, that always helps, too.

ALEX BREGMAN: Yeah, I think we were just very happy to get a hit. I don't know if it really -- we weren't really even thinking about the count. We've been playing well offensively all year, and I mean, we haven't swung the bats like we're capable of during the postseason as a whole, and I take a lot of responsibility for that.

But we're going to be ready to play in Omaha, and we're going to be ready to swing the bats in Omaha, but you're right, when you get in hitter's counts it's a lot easier to hit, and we were fortunate enough to do that in those at-bats.

**Q. Alex was talking about your last at-bat; you'd struggled through the whole postseason, but in your very last at-bat at home, your home career, with everything on the line you come through. Talk about that at-bat and that feeling, like that was my last at-bat ever here, and that's how it played out.**

KADE SCIVICQUE: It was unbelievable. The box was rocking after it. As soon as I hit it, I knew it was going to go to the middle, and I ended up just the same way I came in, base hit up the

middle, RBI single, and what I wanted to do, not any other way.

**Q. Now that y'all are headed to Omaha and you can kind of talk a little bit more, was the pressure kind of getting to you over the last few days? Like Coach said, anything short of getting to Omaha would have felt like a disappointment, but did the pressure kind of start to build up?**

ALEX BREGMAN: I think we're a very confident team. Before every game in that locker room we knew we were going to win in this postseason. We had no doubt in our mind. Maybe a little bit. Maybe we pressed a little bit at times when we were -- either line-out or have a quick inning, but this offense is very confident. We're going to go back out to practice tomorrow or the next day and get after it again and be happy to be there and be working hard, and we're going to be very confident in Omaha. We deserve to be there. We've worked at it, worked at it since we lost last year, and we're going there on a mission.

This offense will be ready.

**Q. Jared, ULL got a lot of base runners against you early in innings and yet you seemed to be at your best when the stakes were their highest. Can you talk about what the key was to you being able to work out of so many difficult situations?**

JARED POCHÉ: Just kind of working with Kade, executing pitches that Coach Dunn called. A couple times when there was a runner on second, you just kind of got to bear down and make the plays. The whole game it was 0-0, so it's just kind of -- what do I want to say?

ALEX BREGMAN: What he's saying is that he has done that all year for us. He's made big pitches in big situations all year for us, and that's why we're here.

**Q. Coach, Robichaux says all the time, pitching, defense and timely hitting are the keys to winning any ballgame.**

PAUL MAINIERI: Of course.

**Q. The series, pitching and defense were pretty much even between the two teams, but it seems like the timely hitting kind of pushed you to Omaha. Would you agree with that?**

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, you know, Tony could have wrote the book on it. That's the way it is. I don't think anybody in today's era of college baseball with the bat changes, the roster limitations and so forth can ever put together a lineup that's so powerful and dominating that you can just live by offense alone. You'd better pitch and play defense if you want to be able to win championships, and -- you know, so listen, we're very proud of our pitching and defense. Our offense has gotten so much publicity this year, people sometimes forget that our pitching staff led the SEC with the lowest earned run average. You do that in the SEC with teams like Vanderbilt and Florida and some of the other teams that have great arms, that means you're pitching the ball pretty well.

I think we've got the best pitching coach on earth quite frankly, and I think those kids listen to him, and they develop, and it gives us a chance to win. What Poché and Lange did these last two nights, what they did last weekend, plus a lot of those bullpen guys, they gave us a chance, and ultimately you knew your hitting was going to come around. We'd struggled. That was the worst stretch for us for about five games, five and a half games, but then all of a sudden Alex -- Kade gets the big swing that loosened everybody up, Alex comes through with his two-run single like the big leaders are supposed to, Conner Hale comes through with a two-run triple, Mark Laird comes through with a RBI hit, and all of a sudden we're feeling pretty good again about ourselves. We're going to go to Omaha, as Alex said, a very confident team, based primarily on our pitching and defense, but knowing that we're capable of scoring runs, as well.

**Q. Jared, I'll give you a chance to get him back. What do you think Alex looks like with that shaved head there?**

JARED POCHÉ: I think it's a good look. That's about all I can say about it.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

ALEX BREGMAN: One of my buddies in Chicago actually, his mom got diagnosed with cancer, so I did it for her this time.

**Q. Jared or Alex, if you want to answer for him, the one inning where the guy called time out real late, you're a pretty intense guy but you seemed to ratchet it up after that. Was**

**that something that got you going even a little bit more?**

JARED POCHÉ: You know, it's baseball. Kind of let my emotions out a little bit on that play. I thought it was a little bit late. I was able to execute the pitch, the next pitch to get the guy out, so it worked out for us.

**Q. Kade and then Jared, when you come to LSU and everybody talks about the expectation being Omaha and you hear guys that have been here for the last time they went talk about it so much, how does it feel for you guys to be making that trip now?**

KADE SCIVICQUE: I mean, it's nothing shy of what they talked it up to be. I mean, this is unbelievable for me. I know it's the same for these guys. We're looking forward to it.

JARED POCHÉ: It's definitely a dream for all these Louisiana boys that come and play at LSU. Like you said, it's nothing shy of what everyone says it is, so I'm just kind of living in the moment right now and enjoying it.

**Q. Alex, what was Leger doing specifically to kind of keep you guys off balance early? It looked like he was using a lot of off-speed heavy early in counts against you guys.**

ALEX BREGMAN: He definitely was. We saw tons of changeups in fastball counts, we saw that all weekend. We've seen that for the whole NCAA tournament, and we need to make an adjustment when that happens, and we will. But he was throwing changeups, breaking balls and fastballs both sides of the plate, and just really competing. He's not going to overpower you with fastball velocity, but he's a competitor. That's why he is having a great year this year. He did a good job of that against us, and I give him a lot of credit for his performance tonight.

**Q. Alex, no dogpile. Was that predetermined?**

ALEX BREGMAN: We just -- we were just happy to win, and we were just ready to go to Omaha. That's all I've got to say about that. I mean, we've been jumping in center all year. It's kind of been our thing, and we wanted to do that again. Maybe we'll be saving that one.

PAUL MAINIERI: I'm happy nobody got hurt, by the way.

ALEX BREGMAN: That's a big reason.

**Q. Jared and Paul both, the inning after Kade hit the home run may have been your best inning. You came out and challenged guys, got them one, two, three. How important was that kind of as a segue to the eighth inning?**

JARED POCHÉ: You know, all year when offense comes through, AD's biggest thing is to go out there and throw a zero. That's big for momentum in baseball, and momentum is huge in college baseball, so that's what I wanted to go out there and try to do.

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, Jared Poché is one of those pitchers just like Alex Lange that when you give him a lead, he shifts it into another gear. There's an extra competitive juice running through his veins, and he gets that lead and he just smells the victory, and that's when he's at his best, and he's done that so many times in his career. I know it's not an accident.

Once we got that lead, I knew as long as he wasn't tired from the humidity, which it was awfully hot out there, listen, he was still throwing the ball hard. His curveball still had a lot of bite to it, and I thought he could even possibly finish, but I thought when we took him out, it was the right time.

**Q. Jared and then Coach, throughout the struggles at the plate, the defense was phenomenal for the last couple weeks. Just talk about as a pitcher what it's like to see your teammates be able to separate those two aspects of the game and continue to play so strongly?**

JARED POCHÉ: They played great defense all year. I don't know a fielding percentage or anything where we rank around the country, but as far as when I'm on the mound I have the utmost confidence in the guys behind me that they're going to make a play. Errors happen, but if a guy makes an error he's going to come up his next at-bat and make a double or something like that. That's the kind of guys that we have on this team, and that's the kind of guys you want on this team.

PAUL MAINIERI: Well, you know, everybody that's been around me knows how much I talk about this, that it's so important, a mature winning ballplayer can compartmentalize his game. He doesn't take his bat out to the field with him, he doesn't bring his glove into the

dugout. He doesn't carry one at-bat to the next. You've got to be -- in this game is the most difficult game there is to play. It's the only sport where you can fail 70 percent of the time and still be considered the best there is. There's other ways you can help your team win when you're not getting hits, and Alex Bregman is a classic example of that. When he doesn't hit, he's the best shortstop in the country out there and helps his team win games with his defense or his base run willing or just his encouragement of his teammates. It's just a very mature approach to the game, and I'm very proud of our guys that can do that.

**Q. Kade, y'all didn't have any home runs in the regional and y'all have three in like 15 innings in the supers. I know y'all can beat teams in a lot of different ways, but does it feel good to be able to change the game in one swing like you did tonight and like Chris and Jake did last night?**

KADE SCIVICQUE: Yeah, it always feels good whenever you square up a ball and hit a home run, but just hitting that base hit through the middle or hitting a line drive double or something like that means just as much.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**



visit our archives at [asapsports.com](http://asapsports.com)

LSU - 6.7.15