

# College World Series: Baton Rouge Regional

Sunday, June 5, 2016  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



## Wayne Graham Blake Fox Ford Proctor Dane Myers Rice

WAYNE GRAHAM: Well, obviously Blake set the tone by pitching six quality innings. And you know, Myers came in, did a good job, too. And we had some quality at-bats. Teykl had a good game; Proctor had a good game. So those guys are really good, and we are proud to beat them. It's about all I can say about it.

THE MODERATOR: Blake, this was a long time ago, but try to refresh your memory. You gave up three hits. The big out was in the fifth inning when the guy lined out to center field, maybe talk about your outing.

BLAKE FOX: It was a great play and that was definitely the biggest point of the game for us it. Could have gone either way and I'm glad we have a guy out there like Ryan Chandler who has got a lot of speed. That was good.

Started off strong, and stuff started to leave me a little bit. So from then on, it was just going out there and battling, trying to persevere and using my defense, and they were good yesterday, as well.

There were some timely errors on their part for us to score the first two runs, so that was clutch. And then from then, we just poured on the hits. It was a fun win.

THE MODERATOR: Ford, big day at the plate for you, three singles yesterday. Talk about your plate appearances, please.

FORD PROCTOR: It's tough to kind of stay focused through all the rain and all the delays or whatever. But we just tried to stay focused and stick with the plan that we've had, rain delays or not.

THE MODERATOR: Dane, if you would talk a little about, I know you knew you were pitching yesterday before the rain got us for the second time. Talk about your preparation and then also today.

DANE MYERS: Coming into today, I was ready to pitch yesterday, but coming in today, I just wanted to backup Foxy since he had such a good outing and just be aggressive going at the hitters and let my defense work like they did.

**Q. Just the way the conference title game ended, how nice was it to finally get that bad taste out of your mouths and get a win?**

FORD PROCTOR: It's definitely tough sitting on that loss for, what was it, a week almost. It was a tough loss, but you have to come back from losses. It's post-season now, so it's a whole new ballgame, and we'll be ready to play.

**Q. Dane, what was it like; it wasn't a start, but it kind of was. What was it kind of like that, process for you?**

DANE MYERS: It was definitely weird. Coming into today, like I said, I was ready to pitch yesterday. It just takes a lot of focus to stay prepared and come in and do my job.

**Q. To Coach and to Ford, when you have a close to 24-hour rain delay, how much mental toughness does it take to stay locked in and be able to pull out a victory like this?**

FORD PROCTOR: It is tough, because we're here, we're back at the hotel, back here, back at the hotel and we even have to sleep on it and come back this morning and play.

But we're prepared for that. We knew coming in that the rain would be a factor, so we just tried to stay even keel and stay focused on the game, even while we weren't at the field.

WAYNE GRAHAM: Well, I have confidence that these guys have been through enough to know, and they don't break no curfews, I don't think; we haven't caught 'em. So I think they are ready to play and they are having fun playing. That's the main thing.

**Q. For Blake and Dane, y'all's mind-set against Jameson Fisher, I know Coach Graham mentioned y'all wanted to limit the number of times he would beat y'all, I think he only had one hit and y'all intentionally walked him in a second at-bat. What**

**was that like, and do you feel like y'all were successful on him today, or yesterday?**

BLAKE FOX: So we knew he was a good hitter coming into it, like everyone knows, he's one of the best hitters in the nation right now. Our job as pitchers is to go out there and just treat him like he's just another hitter. And you have to acknowledge his strengths, but you also have to work to your strengths.

His first debut against me, I was able to work to my strengths. The second AB it was timely for us to walk him. And the third AB was a tribute to how good of a hitter he is. I threw a pitch where I wanted it and he recognized it and he got his hit, so there's that.

DANE MYERS: Yeah, I watched Fox pitch yesterday to Fisher, and like you say, he's a great hitter. So knowing how good he is, just like Fox said, just pitching to our strengths and making a good pitch to him is going to get the Jameson, so that's what I tried to do.

**Q. The double-play that Ford and the second baseman, how big was that for you after you hit the first guy just to equal any threat?**

DANE MYERS: That was a pretty big out. That was good for my confidence knowing that was a really tough play for Grayson and Ford. I just wanted to go at him. I was just trusting my defense like I said and they were able to make the play for me.

**Q. Obviously your next opponent being LSU, how much do you know about the team, and also, with the guy that you're starting on the mound, what advantages does he give you guys?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: Ain't nobody got an advantage over him. He's one of the best in the country. All-American last year. That's Lange, isn't it? That's who is pitching, right?

THE MODERATOR: They haven't announced it.

WAYNE GRAHAM: I assume so.

Everybody's got all the film in the world on everybody else. So you make your preparations, but if a guy's making good pitches, you've got your work cut out for you, and he can make some of the best.

So we are going to try to get our hitters to be disciplined and really work. You're going to have to work hard to beat language. Ain't nothing wrong with him, is there, physically. (Laughter.)

**Q. You and the hitters have a mental approach against Lange, and if he's the pitcher, and I know y'all faced good pitchers before, but what do you do when you know you've got a great arm on the**

**mound?**

FORD PROCTOR: Yeah, I mean obviously he's a great pitcher. He's got a great arm and has great stuff. But like Coach said, everyone has film of everyone, so we are going to do everything we can to prepare for him and prepare for the game tonight.

**Q. I was actually asking about Jon, if that's the guy that you're pitching in tonight's game, what advantage does he give y'all as far as on the mound?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: Actually Lange and Duplantier throw very similar stuff. It will be who has the best command I think, because Jon has got outstanding stuff along with Lange. It's going to be real interesting as a coach and as an observer. I can't throw it.

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Saturday, June 4, 2016  
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## Wayne Graham Rice

WAYNE GRAHAM: Well, it's certainly different. I don't know whether I've ever been in this much rain before, but how the game so far, obviously we're happy where we are now, but we'd better be ready tomorrow. That's a good ballclub we're playing. They can swing the bat.

I thought Blake has pitched real well. He's pitched real well all year and he hasn't caught any breaks. Hopefully our reliever can give him one tomorrow and he can get a win, we hope.

### **Q. Big day so far for Proctor, too.**

WAYNE GRAHAM: Proctor has been good for us all year. He's had a good first year, freshman year, Conference USA, and he's a good player defensively and offensively.

### **Q. You kind of mentioned it, you've been around awhile. Have you ever been through anything like this, and what do you tell your team to kind of keep them going and keep through this through all this rain and things like that?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: Serenity Prayer. Control what you can. There you go.

### **Q. Have you made a decision on who you will start in the final three innings?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: We're going to have Myers. Myers is a strike-thrower. We think he can handle it. And obviously Otto is there if we need him.

### **Q. What's the biggest concern in these situations: Losing focus, momentum, energy?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: Yeah, I thought we caught a break in Blake getting to the end of his pitch count and getting as many innings out of Blake as we could. He couldn't have gone more than one more, anyway.

So it worked out. In that aspect, it worked out well. Now we just got to close the deal.

### **Q. Speaking of closing the deal, how tough is it to keep your foot on the pedal for 12 hours?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: Well, you know, we're going to get them up at the right time and feed them at the right time, and the rest is up to them.

### **Q. You said earlier this week, you were worried about pitching depth. Are you still concerned with that going forward since you could play two tomorrow and two the next day; how worried are you about that at this point?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: You know what they say about pitching. When you think you've got enough, go get some more, and we can't go get any more now, so we better take care of what we got.

We can have enough, definitely, we can stay in the winner's bracket, but anybody gets in the losing bracket is in trouble.

### **Q. With Duplantier pitching, regardless win or lose tomorrow, would he start the next game?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: That's a question, I don't want to have to answer it, but I haven't made up my mind on that really.

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## Matt Riser

Southeastern Louisiana

MATT RISER: Yeah, I think it's pretty obvious, their center fielders made two nice plays, the play he made on the line drive up the middle, I thought he was going to be down there for two RBIs, take the lead. They come in, get the lead-off single, we get the passed ball and we had the error at shortstop and they did a good job of having some situational at-bats. He drops a guy at third base with less than two.

So right now, you look at it, first six innings, they had the one big inning with three runs because they made the plays and we haven't so far.

### **Q. Have you ever had to game plan for anything close to this, ever?**

MATT RISER: Very similar. Felt like it when we were at the box last time during the season, we had the three-hour rain delay. We've had a six-hour, six-and-a-half-hour rain delay this year as well with a doubleheader. We played one inning and Mother Nature set in with her lightning, and the rain came and we finished the doubleheader I think at one o'clock in the morning.

I guess it's somewhat similar. But at this point, we've been sitting around the hotel all day and trying to figure out what's going to happen and just glad that we have a decision and we can go refocus for tomorrow.

### **Q. Obviously not an ideal situation, but can you talk a little about what some of the advantages might be of a situation like this?**

MATT RISER: Yeah, the situation is what it is with the weather, Mother Nature is always undefeated, we know that. But both teams are in the same boat, having to deal with the same situation. They had to pull their starter. We had a reliever we just brought in.

I guess maybe the one good thing on this is tomorrow starts a new day so, from a pitching standpoint, we can kind of refocus. It's easy to bring a left-hander back in who is already in the game, Robinson. Won't be a big deal bringing him back-to-back days from that standpoint. We don't have to wait around for three more hours to see if we can go with him or not.

So if there's one advantage to it, I think that's that. It shortens the game for us. I think with our club, I think

we do a good job of -- we can get some momentum going, so if we can jump out and score early tomorrow, we can ride that three-inning ballgame.

### **Q. You mentioned the series where you started the game and you had a six-and-a-half-hour rain delay. The guys seem pretty relaxed. Did it help them that they went through that a couple months ago?**

MATT RISER: I don't know what helps that bunch. They go to their own drum there. Keep it loose. At this point in time, with as much weather as we've had, it's just a matter of tell us where and when, and we'll show up and we'll go. They do a good job. There's not a whole lot else to do in this scenario besides have some fun.

Look, you're playing in a regional, and you want to stay locked in and focused but there's only so much time you can do that and that's on the field. So when you're in between games, waiting on the rain to finish up, have a little bit of fun.

### **Q. Matt, did you like the approach your hitters had against Blake Fox today? And him maybe not being able to pitch tomorrow presumably, that might help your hitters?**

MATT RISER: Yeah, I thought we had a pretty decent approach on him. I know we only got three hits through six innings but like you said, we've hit a couple balls well and got a couple runs left on the board there because they played some good defense.

Obviously you always want more out of your staff but we know what they got in the bullpen, as well. They do have some right-handers there in the bullpen and I think one lefty left, freshman left hander left, and we know he can run a little bit. I think we can put some pressure on them from that standpoint.

### **Q. You mentioned coming out tomorrow and starting, you have three innings; do you hope to get some momentum? Is there a positive you can take away from this delay today?**

MATT RISER: Yeah, that's exactly it. There's not a whole lot else to do. We talked about it out there before they banged the whole entire day for us. Three-inning game, it's a new game. Whatever's happened so far, the good thing is you almost like have half time so to speak, re-gameplan and go out there and play the

second half, and that's basically what this is going to be.

We've lost the first six innings but still a lot of baseball left to play. College baseball, three innings, especially with a three-run deficit, there's a lot that can happen in a very, very short time.

**Q. Starting at 9:00 A.M., how did that affect the team's preparation?**

MATT RISER: I don't think it did. We did it in the conference tournament and we were 2-0 in the conference tournament, same thing, rain came, we got moved to the 9:00am game. We handled it well. I thought we handled today well. Only thing was the one inning to this point. Nice thing is we'll be able to start at 11:00 tomorrow. We don't have to do it back-to-back days.

But I thought our guys handled it well from that standpoint. They did a good job of taking care of their routine, got breakfast this morning, got in the cages and got some stuff done, and they got ready to go.