

## **2016 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional – Post-Practice Quotes LSU – June 2, 2016**

### **LSU Head Coach Paul Mainieri**

*On Jared Poche' starting Friday's game ...*

“We are going to go with Jared Poche' in game one. He's a veteran outstanding pitcher, and I feel like he can get us off to a good start. I have a great deal of confidence in him. A couple of years ago he pitched the opening game. He pitched the opening game at the College World Series last year. He will be able to handle the pomp and circumstance and all of the attention while being calm, cool and collected out there. Obviously, he's a top pitcher for us. Hopefully he will go out there and pitch the way he did at the SEC Tournament and get us off to a good start.”

*On scouting Utah Valley...*

“They're a difficult team to scout because they haven't had many television games. We have been able to get a little bit. We have had one common opponent in Sacramento State. I talked to the coach there, he said, '(Utah Valley's) coach has been a friend of mine for 10 years, I'd rather not give you any information.' Of course, I totally respected that. I got a little bit from Ball State, but they played them way back at the beginning of the year. We had to kind of scout them the old-fashioned way, looking at stat sheets and reading profiles, finding out as much information as we possibly can between the lines. They look like a really confident team. This team in 2012 won 32 games in a row, two short of the NCAA record. They used to be in a league called the Great West Conference. Now they are in the Western Athletic Conference. They've had a couple of years where it looks like they have kind of been building to this year because they have a very senior-laden team. They have four or five seniors in their starting lineup... They have a veteran team, and I'm sure they've been building toward this accomplishment. To win the Western Athletic Conference is a tremendous accomplishment. They swept a three-game series with Utah, who won the PAC-12. They split four games with Minnesota. They beat Oregon State when Oregon State was ranked fifth in the country. Believe me, they have our attention. They are an outstanding ball club, I'm sure. Nobody in this tournament is here except for the fact that they earned it. Every team in this tournament is either a conference champion or a really significant at-large team, which means they are really good. You respect all of your opponents. You're in awe of none of them. You go out there and play as hard as you can. You concern yourself with how you play more than you do your opponent, and that's our approach against Utah Valley.”

### **SS Kramer Robertson**

*On Utah Valley...*

“We know that they are going to have a big guy on the mound who throws pretty hard, which is nothing we are not used to. We see that every day in the SEC. It's going to be a good arm... Obviously they have good players who were able to go through their conference tournament and win it. They take baseball very seriously there. Coach was telling us that they had a win streak that was 30-something games a few years ago. They obviously take baseball very seriously there. We know they beat Sacramento State two out of three times. We know they are going to be a quality opponent and that we will have to go out there and play well if we want to beat them.”

*On his first postseason as a regular starter...*

“I’m very excited. I’ve only gotten to play in one postseason game here my freshman year against Houston. I got to start one of those games, and I just remember it being an electric atmosphere. I’m looking forward to being a part of it this year. It’s the reason you come to LSU, to be in big games like this. I’m really excited to be a part of it.”

### **LHP Jared Poche’**

*On having experience playing in the postseason at Alex Box Stadium...*

“We definitely have the best fans in the country, and they definitely show up for the postseason, especially when we play at home. You just have to learn how to control your emotions. Don’t get too high with the crowd being so crazy. It normally works to our advantage.”

*On finding out he was starting the first game of the Baton Rouge Regional...*

“I found out earlier in the week, but I couldn’t say anything. We had to get on our starter routine, but I was definitely excited when I found out I had the opportunity to open up the weekend.”

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### Rice Head Coach Wayne Graham

#### *Opening Statement...*

“We are really happy to be here. This is a place that I enjoy playing, because the fans make the experience an entertaining one. They can become rabid at times, but you get used to that over the years. At the end of the day it is energy that they bring to the game. I can remember them telling me that I needed a wheel chair twenty years ago, so comments like that do not bother me.”

#### *On playing Southeastern...*

“The more you read their resume the more fearful you get. They have good starting pitchers, great defense and offence and overall great coaching, so that makes it hard to find something they are not good at. We know that we have to play really well, in order to win the game.”

#### *On this Rice team compared to others you have coached...*

“Every team is different. The teams that won against Smoke and Skip had a lot of power, unlike this team. This team has the capability of playing good defense and pitching well.”

#### *On pitching to Southeastern’s hitters...*

“Well you have to attempt to stop the running game even though you cannot stop it entirely. You have to make good pitches. We do not have great pitching depth; it is our top four guys that are good. We are going to have to be very judicious with using our pitchers, particularly in a situation like this where it is going to be raining a lot.”

#### *On what Skip has done for this program...*

“I remember the first time meeting Skip when he came through San Jac (San Jacinto College) when I was there. He was always on the road and great at marketing his team and his program that he was building. He has done probably more for college baseball than anyone else.”

#### *On Southeastern’s first baseman who leads the nation in batting average...*

“He is not going to get to hit, we are going to walk him the entire time. He is a nonfactor unless he walks a run in. Not many hitters have the ability to hit .437 and can run. If you have an empty base with runners in scoring position, the odds are not there in our favor. I am not the best at math, but understand those numbers. You don’t want to walk him with no one on the bases, because he can steal a base creating a double. You have to be careful about how you handle that issue, but you would like it if he didn’t beat you.”

#### *On starting pitcher for tomorrow...*

“Our starting pitcher for tomorrow is Blake Fox.”

## **2016 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional – Post-Practice Quotes Southeastern Louisiana – June 2, 2016**

### **Southeastern Louisiana Head Coach Matt Riser**

*On how much it helps to be in a familiar venue with his team...*

“It’s really huge. You know when you get in a historic venue like this, there’s going to be a lot of emotions back and forth. If it’s your first time in ‘The Box’, you can be intimidated real fast. We played in a regional here two years ago, and we still have a lot of guys with us now that played on that team. When this crowd gets rolling, it’s one of the most electric in the country. The good thing is, our guys are mature and will know how to best handle this venue.”

*On how his team will handle the emotions of not looking ahead to playing LSU...*

“I think our club has done a good job of doing that all year. We had a tough week to end the season and it was easy enough to let that effect us in the tournament. But, we flushed it out and had a really great tournament. I think this club does a good job of being able to move on to the next game by staying in the moment.”

*On if he felt more confident in starting Mac (Sceroler) instead of Kyle (Cedotal)...*

“Yeah, Mac has been a good one for us all year long. Obviously from a numbers standpoint, he’s kind of emerged as our number one. Also we want Cedotal at his fullest. He pitched Wednesday and Sunday in the tournament. We gave him a rest against Central Arkansas because his velocity had been down before that. We came out in the first game of the tournament and he was back to 86 to 90. We plan on being here until the end of the tournament, and obviously we want him fresh and 100 percent to allow him to do things for us.”

### **1B Jameson Fisher**

*On the differences in this year’s team compared to the last time he was at LSU...*

“It’s kind of what coach said, we have a veteran group, really experienced. We’ve been in Alex Box before; we know what it’s going to be like. Whether it’s Rice or LSU, there will be a ton of fans there.”

*On if he puts pressure on himself being a Collegiate Baseball All-American...*

“I try not to because it’s really not about me. I focus on doing whatever I can to help the team win that day. Whether it’s taking a walk or making a play at first base, I’m trying not to think about me and more on helping the team win.”

### **P Mac Sceroler**

*On what it means to start the regional with the ball in his hand...*

“It’s really an honor. I’m just going to go out there and throw strikes to help my team get the victory against Rice.”

*On if he feels more pressure from getting the start this time...*

“I wouldn’t necessarily call it pressure. Once you step in-between the lines, you need to block everything out. There’s going to be a big crowd on this national stage, but I need to just block everything out and play baseball.”

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**Utah Valley Head Coach Eric Madsen**

*On his first thoughts when the team arrived to Alex Box Stadium...*

“Wow. That was my first thought was how impressive it was. We’ve been in some nice stadium. From the outside when we walked in there, it was definitely impressive. It’s a beautiful facility.”

*On if the team will be in awe playing against a storied program like LSU...*

“I think they obviously understand the history and tradition about it, but I think the one thing is that it’s more of an opportunity for them than it is a fear factor. Obviously, I think nerves play a part in any young man’s life when they step in front of a crowd, but once it starts and they understand all they got to do is play with each other, I think it won’t be too overwhelming.”

*On how to use the momentum of winning nine of their last 10 games heading into the regional...*

“I think the biggest thing is that we just kind of trust ourselves and go at it like we have all year. I think that’s the thing that has created that momentum. We haven’t had a big winning streak or a big losing streak throughout the season, so this is our best winning streak. We’re actually playing more consistently than we have. I think that’s all you can do is to ask guys to play good baseball and let the results take place the way they’re supposed to.”

*On the potential for bad weather this weekend and how the team will handle it...*

“The rain is a lot colder in Utah. That’s for sure. Just walking across (the field) the weather was good. For us, the one thing is that you just enjoy the experience you go through and enjoy what you’re capable of doing and then compete and do it. We’ve played in some pretty humid places in the past, and I think you just got to go in and deal with it.”

*On how to get to LSU’s starting pitcher Jared Poche’...*

“I think the biggest thing is that our guys have to be who they are. They can’t try and be anyone else. They have to stay with who they are and what their approaches have been throughout the year. Again, he’s a talented kid. What else are you going to do? You got to give it your best shot. You can’t over-try; you have to stay within yourself and play baseball.”

**Utah Valley RHP Danny Beddes**

*On going up against the LSU lineup...*

“It’s one of the best teams in the country, so there’s nothing you can say that’s going to justify what you can do. You got to go out and play your game and just see what happens. You have to go out and compete.”

*On what scares him the most about facing LSU...*

“Honestly, I’m not scared of them. They’re a good team. We’ve played good teams, but maybe not to this level. It’s going out and doing your thing. They’re going to do what they’re going to do. If they hit, they hit, but there’s nothing to be scared of.”

*On his thoughts walking into Alex Box Stadium for the first time...*

“It’s awesome. This is the best stadium we’ve played at so far. It’s got that atmosphere where you know it’s going to be packed, it’s going to be crazy, it’s going to be fun to pitch in.”

*On if there is any one batter or stretch of batters he is concerned about...*

“Not exactly. They’re all batting over .300. They’re all really, really good hitters. They play in the SEC, and they’re a top national seed. You have to be careful with everybody, but there’s nobody you need to not pitch to.”

*On avoiding the awe factor of playing in a regional at Alex Box Stadium...*

“Embrace it. You have to realize there’s nothing you can do to that can prepare you for this. You have to embrace it and learn really quick after that first pitch what it’s going to feel like and settle in as quick as you can if you can.”