

College World Series: Baton Rouge Regional

Tuesday, June 7, 2016
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Paul Mainieri Jake Fraley Kramer Robertson LSU

Rice - 10, LSU - 6

PAUL MAINIERI: Obviously a tough loss for us tonight. We just had a tough time stopping them. We had a couple tough breaks early offensively, kept us from scoring some runs. Caleb had trouble getting his breaking ball over the plate. They were sitting on his fastball and they put some good things on it.

Then we finally came back and tied the game and had a chance to do more, but we just let some opportunities get away from us, and then we just couldn't stop them in the middle innings. Hopefully tomorrow might be a different story.

THE MODERATOR: Jake, big night for you offensively, home run, double and four hits. Talk about that, please.

JAKE FRALEY: I was feeling good. We have a game plan going into every single game, especially facing these guys for the second time. We faced some pitchers that we faced in the first game, so we just had a game plan and I was able to execute it tonight.

THE MODERATOR: Kramer, likewise for you, home run, four hits. A few comments, please.

KRAMER ROBERTSON: Yeah, just went out there and got a few pitches I could hit and did what I could with them. Was fortunate to find some holes there and get some good swings on it. Just wasn't enough tonight.

Q. You guys saw Otto yesterday. Did he look about the same? I know he had thrown a ton of pitches. Did he ever look like he was tiring at all?

KRAMER ROBERTSON: I guess the guy's got a rubber arm because he had good stuff again today. Obviously he's got a really good breaking ball and he was able to throw it for strikes and get ahead with it, and kind of kept us off-balance.

You know, we had a few good swings off of him but for the most part, he was able to do his job. Tip your hat to him.

Q. Paul, I know it's been just a few minutes here, but do you have a chance at all to think about what you're going to do pitching-wise tomorrow?

PAUL MAINIERI: No, haven't decided yet.

Q. Would Jared Poche' be an option for you?

PAUL MAINIERI: Possibly. I'm not sure yet.

Q. Do you have an update on Austin Bain? Is he okay?

PAUL MAINIERI: I think he's okay. God, it's scary, he got hit right between the eyes. He seemed totally in control of himself after the game and he was even in the team huddle. I haven't talked to the trainer. It seemed as though we dodged a bullet there. It was a scary-looking play, but thank God it looks like he'll be all right, at least from what I can see.

Q. Last night in reference to Houston a couple years ago, you mentioned that the pressure kind of shifts after a game like this. How are you able to -- is this group able to handle that a little bit better, do you think?

PAUL MAINIERI: I don't think I said that. I think somebody asked me the question that way, but I didn't agree with them.

I think it's just one ballgame. We played a game tonight and now we play a game tomorrow. Obviously the players aren't dumb. They know that if we want to continue to play next week, we have to get the job done tomorrow.

So I don't think there's any more pressure on anybody than there was in any other ballgame. We've just got to go out there and play our game tomorrow, and we'll have some pitching that I believe has a good chance of shutting them down. We need to go out and score some runs. Just got to play a little bit better tomorrow, that's all.

Q. You were in this situation a couple years ago after Houston won the game. Is anything different, do you think?

JAKE FRALEY: Like Coach just said, we have to

approach it like the next game on the schedule. We're going to forget about what we didn't do as well, but also learn from that and take what we need to from this game into the next one. Forget about it; once the clock hits 12 o'clock, we are going to forget about it and put our focus on this next game.

Like I said earlier, we're going to have a game plan and we're going to go out and execute it tomorrow.

Q. On your pitching tonight, only one person threw more than 30 pitches. Is that part of your plan, not to look ahead, but say, let's look --

PAUL MAINIERI: From tonight's game? No, no, I was just trying to get some pitcher that is could get somebody out tonight. We just had a tough time doing that. There was no plan looking forward. It was just let's see if we can get them out and we weren't having a lot of success doing that, so we were trying different guys.

Q. Kind of piggybacking off that, the bullpen has been the strength for you guys and the pitching has been the strength the last two weeks. What went wrong? Did it start with Caleb only facing nine guys and just kind of go downhill from there?

PAUL MAINIERI: Obviously I didn't plan on our starting pitcher only pitching two innings and giving up three runs. That obviously was not part of the plan.

But it forced us to go to the pen a lot earlier than we wanted to. I mean, there's no secret who the main guys are for us coming out of the bullpen, and you hate to -- that's one thing you do a little different when you have a game to play with so to speak.

You don't want to burn up your top bullpen guys if you don't have a lead. And when we came back and tied the game, you know, I had a tough decision there to go to some of the top guys right there, or wait and see if we could get a lead and I thought we tried -- I hoped we could get through another inning there with a combination of Riley and Doug Norman, but it didn't work out there -- was it the fifth inning, bottom of the fifth inning, I think.

I just thought it a little bit early to go to our end-of-game guys and unfortunately we got back in a hole and then we just got -- Jesse came in, couldn't hold them, either. So the lead just became insurmountable at that point.

Q. Do you think three days' rest is enough for Jared?

PAUL MAINIERI: We'll see. We'll see how he feels tomorrow. Not sure yet.

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Wayne Graham Glenn Otto Tristan Gray Hunter Kopycinski Rice

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WAYNE GRAHAM: Obviously I'm real proud of our effort. Dane gave us all he had. He hasn't gone very long all year, and of course Glenn was great. Our guys competed well with the bat. So we're alive and happy to be here.

THE MODERATOR: Glenn, talk about your outing, please.

GLENN OTTO: I felt like I was able to keep them off balance. They obviously have a lot of great hitters and know what they are doing up there. You don't get away with too many mistakes with that line up. I think Fraley took every advantage he could off that mistake I gave him. But was able to keep them off balance, and it's easy when these guys put up a 10-spot to pitch. Makes it a lot easier.

THE MODERATOR: Hunter, you had a big RBI in the second. Talk about that at-bat, and also maybe talk about Otto, please.

HUNTER KOPYCINSKI: Yeah, I was just really trying to get a pitch to drive and not do too much with it. But just happened to work out that way; that he kind of fed me a fastball that I was able to put in the gap.

And then as far as Otto goes, it was just a stellar outing after Dane went as long as he could, and Otto really came, in gave us a heroic effort and really shut the door.

THE MODERATOR: Tristan, big home run in the fourth. Talk about that at-bat and talk about your night at the plate, please.

TRISTAN GRAY: Coming into the game I wasn't feeling too great, but I just had to buckle down and he kind of

gave me an off-speed. And I wasn't really sitting on it, but I was able to keep my hands back and end up putting a decent swing on it and it carried out.

Q. Was there a lot of confidence coming into tonight? Aside from the ground rule grand slam last night, you had to feel like y'all played pretty well.

HUNTER KOPYCINSKI: Yeah, I guess you could say there was confidence. Not taking anything away from them because they are obviously a great team. They did really well at the SEC and got hot at the end in that tournament. It's not like they are a slouch team that's just going to roll over for you.

But we definitely felt like we kind of let one slip away or didn't put our best foot forward, and so we knew as long as everyone came out here focused, ready to play, that we would have a good shot at it.

Q. Glenn, for those of us who have not seen you guys all year, have you pitched this much in back-to-back days like this before this season?

GLENN OTTO: Maybe once. I mean, I felt good enough to go. If I had any problems in my arm, I would have made them aware of it, and they wouldn't have put me out there.

Everything felt good and I was throwing before the game, and felt like I could go, so gave them the thumb's up.

Q. What is your kind of pitching plan look like for tomorrow?

WAYNE GRAHAM: We've got to do some real thinking on that. Solecitto is available, Willy Amador is available, and possibly something from Fox. I don't think it will be lengthy but he's capable of doing something. He didn't throw -- he didn't get to a hundred pitches the other day. He's a little older and stronger, so he could help us, I think.

Q. For the two position players, as far as the game before when you played Southeastern, what type of confidence did you guys have after beating them by 15 runs and 16 hits and coming into the LSU game?

TRISTAN GRAY: We came into that game just wanting to survive and advance, and getting a big lead like that

really helped us out. Helped save some pitching. Even though we had to deal with a rain delay, we still overcame that and it felt pretty good and gave us a lot of confidence going into the game tonight.

Q. Coming in in that situation with the bases loaded and the crowd was kind of getting into it, how big was that for you to get that out; how difficult is that to come into that situation?

GLENN OTTO: In that situation, I've been in there before. Not quite with that crowd, but definitely the fans do a great job here.

You know, you just kind of drown as much out as you can and focus on what you need to do, and that's making every pitch, pitch by pitch and making every pitch, and I felt like I was able to do that and get out of that jam and just start with a clean inning, so that was pretty big.

Q. Tristan and Hunter, does it feel good going into tomorrow knowing you just have one game, as opposed to two?

HUNTER KOPYCINSKI: I guess you could phrase it that way. I mean, it's just, I think the best idea is knowing that we're back against the wall again, both teams. It's either win or go home, or your season's done. And we've kind of done a good job of competing and battling late in the season with this situation, and so we're just going to approach it like that. There's no tomorrow if you lose, so just attack and go after them.

Q. Did you have any doubt about bringing Myers back today, just considering he threw 50 pitches on Sunday?

WAYNE GRAHAM: Well, he's eager to do something, because he's our starting third baseman all year, he's had a broken thumb, so he's been able to work on his pitches more. We knew we needed a changeup, and I thought he could throw a lot of those.

I didn't know how much he could go, but he said his arm felt fine and he's ready to go. When you're facing the end of the season and you want to play some more, and we've got a lot of guys that want to play some more.