

STANFORD ATHLETICS



MEDIA RELATIONS

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Stanford vs. Arkansas
Game No. 3 - Quotes
Saturday, May 31, 2008
Stanford Regional
Stanford, Calif.

Stanford Head Coach Mark Marquess ***Opening Statement...***

It was a good game, especially our pitching. Austin Yount did a great job and then Jeremy Bleich that was the longest he had pitched in about seven or eight weeks since he came down with a little tendonitis so we were hoping that we could win this game and win it with just two pitchers. We were able to do that so I thought that was good. I thought there were a number of situations where they had runners on base and we were in big spots where we got out of them. Austin did it a couple of time and so did Jeremy. I don't know how many guys they left on base, but quite a few. They had some opportunities, but I thought when we got the two runs in the eighth inning that was huge because it gave us a little bit of a cushion. The four-run lead was big I thought. Randy Molina came up with some big hits for us. The home run was big and then a couple other big hits for us and I was very pleased with that. It was a good win for us, obviously in a an elimination game. I thought it was really due to the pitching of Austin Yount and the pitching of Jeremy Bleich.

On Austin Yount...

He is modest, but he really is a good hitter, he DHed for us a lot at the beginning of the year. I keep wanting to ask if his arm is alright because he will take infield, but he has a rubber arm. He is a very good offensive player though. We are not going to limit him to one or the other, but if you would probably say he is more of a position player than a pitcher, but he has pitched phenomenally for us.

On Jeremy Bleich...

It has been very difficult for Jeremy because he was our Friday starter, but then he has been limited. Against Washington State he pitched three shutout innings and then his elbow started bothering him. We though the worst, but fortunately it was just a strain, a little tendonitis. We have been very conservative and it has been eight weeks now. It has been tough, he hasn't been able to travel and he is one of our leaders, but we were hoping that he could come back if we got to postseason and help us and obviously he has. He helped us today and got us a save and kept us alive.

On Stanford's execution...

We had a double steal that helped us, we got a couple of sacs, and a drag bunt. We played solid baseball. We could have had more base runners, but the ones we had on we got in.

Stanford Starting Pitcher Austin Yount

On getting out of tough situations with runners on-base...

I just tried to throw strikes, I had an idea of how to pitch Arkansas and I just tried to mix pitches. I just tried to stay with that approach. Fortunately in the fifth inning the ball bounced into my glove, which was very fortunate.

On the snag of the liner up the middle in the fifth inning...

I saw it off the bat and just got my glove there and fortunately it went in.

On the move to pitching...

It came up when Jeremy had some tendonitis and we needed some pitching and I offered to fill in and got a chance and just tried to throw strikes and have done alright so far.

On whether he sees himself as a pitcher or a 3^d baseman...

I am not sure, I just do whatever I can to help the team. Some days I feel better as a pitcher and some days I feel better as a hitter.

Stanford Designated Hitter Randy Molina

On getting the first win of the regional...

It is big to just get that first one out of the way. One thing I have noticed about this team is even when we are down in the late innings or not winning the series, we never press. We just work back, work hard, and play our game. That is the plan for the next three games. Just go out there one day at a time and play the baseball that we know how to play.

Stanford Reliever Jeremy Bleich

On Yount's performance...

He has done a great job for us, offensively, defensively, pitching, just filling in all the gaps. We have had solid portions of the season where we have had good offense or good pitching, but you need a lot of it. There have been some times where he has come in and got a pinch-hit and then he is out of the game for a pinch-runner. He has started pitching on Friday nights and got us three or four wins. Austin has done a great job for us and with the leadership we have, I am really happy to be a part of.