



POST-GAME QUOTES

2014 NCAA CHARLOTTESVILLE BASEBALL SUPER REGIONAL
Davenport Field • Charlottesville, Va.

2014 NCAA Division I Baseball Super Regional • Game 1
June 7, 2014 • 12 p.m.
Maryland (40-21) vs. Virginia (47-14)

University of Virginia Quotes

Virginia Coach Brian O'Connor

Opening Statement:

"That was a great college baseball game. Unfortunately we came out on the wrong end of it, but Maryland deserves a lot of credit. [Jake] Stinnett really battled and made some big pitches with runners on. I thought offensively they had the best approach against Nathan Kirby that anybody has had all year. You have to credit them for what they did. Sometimes it comes down to a ball falling and a ball finding some grass out there. A lot of innings where we scored a run and had more runners on, guys squared the ball up. Joe McCarthy in the eighth inning squared the ball up and unfortunately, it was right at the right fielder. There were other opportunities that I thought our guys put good swings on the ball. I thought our offensive approach was pretty darn good today. That is baseball. That happens. It just didn't drop. Guys can't control what happens once the ball goes off the bat. All they can control is the plan they have when they go up to the batters box. I was proud of Whit Mayberry. He went out there and grinded and gave us a chance to win the ballgame. Unfortunately it just wasn't enough."

On losing the first game of the super regional:

"This is why it is a best of three series. We've been in this situation on both sides. We've been in it where we've won it and we've been in it where we've lost it. We've got plenty of pitching to do this thing. It needs to be a quality start. It is really difficult to win this time of year unless you get a quality start - someone that can put you into the sixth or the seventh inning. I know Waddell is capable of doing that. I don't know if there is anything learned from previous experiences. Obviously a lot of these guys were here last year when Mississippi State took the first game against us. I told the players: 'tomorrow is going to be the day.' They've earned the right to be in this position and to have a chance to be playing tomorrow in the super regional."

On Nathan Kirby's performance:

"He just didn't look sharp to me out there. I don't even think he looked sharp in the first and second inning. Usually his velocity is a little bit better. Usually that breaking ball is down a little bit more. Like I said, that is to Maryland's credit. When he made pitches that were up in the zone, they capitalized on it. They did a great job. That is what you want your offensive team to do. It is disappointing. He has been our number one all year. He is as consistent as you can be. But this is why it is a team. Whit Mayberry comes in and picks him up and the other guys will tomorrow. Maybe this is how it needs to go."

On the double play in the first inning:

"I think there were a lot of situations in this game where you lose momentum. We would tack on a run and have another opportunity to maybe put a crooked number up there on the scoreboard and we just couldn't get the hit to do it. Certainly we had Stinnett on the ropes in the first inning. Kenny Towns did a great job to barrel that ball up right to center. [Charlie] White made a great play. The teaching part of it in that scenario, you teach the player to go back and tag until you see the ball drop and then advance. It is a situation where Mike probably left a little too early and he didn't stay in the moment and react to the play. Maybe it would have been a different story but that doesn't take anything away from the tremendous ballgame that Maryland played and how we played the rest of the game."

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Post-Game Quotes: Maryland vs. Virginia

Mike Papi

On what happened in the first inning during the tag-up play:

"I believed that I had left the bag early, so just to reassure myself, I went back and retagged up. By that time the ball had already been coming back into the infield. He made a great throw that beat me home."

On what this team has learned from past experiences being down 1-0 in a super regional:

"As a team we're really good at moving past things and moving on to the next day and just coming to the field with the same approach that we had today. And just playing the Virginia way."

On leaving runners on base:

"We got a lot of traffic on base today, which was good, especially against such a good pitcher as [Jake] Stinnett. We just couldn't come up with that big 2-out hit. Leaving 14 guys on is really going to hurt us if we want to win a good ballgame or beat a good team like Maryland."

Nathan Kirby

On the 16 pitch at-bat in the second inning and if it affected his rhythm:

"Throwing 16 pitches to one hitter is always going to be strenuous, but you have to turn the page. I made two bad pitches in the at-bat, but I also made 14 good ones. I wouldn't say it really affected me."

On his overall performance:

"Simply put, I just left a couple balls up. Fortunately for them there were guys on base and I threw pitches that I didn't need to throw. They had some good hits and strung together a string of good hits and got a couple runs."

On Maryland's approach to hitting:

"I think it was just their day to hit. I had some good at-bats where I had some good pitches in there, but then they were hitting the pitches that I wasn't making."

On if he had trouble with his breaking ball:

"Oh yeah, definitely. I left a couple pitches up and they hit them."



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University of Maryland Quotes

Maryland Head Coach John Szefc

Opening Statement:

"I'm very happy for our guys and everyone who works for our program to be able to come in here and play the way we did against a very good team in a tough environment. We felt we did a really good job offensively early on to get their starter out. He's obviously one of the better left-handed pitchers in the country and I know he's had a lot of success here this season. I thought to get him out midway through was a testament to how good our offense has been this year. Our pitching was absolutely tremendous. Jake [Stinnett] probably didn't have his best stuff, but he was close. I think a good judge of a successful pitcher is a guy who can battle and keep his team in the game when he might not have his best stuff, and that's what he did. It was a tough environment and a hot day, a lot hotter on the field than I thought it would be, and in a game like that you make a lot of pressure pitches that takes a lot out of you. I thought he did an incredible job to get us through six innings. Bobby [Ruse] came in and did a great job, and [Kevin] Mooney is Mooney. He's very reliable, comes in and pounds the strike zone and is the classic 'bend but don't break' closer. Today was also our 40th win as a program [this season] and I know our coaching staff and players are very proud of that. It's hard to win 40 games in a season. For our guys to get to that level and play like they did today is a real testament to where our group is and I feel really good about where we're at and moving into tomorrow. We obviously have a very good pitcher going tomorrow and it'll be all hands on deck in the bullpen again."

On impact of the 16-pitch at bat early on in the game:

"We preach to our guys daily to take something from the at-bat, even if it doesn't end in success. Now that at-bat did end with a walk, but that's still as good as an at-bat as you'll see. That epitomizes our offense and our team. Not to mention that affected [Nathan] Kirby's pitch count, and the higher the pitch count, the closer he is to being taken out."

On the effect of Charlie White's first inning diving catch:

"That inning was Charlie White's inning. First, he got us going offensively. But that catch is as good as hitting a double with the bases loaded because he took two runs off the board. That may not show up on his offensive statistics, but everybody in that dugout knows how important that was. To get out of that inning and to minimize the damage as much as we did was crucial."

On how big plays help keep the team's momentum going:

"I think it's come to a point where our guys are so confident and playing so loose that they just expect to make those plays. That play that Charlie made, I've seen him make that before, so it didn't surprise me. I've seen our guys make plays like that before. That's the kind of stuff that we preach to them as a staff. Anybody can make those plays when it doesn't matter, but let's see you make that play when it matters."

On team's grinding style of play:

"That was the typical game we've been playing lately. It's the grind-it-out game where it's not necessarily about how good you are, but about how tough you are. Maybe we did a little more to be a bit tougher than [Virginia] today."

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Post-Game Quotes: Maryland vs. Virginia

Senior Pitcher Jake Stinnett

On pitching approach with runners on base:

“In those situations, it’s really important to get ahead of the hitter. [Virginia] did a great job of battling today and there were no easy outs. To get those big outs, you have to get ahead and go right after the hitter. If you try to pitch around him, a lot of the time it won’t go your way. That’s just how pitching is, and you’re going to have success like that.”

On importance of White’s diving catch to save a run:

“That was absolutely huge. That could have turned into a nightmare of an inning. Especially in that first inning, we want to come out there and put up a zero. Unfortunately, we couldn’t do that, but it was an awesome job by the defense picking me up, just an incredible play.”

Sophomore Pitcher Kevin Mooney

On pitching approach with runners on base:

“Especially later in the game, when there are runners in scoring position, it’s so important to hit your spots. You have to focus on every pitch, and if you throw it over the middle they’ll get runs and it makes all the difference. I’d say to hit your spots is the most important thing.”

On how playing in front of big crowds in recent weeks prepared them for today:

“I think being here this week, the crowd is smaller but it’s a tighter environment and it feels like the crowd is on top of you. At times, it got extremely loud and hard to talk to the person next to you. So being in front of loud crowds last weekend helped us to be in front of a crowd like this [today].”

Junior Outfielder Charlie White

On his first inning, which included a leadoff double and a diving catch:

“[Nathan] Kirby is a great pitcher and we knew that coming in. I just tried to stick to my approach at the plate and put a good swing on it. And the catch, I just got a good read on it and thought I could catch it and just laid out. It was great to get a double play.”