



POST-GAME NOTES

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

2014 NCAA Division I Baseball Regional • Game 6
June 1, 2014 • 8 p.m.
Virginia 9 (47-13), Arkansas 2 (40-25)

VIRGINIA POST-GAME NOTES

- With the win, Virginia is now 2-1 all-time against Arkansas, with all games coming in the NCAA Tournament.
- The Cavaliers have now reached the Super Regional round of the NCAA Tournament for the fifth time in the last six years. Florida State is the only other team that can make that claim.
- Virginia didn't trail for the entirety of the regional round.
- Virginia now holds a 47-37 record in regional play.
- All of UVA's runs in the third frame came with two outs on the scoreboard.
- The six-run third marked the second time in the regional the Cavaliers have racked up six or more runs in a frame. Virginia scored seven runs during the sixth frame in the tournament opener against Bucknell on Friday.
- Virginia sent 11 batters to the plate in the six-run third.
- Junior Derek Fisher pushed UVA's lead back out to six in the ninth when he slashed a two-run single up the middle. The runs marked the first time Virginia scored against the Arkansas bullpen in 10 innings.
- Sophomore southpaw Brandon Waddell went 6.2 innings allowing two runs on seven hits, while putting four Razorbacks down on strikes. For the 11th time in 15 tries Waddell posted a quality start.
- All three Virginia starters this weekend collected a quality start.
- In the regional Mike Papi went 5-for-12 with four RBI and five runs scored. Papi has recorded an RBI in each of the NCAA Tournament games.
- Virginia has won six consecutive regional contests.
- Fisher's four RBI set a new season high for the left fielder.
- Sophomore John La Prise's two RBI marked the third time the third baseman has reached that total on the year. The three hits for La Prise also tied a career high, a mark that the sophomore has reached six other times.
- LaPrise led UVA in the regional with a .538 average (7-for-13), the second-best average of the regional behind Arkansas' Brian Anderson (.615, 8-of-13).
- In its three regional games, UVA scored a combined 22 runs, with 15 runs scored while the opponents starting pitcher was on the mound.
- Nathan Kirby was the Most Outstanding Player of the Charlottesville Regional.
- Making the All-Charlottesville Regional team from Virginia: 1B-Mike Papi, 3B- John La Prise, OF-Brandon Downes and Derek Fisher, P-Nathan Kirby and Artie Lewicki, DH-Kenny Towns.



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ARKANSAS POST-GAME NOTES

- With the loss Arkansas is now 1-2 all-time against Virginia, with all games coming in the NCAA Tournament.
- Arkansas now holds a 48-39 record in regional play.
- Freshman Zach Jackson made his second start in as many weeks for the Razorbacks. His second start of his career.
- Junior Brian Anderson went 5-for-5 to start the day, including a 3-for-3 start in the Razorbacks' elimination game against Bucknell in the regional matinee. Anderson finished the nightcap 3-for-4 for his 16th multiple hit game of the year.
- Anderson finished the tournament batting .615 with eight hits, two RBI and three runs scored.
- The Razorbacks managed two hits against Virginia the day prior, but produced a pair of singles in the second to match their total from the day before.
- After throwing 31 pitches and retiring all six batters he faced in the first two innings, Jackson threw 36 pitches in the third and recorded just two outs before being pulled. The 67 pitches thrown by Jackson is a career-high.
- Sophomore Michael Bernal roped his fourth double of the year in the third inning.
- Arkansas broke its 15-frame scoreless stretch against Virginia with a two-run home run from junior Kristjon Wilkerson. The home run was the second of Wilkerson's career.
- Junior catcher Jake Wise followed Wilkerson's home run with a double into deep left field, the third extra base hit against Virginia for the Razorbacks.
- Jackson went 2.2 innings, allowing four earned runs on three hits and striking out three Cavaliers. The four earned runs matched a season high (Alabama, March 21).
- The six runs given up in the third are the second most given up in a frame, behind a seven-run sixth inning for Alabama on March 21.
- Arkansas starting pitching went 0-2 against Virginia. The two starters went a combined 6.0 innings and gave up six earned runs on 10 hits.
- The Hogs' bullpen on the other hand racked up 12.2 innings of work allowing two runs on nine hits.
- After pitching 3.0 innings or more one time before the SEC tournament, sophomore Landon Simpson went 3.0 innings of relief as the first Razorback pitcher out of the bullpen. The appearance marked the third time in five tries Simpson has gone three or more innings of work.
- Arkansas has been eliminated in the regional round in each of the past two years. Reaching the regional final on both occasions.
- The Razorbacks committed six errors in their final three games of the regional.
- Making the All-Charlottesville Regional team from Arkansas: 2B-Brian Anderson, SS-Michael Bernal.



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Arkansas (40-25) vs. Virginia (47-13)

University of Virginia Quotes

Virginia Coach Brian O'Connor

Opening Statement:

“Five out of the last six years, we have been in this position going into a super regional. I am very proud. This week we had our best week of practice all year. Our guys were really locked in and ready to play great baseball. Arkansas has a great ball club, and a tremendous pitching staff, and we feel very fortunate to be the winners. I thought Waddell was spectacular tonight. He was in complete control of the game and pitched deep into the ball game, like all of our pitchers this weekend have done. That third inning was huge. Scoring six runs in one inning and giving us a comfortable lead allowed Waddell to pitch hard. There are different guys throughout the entire line-up that every one has confidence in. There were huge expectations going into the season and I am glad we played great fundamental baseball this weekend to win the championship.”

On playing Maryland:

“I know a lot will be made of the fact that there are two ACC teams, us and Maryland, playing each other with Maryland exiting the ACC. We will address the series with Maryland in the coming days. I just want to enjoy this regional championship. I cannot turn the switch that quickly to start considering Maryland. I think it is important at this level to enjoy what we have achieved. We have been in the Super Regional five out of the last six years and I believe there is only one other team who can say that, so I want to enjoy that for now. When we meet again as a team, we will address Maryland, but they have definitely proven over the last few weeks and this past season that they have a special ball club.”

On pitching rotation:

“It is about winning the thing. If we didn't win this regional we'd be sitting here, the mood would be different, and we would feel like we failed. Unfortunately, that is level that this program is about. Our responsibility as coaches is to line this thing up and give us the best shot of winning this weekend. We will do the same thing next weekend. Those guys were tremendous. Artie started us off and was really dominant. Then, you can't pitch better than Nathan Kirby pitched. Then, to think of Waddell pitching in the championship game. This guy was a Friday night starter last year on a team that won 50 ball games. We are really fortunate with the pitching that we have. Moore didn't even factor in, but if you look at the bating average against him in our scrimmages, no one looked better than he did. We are fortunate that we have that quality pitching depth and it has served us well.”

On going into their 5th Super Regional in 6 years:

“I am proud. I am really proud of this club. Every club is different. Last year was a team of guys who were unproven and second years trying to push it forward. This team comes in with enormous expectations and managed those really well. To be the regional champions here and to go into another Super Regional is consistent and speaks to the quality of players that were consistently recruiting, it speaks to the consistency of the assistant coaches who remained loyal to the program. I am really proud. I think in sports when you accomplish great things you need to enjoy this, so we will enjoy it and then look forward to next week.”

On Mike Papi:

“Mike Papi has a very advanced approach at the plate. He doesn't often swing at pitches off the plate. He is aggressive but has a good eye for what is a ball and a strike. I think it is easy to overlook defense. Mike Papi is a really good athlete. He has played all three of the outfield positions during his time here. He was a high school short

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Post-Game Quotes: Bucknell vs. Virginia

stop, and a good one at that. You have someone who is athletic, and has the feet and the athleticism over at first base to snag balls that are hit hard but also the footwork it takes around the bag. We are fortunate that we have such good athletes.”

On Virginia's offense:

“I had a really good feeling going into this tournament about our offensive ball club. A lot was made of it going into the season. Maybe we didn't meet expectations but I was confident that it would come together at some point and I think now it has. Just the athletes we have, their physicality is impressive so hopefully this is something we can continue from an offensive standpoint.”

Nate Irving

On the pitching

“Phenomenal. I think if you look a little deeper than just the stats or the box score, the rhythm that we pitched at this weekend was really, really good. All three guys—Artie [Lewicki], Nathan [Kirby], and Brandon [Waddell]—got into really good rhythms and didn't really come out of it. Baseball is a momentum sport and we were able to keep momentum in all three games and keep it on our side. That is a credit to our starting pitcher.”

On Mike Papi's defense:

“It is great to have an athlete like him over at first base. The three years I've been here, we've had Jared King and Mike over at first and those are two kids who are very, very athletic. It helps to have a guy like that over at first who has played multiple positions. He played the outfield and now plays first, too. So it is a credit to the quality of athletes we have in the locker room.”

John La Prise

On getting up to bat twice in the same inning:

“In the third, everyone was being aggressive and taking really good swings. Hitting is contagious. We went all the way through the lineup and I got up a second time around. When people are being aggressive, good things happen. It was just a good inning for us.”

On having home-field advantage:

“It is awesome. The crowds have been great. We are really comfortable here and it is great playing in this atmosphere and playing on the home field. It is just a lot of fun and we really enjoy it. And we play really well here so we look forward to it.”

Brandon Waddell

On Mike Papi's defense:

“I'd pretty much say the same thing from a pitching standpoint. When you have not only him but also everyone else behind us and with the team that we have and the fielding percentage that we've had throughout the entire year, it's really been a big boost that really helps the pitching staff. You know you can, as a staff, go out and try to make contact and attack hitters and having that behind you, you don't have to second-guess anything.”

On his mindset before the game

“We viewed it as another game that we were going to go out there and attack. Not take in all the circumstances and all the situations from the outside but look at it as we've played so many games this year and we're going to address it the exact same way and stick to our plan and what we do. We're going to go out there and perform.”



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University of Arkansas Quotes

Arkansas Coach Dave Van Horn

Opening Statement:

"It has been a long day for us. First, let me congratulate Virginia. They have an outstanding team and are very solid. They can really pitch. They put together a couple of big innings against us the last couple of days and held us down offensively. They are going to be awfully tough to beat next weekend. As far as us, I think we ran out of gas a little bit. We were getting low in pitching. I appreciate the effort this team has given the last couple of months. There was a time we could have gone either way. We had a lot of new players and injuries, and our guys just kept fighting. We just kept winning. I think we gained a lot of good experience that is going to help us down the road. I appreciate the older guys for the leadership they have provided this season. I look forward to following some of these guys in their careers down the road."

On how pivotal the 3-2 pitch to Mike Papi was that scored the first run in the third:

"We were one pitch from getting out of that jam. It was probably a ball or two off. It was a close pitch and he has a tremendous eye. That is one thing I really noticed about the middle of their order. They really make you pitch to them. At the time, we were thinking, we were not going to throw a fastball, so we went with an off-speed pitch. It was give up one run on a walk instead of three or four on one swing. This way we were still in the ball game. It was kind of what happened after that. We didn't make a play. They hit a ball under a glove and we make an error. Two base hits back-to-back. Next thing you know, we're down 6-0 and we are in big trouble."

On Nathan Kirby's performance and Virginia's pitching:

"Nathan Kirby is kind of special. He is the guy that every coach would like to have pitching for him on a Friday because you will be going into the weekend 1-0. Waddell, he is a little bit different. Not as much of a power pitcher, but he competes really well. He didn't walk one of our hitters tonight. That is huge at this level. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see your number three guy."

Brian Anderson

On batting with the bases empty for most of the Regional:

"I don't really think about those kind of things. I am just trying to get on base whenever I can. If there's nobody on base when I get up, I try to start something. My job is to get on and there is nobody better to drive me in than [Krisjon Wilkerson]. It can be a little frustrating at times. The other guys, the effort was there. The balls that I hit found holes. That's how it was."

On what he will remember about the season:

"I am proud of my guys. I am proud to say that I competed with each and every one of them. None of our guys gave up. That was kind of the attitude that we had. Even in the end, we thought we were in this one. The way these guys competed, they fought to the end of every game."

Krisjon Wilkerson

On what Brandon Waddell was throwing and his two-run home run:

"He did a good job of mixing pitches. He kept the hitters off balance. Fastball. Change-up. With two strikes, he threw a slider and left it up a little bit and I got a good swing on it."