

Virginia Tech Baseball Head Coach John Szefc Q&A Highlights Game Six Presser June 5, 2022

Opening statement:

"It's really special to win an NCAA regional. It's my third one. It's my first one at home, however, but I'm just so happy for our players and our coaching staff. There's so much that goes into this. These guys have been tremendous. It's just a great group to hang out with. Putting the baseball aside, I'm just really happy that they can enjoy this in Blacksburg together. I'm happy for Virginia Tech and for Blacksburg in general. I really appreciate our fans being here and giving us so much support. I really felt like they helped us through that game. It was a tight game. I tip my cap to Colombia and Brett Boretti. He does a great job with his program and they gave us their best available arms. They were really good. Those guys deserve a lot of credit. They came back on probably six hours of sleep and won the first game going away. They gave us everything that they had in the second game. That's a very well represented baseball program right there. I just want to give credit to our players and coaching staff. I'm so happy for everyone involved with the program from weight training, to our administration, Seth Diters, Kyle Staggers, Mike Swanhart and everybody that puts it together for our guys. I'm really happy particularly for Ryan Metz. Metz has been here for five years and got to start an NCAA regional championship game. Just think about that for a second. The guy is a survivor, he's been here for a long time. Biddison has been through two shoulder surgeries and he's lived to tell of it. I'm just really happy for these guys."

On the Schobel home run:

"I think it kind of let a little bit of air out of the balloon. People could breathe a little bit. You want to get out ahead in a game like this. Again, Columbia is good. They pitch really well. They've held us at bay when it was 3-1 for a long time. Then DeMartini opened it up, followed behind him by Biddison. That was a big swing to get out ahead and it also sets the tone a little bit. That's a freshman on the mound for them from Delaware. He was good but you better be pretty good to hang in with these guys."

On hosting a Super Regional:

"I am super happy that our guys come through this thing and they get a chance to stay together and keep playing together. We can talk about innings, pitches, swings and everything else. But the biggest thing about tonight and winning this whole thing is that this group of guys gets to stay together. They get to stay together and keep playing, practicing, hanging out and doing stuff. This is the time that these guys will not forget for the rest of their lives. When this guy (Nick Biddison) is playing in Yankee Stadium one day, it'll be cool but



these are the moments you remember. We talked to Chad Pinder on Thursday and all Chad wanted to talk about was his time playing here in a regional in 2013. When guys like Biddison, Schobel and Cross sign pro contracts, it's awesome. They deserve every single bit of it, but the next couple of days will be something that they'll be talking about for the next 30 years."

Virginia Tech Baseball
3B Carson Demartini Q&A Highlights
Game Six Presser
June 5, 2022

On what it was like hitting the homer in the fifth after striking out with the bases loaded in the third:

"I'm going to be honest. I wasn't really thinking about that at bat. I tried to flush it as quick as possible. Striking out with the bases loaded, that's not fun. The guys before me that led up to that at bat, they put me in the position to do that. Without those guys there, I wouldn't have been able to hit a home run. They could've struck out. They could've popped out. Whatever. I think it was with two outs, but those guys were the ones that put me in that position to be able to hit that ball. He got me out with the pitch I hit out in the first at bat. I learned from it. I flushed it, but I learned from it. I wouldn't say I knew it was coming, but I had a good intuition it was coming."

On how important the veterans have been for him this season:

"These guys, and not these guys, all the older guys, even if they don't play. Every single one helps me out in some sort of way. Whether that's helping me out mentally, off the field, and on the field. I live with Nick [Biddison] and Metz has been a tremendous help for me. These guys just teach me how to handle myself. Sometimes I might get a little too big for the moment or I do freshman things I guess you could say. These guys kind of dial me back in and help calm down and be able to focus in the moment."



Virginia Tech Baseball
1B Nick Biddison Q&A Highlights
Game Six Presser
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On what it means to be on a team that won a regional:

"It's pretty special. My first year here I think we were dead last in the ACC or second to last. To see all the work pay off, it's special. Trusting this guy [John Szefc] and everything he's doing, it's awesome."

On what it meant to slap the sticker on the bracket.

"It's pretty cool. Just to have that last little punch. Hitting the home run was pretty cool. Just winning games is fun, but doing that in front of the fans, getting the people going. They were supportive all week. Being here, it meant the world. We could've won somewhere else, but I'm very glad we ended it in Blacksburg."

Virginia Tech Baseball
P Ryan Metz Q&A Highlights
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On what it means to be on a team that won a regional:

"This team has just been different. I've been a part of five different Virginia Tech teams, all with different coaches, all with different mottos and the way they go about their business. This one has just been the most fun to be a part of in my opinion. The way these guys play, and we love each other. We go out and fight and just grit. I think it's kind of funny because at the beginning of the year I looked at these guys and was like "Guys, this team is different." I honestly could've told you we were going to do this at the beginning of the year before we ever played a game and not from a talent standpoint, from the way the chemistry on the team is."

On what it was like starting in regional:

"I'm just grateful to coach Szefc and coach Fecteau for just the opportunity that I even had here. They told me I was getting the ball it was honestly just inning one, inning two, just not getting ahead of myself. Not letting the moment be bigger than it needed to be. At the end of the day, it's 60 feet, six inches to the plate, and we're all college baseball players."

