



NCAA



2022 DIVISION I
BASEBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP
BLACKSBURG SUPER REGIONAL



Virginia Tech Baseball
Head Coach John Szefc Q&A Highlights
Game Three
Sunday, June 11

Opening statement:

“Well, first off, I just want to congratulate Oklahoma. They're a very good team, very well coached by Coach Johnson and their staff. I'll give them a lot of credit and they're just very good. This is the only home series we lost the whole year, so I give them credit. I want to thank our administration for running a first-class event here, from a regional last week to a Super Regional this week. I know our players and our coaches and everybody in our team greatly appreciate what they did to put this event on and keep us at home in a first-class manner. Lastly, I would just really thank our players. I don't even really know what to say about this group of guys. I've been around some pretty good teams over the years and every team is somewhat special in their own way. This one, I got a real problem with this season ending. Eventually it ends, I get that, but this group of guys is a very special group of guys. Not necessarily just how they play the game, but who they are. They've really changed me a little bit as a coach, as far as how I go about things and how I handle young players. So, in that respect, I really have to thank them and I will thank them in about a half hour here. It's been a very good year for our team; we won the ACC championship, we won a regional here, we went to the final of the Super Regional. We're playing a home game on June 12. I've never done that before in 30-something years, so it's been a very good year for our players. I know it stinks right now, but eventually they will look back on this very, very fondly.

On the bullpen running out of gas:

“That's a good point you bring up there. I don't think we really had to lean on any one pitcher in that pen. I think throughout the year we didn't use the pen all that much throughout the whole year so we could go to the tank when we needed to. We had to go to the pen pretty early. It's tough because you're facing a really good team. I think our guys were pretty effective in how they pitched the last couple of days, but it just didn't happen today. I don't know whether it was guys being tired or not. That didn't help obviously, but it wasn't like we had a whole lot of traffic on the basis. Give their guys credit, their pitchers are very good. They pitch and play defense. Every ball we hit seemed like it was in a shift or Pettis made that diving catch. Gavin hits one on two strikes and it dies right at the wall. Their two strikes ones we're leaving the park with the wind going out. It just seemed like everything that could have gone negative for us today did. One negative, it seemed like the opposite for those guys. That's gonna happen from time to time, unfortunately, and it happened to us today.”



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On continuing to be successful:

“If we're not losing a good chunk of players in the draft, we're not doing our job as coaches. We fully expect to lose a half dozen or so guys. That's just the way things are but you have to plan for that. College baseball is tough because the draft is not till July so you don't know exactly what's going to happen. It'll get done one way or another. We figured it out with this group and they were awesome. The coaching staff we have are incredible. I wouldn't trade any single one for anybody. They're very good at what they do in their area. There's no way we have the success we have without those guys preparing these guys to play. I will go to the wire with that statement.”

On the legacy of this team:

“When I came here I knew what the legacy of the 2013 team was. I was able to watch them play when I was at Maryland. I knew how good they were and what they had accomplished. I think everyone within our baseball program has always respected that group. As we still do, but I think every future player, coach, etc. will look back at this year with a very high reverence. When these guys come back to work out and to talk you're gonna roll the red carpet out for these guys. They set a humongously high standard that you strive for a long time. The last time I had a team like this was eight years ago with Maryland and every time I talk to those guys it's special. It will be the same way with these guys.”

On the team changing him:

“I think over time, as a coach, you get older and the players get younger. In the past maybe I made the mistake of being too businesslike, so to speak. This team brought me back to being a lot more personal with our players. I spent more time doing things off the field, having more conversations with them. I'm very thankful for this group of guys. They've really helped me personally. I think they probably changed me a little bit as a person, certainly as a coach, but I think definitely as a person. I don't know a whole lot of 50 plus year old guys that can say that. Once you get to be our age, you kind of get set in your ways. These guys changed my ways in a very good way and that's something I'm really thankful for.”



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**Virginia Tech Baseball
UTL Nick Biddison Q&A Highlights
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On how he will remember his time in Blacksburg:

The people sitting up here, and Coach Szefc, what he's done for all of us sitting here and all of the guys in the locker room. What we've done for the program, the school of Virginia Tech, and the baseball program at Virginia Tech I think is pretty special. I think that we can all sit here and say that we all made this place better and we took this place somewhere it hasn't been in a very long time. It sucks that we didn't accomplish our ultimate goal of Omaha, but I think we accomplished a lot of things. We just fell short of our ultimate goal and we're going to look back at the season as a success. Our last game was kind of a failure, but I think everything that we've done is pretty special. And what I'll remember most is just all of the relationships, friendships, and all of the good things. You don't remember the score, just the relationships we've built with each other and everything that this school has given us, it's pretty special.

**Virginia Tech Baseball
SS Tanner Schobel Q&A Highlights
Game Three
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On what he will remember from his time in Blacksburg:

"This is the best team that I've ever been on. This is statistically, I think, the best Virginia Tech team that has ever played. Just like Gavin [Cross] said, the relationships that I've made over the years have been tremendous and unbelievable. I know that I would do anything for these guys sitting next to me and in the locker room, [and] I know they would do the same for me. A lot of people don't get that kind of opportunity.



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CF Gavin Cross Q&A Highlights
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On what he will remember from his time in Blacksburg:

“The relationships with these guys [is] pretty much all I’ll remember. [My relationship] with the coaches, not wins and losses. We had a great year and did things that this place has never done. [I’ll remember] the friendships that last forever and the relationships with the coaches, trainer and everyone involved.”

On what it meant to represent Virginia Tech:

“When we first came here, Coach Szefc, Elbin and the crew recruited us, we were bad. One of the things that we wanted to accomplish as early as we could was kind of turn the program around [and] take it places we haven’t been. I think everyone involved – coaches [and players] – I think we’ve all done that over the last two or three years. [We] kind of change the way that Virginia Tech baseball is looked at and hopefully continue that in the future.

Virginia Tech Baseball
C Cade Hunter Q&A Highlights
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On coming up one win short of the College World Series:

I’m going to speak for all of us and say that this sucks pretty bad. We didn’t get it done on the offense today, and that’s pretty much the moral of the story. Not too much to be happy about, but we can still celebrate the season and what we did together.

On how he will remember his time in Blacksburg:

I’m just going to remember the success that we’ve had. I’ll never forget any of these guys. I’ll be in contact with all of them for the rest of my life, most of them are probably going to be at my wedding. I mean, you can’t really get that opportunity with a group of people other than this. It’s been awesome.