



2009 Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championship

Baylor Press Conference Quotes

AT&T Bricktown Ballpark

May 20, 2009

Head Coach Steve Smith

Opening Statement:

"Clearly the key for us to have a chance was Craig Fritsch. He threw very well and we started putting some zeros up. That's our fourth ballgame to play against Texas in the last several weeks, and I don't know if there has been five innings in three games that they haven't scored in. That's the way this game started with them playing the game well. They played the game very well and hitting covers a multitude of sins. We had a day today where we swung the bats pretty good. We made some silly mistakes early in the ballgame that put us behind, but Fritsch came in and had a very calming effect on us. To put an eight-run inning on the board is very significant, and I think that helped breathe some life back into us."

On capitalizing in the sixth inning:

"They have a great staff, and I think we probably took them a little bit out of their comfort zone going with a left hander that early in the game in that matchup. Then they brought [Austin Wood] in with two strikes on Lambert, and that's a guy that finishes games for them. When they use him, I think that changes their thought process on the game. I thought we did a good job of putting balls in play. We swung the bat good against guys who have been very good all year."

On Texas pulling starter Cole Green:

"Let's face it, they don't need to win this. As a coach, they have plenty of arms. I think they felt really good about [Austin] Dicharry when they brought him in. I didn't question it when they did it. I thought they aren't doing us any favors. As a matter of fact, when they started Green, they started the guy with the highest batting average on the staff, which is a .240. I wasn't that surprised especially this time of year."

Sophomore pitcher Craig Fritsch

On capitalizing on the 6th inning:

"We had a plan going into the game with Kendal, Logan and I, and I knew it was my time when I went out there and I had to get the job done. We had that big run inning and that definitely helped me on the mound as well. Things went our way; we hit the ball well and got the runs."

Junior first baseman Dustin Dickerson

On how this win will affect future play...

"We needed a big inning in the sixth to keep us going, and that gave us a lot of confidence. Hopefully we can keep up the confidence and momentum going into tomorrow and win this thing because we certainly need to."

Junior pitcher Kendal Volz

On resilience and staying focused...

"We knew that we had to get some wins, and they are very important right now. The thing that a lot of people don't understand is that every game we play we're locked in and trying our hardest, but sometimes things just don't go your way and that's baseball. We knew we were going to be going up against a good ballclub and we would have to play our best and capitalize on opportunities, and that's what our hitters did today. That allowed us to win the ballgame and help us get back on the right track."

"Craig really set the tone out there, not only on the defensive standpoint but also for the hitters at the plate."



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Texas Press Conference Quotes

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May 20, 2009

Head Coach Augie Garrido

Opening Statement:

"All of the coaches yesterday at the media conference from the luncheon that we had all referred to the parody in the Big 12, and I think you saw it today. When the eighth seed can play a game like that, you know you've got parody. I don't think we lost the game as much as they won the game. They hit the ball hard, they hit the ball often and they hit the ball in a lot of different directions. They kept their rallies going and for whatever reasons that was the separation. We, I thought, played well defensively. There were some plays that could have been made but the balls they were putting in play were hit pretty hard. I think the credit goes to Baylor, not the fault goes to us. That's how I see the game. I think we're alive and well but they had a moment that they had been waiting for. Sometimes when you start the season over and you've been through what they've been through and you start to taste a little bit of success, then it really explodes."

On Baylor's eight-run sixth innings:

"I think the difference. If you get down to any one thing -- which you never can in baseball -- you can't even separate the pitches. The ball that went past (Brandon) Loy's glove and the ball their shortstop caught -- you can go to so many things like that that. I think it reveals, once again, as we all know, that baseball ends up being a game of inches and a game of hundreds of seconds and in many ways that's what went on today. The biggest thing was that they just sustained, they just sustained the rallies, hit the ball hard, hit it often, hit it where it was pitched. They had a great day."

On starter Cole Green:

"The last two or three times out he has looked more and more like a professional pitcher. He has a presence on the mound where he is focused on the catcher's glove and pitching to the catcher's glove, and he's not trying to avoid getting hit; he's pitching like pitchers want to pitch. He's always had good stuff."

Senior pitcher Austin Wood

On entering the game with bases loaded and a 2-2 count:

"Like we've done all season, just take one pitch at a time. I think the first pitch was a ball and the guy fouled the next couple of pitches off, and then I missed with an outside fastball. It was a pretty close pitch and could have gone either way but it was a ball. You just try to come in and just do your job, and today I didn't get my job done."

On today's loss:

"Cole did a great job today. He did his job. It was a pretty frustrating day today for all of us. We just need to get re-focused and re-tooled for tomorrow, but I'm not worried about this pitching staff. We've done a great job all year. Coach (Garrido), Skip and Coach Harmon make sure we do all right. We had a rough day but yet, I don't think it hurts any of our confidence at all. We still believe in ourselves, and we believe in each other to get our jobs done."

Junior first baseman Brandon Belt

On the offense:

"I think everybody was real excited how way we came out hitting the ball. That was something we needed to prove and although we know we can hit the ball, we just needed that kind of reassurance when we got here. So when we got out there and started hitting the ball, it gave us some confidence. It was real exciting, and of course Baylor has a great team. You know that they can come back at any time. They have a lot of good players. We never thought we had the game won, so we knew there was a possibility that it could turn out to be a slugfest."