



2011 Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championship

RedHawks Field at Bricktown

May 28, 2011

Quotes

No. 2 Texas A&M 9, No. 6 Kansas State 8 (11 innings)

Texas A&M

Coach Rob Childress

On the game: "I thought it was a hard-fought game. The weather's definitely changed today. It was hot. Ross (Stripling) went out and did a nice job. I thought he had good stuff today. I didn't think his command was very good. Kansas State took advantage of that, had a big inning and our guys answered back to cut it to 5-4. Just like that, we go back out and they score two runs with the benefit of only one hit. We don't get an out on a couple of bunts, a wild pitch and a groundball, and just like that we're down 7-4. I'm really proud of our team. Guys didn't quit, kept chipping away and had a big inning in the eighth to tie the game. We weren't able to push through until the 11th, but we're really proud of Kyle Martin. He did a nice job. Esteban Uriegas and Steve Martin all out of the bullpen gave us an opportunity to get back in the game."

On the importance of not having to play a second game Saturday: "It was certainly important. It's hot out there. I didn't want to have to come back and play another nine innings after that game. I don't think our players did. Kansas State had a very good run in the tournament. They're well-coached, and they're hot right now and playing well. I expect them to be in a (NCAA) Regional next week. They gave us everything we could handle both two days ago and again today."

On if he thinks Texas A&M deserves a top-eight seed in the NCAA Tournament if they win the Big 12

Championship: "I certainly do. That's what we came up here for. We're playing for a lot of things, but getting to Sunday in this tournament was something that we really wanted to push toward. Everybody wants to play well this week going into next week, but we felt we had an opportunity if we played well from an RPI standpoint to at least make it hard on the committee."

On the opportunity to win Texas A&M's second-straight Big 12 Championship: "There's expectation. This isn't a vacation for our players. They're coming up here on a business trip to get to Sunday and have the opportunity to win another trophy. Those trophies are important to us. We don't take them lightly. We're proud of our guys. We have to go finish tomorrow."

Kevin Gonzalez

On his game-winning hit: "We had a new pitcher coming in. I've faced a lot of new pitchers, so I knew I had to be patient with that. Coach Sawyers told me, 'Even if the infield's in, I just want you to hit it hard. No matter what happens, don't try to think and do too much.' I came up to bat and took a couple of pitches because it was a new pitcher. Next thing you know, he threw one in the strike zone. I hit it in the ground. It hopped up, and we were able to score."

On the difference between Ross Stripling's last outing against Texas and today's game: "His command wasn't completely there like it was last weekend. He wasn't able to get the curveball over when he needed it. Sometimes he would bury it too soon. Another key thing in the big inning they had was we didn't make plays when we had to. Him falling off the mound a couple of times, if we get those outs, it might have been a two-run inning instead of a four-run inning. When we played against Texas, we didn't have mistakes like that. That's why it was such a good game, and he was pounding the zone. When you get out of your rhythm, you kind of lose focus sometimes."

Matt Juengel

On if he thought his double in the 11th inning was going to be a home run: "I was just hustling out of the box because I know with these bats that balls I used to think were gone don't go out anymore. I don't even question it this year. I just take off out of the box. I knew they were playing no-doubles, so I was just trying to bust it to second before they were able to throw me out there."

Kyle Martin

On what was working for him in his outing: "I was just throwing the pitches coach called and trying to let my defense work. Any pitch really (was working) as long as they were hitting it into the ground and let my defense do the job."

On pitching while uncertain how long the game was going to continue: "I was going up there with the mindset to throw strikes, let the defense do the job and see what the offense could do one batter at a time."

Kansas State

Coach Brad Hill

On his thoughts of the game: "We were on the other side of it today. We felt pretty good going into the eighth. It's a matter of what you hope you do is continue to throw strikes and make them beat you swinging the bat. Unfortunately, we quit throwing strikes and kind of helped them out, gave them a little bit of help for them to be able to tie it up. It made it very difficult, really deflated us. We really lost momentum and we couldn't get anything back. We couldn't generate a run there to swing it. Again, hopefully this won't come back to bite us. You were sitting there and you just thought we were going to put it away. I thought we were very good offensively early in the game, executed outstanding, had some great balls, put them in the right spots, had some key hits. We just played the game extremely aggressive, played very hard, and executed the offensive plan against him. We had some young pitchers who did a nice job. (Gerardo) Esquivel was outstanding, (Blake) Freeman was good for three innings, but just couldn't close it out, just didn't finish it out."

On how frustrating the eighth inning was: "We talked about before the game, we said, 'We're not going to walk them. If they're going to beat us, it's going to be 20 hits.' We thought we were kind of heading that way, and it didn't finish that way, unfortunately."

On waiting until Monday for selection to Regionals: "It's going to be tough. You sit here last night and you feel pretty good after a couple wins against Oklahoma, but then you can't control other things going on around the country, and there's things happening around the country that could really affect our opportunity. Today may really come back to bite us, unfortunately, because I think, today, if you get the win, you definitely feel like you're going to be in it with another top-10-type win. Now we don't know."

Jason King

On how the weather conditions affected the game: "It's kind of unfortunate for us. We come down here usually, but this is the first time we get exposed to this kind of weather. There's pretty much no airflow down there on the field, so it does make it really tough late in the game. You just have to mentally try to get yourself ready when you're going up to hit and every time the pitcher throws the ball at the plate, you just had to find something to get you back in the right state of mind because it was definitely a big factor."