



2011 Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championship

RedHawks Field at Bricktown

May 29, 2011

Quotes

No. 2 Texas A&M 10, No. 8 Missouri 9 (10 innings)

Texas A&M

Coach Rob Childress

On his thoughts of the game: "What a game. That's what you'd want as a fan, to come watch a good baseball game. We found ourselves down 6-0, feeling like it's not our day. I felt like the turning point was the third inning with (Derrick) Hadley getting out of the bases loaded, one out jam. For us to come in and score five runs gave us a little bit of life and momentum. I'm really proud of the toughness our team showed this week. We didn't play our best baseball in three of the four games, but we never quit and kept coming. For Andrew (Collazo), it was just kind of fitting. You make an error in the ninth inning and you've got your head down and everybody hates you. I went out there and told him, 'Somebody's going to make a big play, you're going to get another one hit to you and we're going to be OK. We're going to win this game.' He's the one that's the hero today."

On how tough the loss is for Missouri: "It's certainly heartbreaking. I voted for Tim Jamieson for Coach of the Year. It's when everything goes your way to coach. Things weren't easy for them early in the season. Tim lost both of his assistants: Tony Vitello to TCU and he lost Evan (Pratte), who stepped back to being director of operations. All of a sudden, he brings in two new assistant coaches, has a pretty young team, a kid coming back from injury, young pitchers on the mound, a new pitcher in Stites. Things didn't go their way at 2-9. In this day and age, if things don't go your way and you're 2-9, it's easy to splinter in a different direction. Tim came out and coached third base, got his team to the conference tournament and had them playing as good as they've been played all year long down the stretch. It breaks my heart that they're not in the post-season, but for him, I thought he did an amazing job. I've got a lot of respect for him as a friend and more importantly, as a coach. He does an amazing job at Missouri and maybe did his best job ever this season."

Andrew Collazo

On what was going through his mind during the game-winning at-bat: "I knew I had to just put the ball in play. I reached on base every time I'd come up to base, even if it was an error. For a base hit, I knew if I put the ball in play, there was a chance I'd get on base and get in scoring position."

On the range of emotions from his error in the ninth inning to his walk-off home run: "On that error, I knew they were going to be on first and third with no outs and have a chance to tie it. Once they went up, I was down, but my teammates picked me up in the dugout. It wasn't over, and Coach Childress himself was saying, 'Get up. We're going to do this right here, right now.' I've got to give credit to (Gregg) Alcazar; he came up with two big at-bats today and yesterday. No one really notices that, but we do, and that's what's important."

On if he knew it was a home run as soon as he hit it: “Not right off the bat. I knew the wind was howling out to left field and I knew once it got in it kept carrying and once I reached first, I knew it was out.”

Jacob House

On A&M's approach to the tournament: “Kind of like Coach Childress said, it's all about being hot at the right time. We started out slow, but it's all about how you finish. We're playing good baseball right now, playing good baseball, timely hitting, so I think it's going to keep rolling into next weekend's regional.”

Kevin Gonzalez

On turning the game around: “We're down 6-0 at the beginning of the game, and that's the same thing that happened to us when we played on Wednesday, we were down 5-0 there and we found a way. This team has actually sold out for one another and we've bought into that and that's the great thing about it; no matter how much you score on us, we're not going to give up, we're going to keep fighting. It just takes one mistake on the other team and one hit, as soon as we get a runner on, we're going to run with it and see if we can get the run in.”

On playing well before regionals: “Like everybody says, it's great to be ranked No. 1 at the beginning of the year or 10 or eight, but it's how you finish. It doesn't matter at the beginning. You can play horrible at the beginning then start well at the end and that's what really matters because that's when you really need to win games to get to Omaha.”

Missouri

Coach Tim Jamieson

On the game and end of the season: “It was a hard fought game and a tough one to lose for a lot of reasons. I'm incredibly proud of the effort and I didn't want to see it end, but I'm appreciative of the seniors and the guys who got things turned around. It hurts, we put a lot of effort into it and you see it finally come together like it can and these guys are a good enough team to keep playing. Unfortunately, we got off to a slow start. Can't focus on where we are. We have to focus on where we came, so something to be proud of.”

On leadership: “Well, just like this game, there were so many opportunities to quit competing and to their credit they never did. The guys hung in there and re-grouped and we were one strike away from playing in a regional.”

Jonah Schmidt

On emotional roller coaster of a game: “Well it was definitely the most up and down game I've been a part of. We came out so hot, swinging so well and we let them back into it with that one inning and we were feeling a little down but that is just the story of our season. We knew we could handle adversity. We stepped up and got the lead back and it went back and forth. You got to give them credit. They played a good game.”

On thoughts of having the game won: “There were a couple times I thought we had it won but you got to keep battling. We weren't lucky enough to come out on top.”

Jesse Santo

On character of the team: “From last year to this year, and throughout this year we just battled back. We always had confidence in each other. The team as a whole, we left it all out on the field and coming in that is what we wanted to do. It just so happens we came out on the short end.”