



2019 Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championship

WEST VIRGINIA POSTGAME QUOTES – Game 1 Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark: May 22, 2019

No. 4 West Virginia 12, No. 5 Kansas 8

West Virginia Head Coach Randy Mazey

Opening statement...

“The Mountaineers won and that’s what counts at this point. It wasn’t pretty, but it was just a typical game. It got kind of hairy there in the middle, and there was a typical response from our veteran players when they (Kansas) crept back into the game when they answered back with a couple of runs. When we got up 9 to 1 and we got our guy on the mound who gives up an average of two runs a game, you’re feeling pretty good about it. But that’s why Kansas has won 8 of their last 10 in the league because they fought their way back in it. Kansas is a dangerous team. I feel awful for them. They kept getting guys hurt. I think they lost three guys today and that’s a shame. They gave us all we could handle today, but I’m really happy with our leadership there at the end of the game.”

On what he saw from Kansas...

“I think the last month of the season, the confidence they had and the way they played in the last month of the year just came right to the surface. We’re up 9 to 1. They’re getting guys hurt, losing guys, and having lineup changes, and it seemed like they rolled a different pitcher in there every inning. All of a sudden, they scored some runs and got back in the game. Then you see one of their weekend guys on the mound. They’re feeling this thing. Momentum is a crazy thing, and we had it going on in the first three innings, and then they grabbed it, brought it to the other dugout and held onto it for three innings, then we grabbed it back for three innings. That’s the beautiful thing about baseball.”

On the way Brandon White played in center field...

“Brandon White is probably the best center fielder I have ever coached in 30 years. We’re a little bit guilty of every time the ball goes up in his direction. We’re thinking it’s going to get caught because it usually does. He actually thought he caught the ball that hit the ground. The guy changes games with his defense and he changed another one today.”

On the leadership of the team...

“This team has such great leadership and the seniors have been around awhile. They’ve played in these tournament games before. We’ve had a lot of games just like this where big leads evaporate. One of our sayings is ‘don’t panic’ and you can hear people in the dugout saying it all the time. When they get back in the game like they did, we don’t panic. I trust our older guys to have a calming effect on everybody else and they’ve been doing it all season, and today was no different.”

Paul McIntosh, Soph., C/DH

On his three-RBI triple...

“Initially, I knew I got the ball into the gap, but I didn’t know I was going to get to third on that. He kind of took an interesting route at it and I moved to third.”

On his day at the plate...

"It was just a normal day. We work our butts off every day, and I saw the ball pretty well and put barrels on it."

Ivan Gonzalez, Sr., INF

On what he learned from the game...

"We had the lead early and then we kind of got complacent with it. The pitchers made some bad pitches, and we worked around the count. We definitely learned you can't let off the gas pedal. No matter who you are playing here in the Big 12, everyone is good so you just have to keep scoring some runs."



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**KANSAS POSTGAME QUOTES - Game 1
Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark: May 22, 2019**

No. 4 West Virginia 12, No. 5 Kansas 8

Kansas Head Coach Ritch Price

Opening statement...

"Well first off, my congratulations to West Virginia on a great year, especially to the pitcher of the year. Man, you look at their conference record and what that guy did for them, it was absolutely incredible. I'm sure he will be a first-round draft pick here in a couple of weeks. I complement Coach Mazey, and I complement West Virginia. They had a great year."

On ...the team effort and using almost everyone off the bench and everyone in the bullpen to fight back...

"Well obviously, having finals week last week in KU and starting our series on Friday, it really didn't allow us to fix it up for Ryan (Zeferjahn) today or we would have had a really good chance to win. We've actually come here the last two years and won the first game of the tournament with our best guy pitching on the first night, but there are no excuses on the game either. I mean, if I was in the same position as Coach Mazey was, I wouldn't have thrown my All-American either if I knew we were already in it. You're going to protect your guys and we were going to protect Zeferjahn too. There is no way we are going out there on two or three days' rest but, I was really pleased with the guys that came off the bench offensively. We had three clutch hits for us off the bench that allowed us to fight back. We had had the bases loaded twice, and guys on second and third where we got a base hit in one of those three innings. We could've tied the ball game as we were looking to come all the way back from 8-1. We kept grinding and kept competing. With the rain out Saturday and the double-header on Sunday, we challenged our guys to play their way in, we knew we had to finish .500 in our conference to have a chance at making the NCAA tournament. We also knew this was a huge RPI opportunity today against West Virginia if we could find a way to get it done. My youngest son played 5 years in the Tampa system. I'm a huge fan of the way they go about their business and we tried the opener plan and match-up analytics with our bullpen because that's really all we could do today. Unfortunately, it didn't work. I just want to say this: that's Nathan Barry's first start of the year. The guy has been fabulous for us out of the bullpen. He was a starter in junior college and he's been fabulous, but he couldn't command his fastball today. He couldn't get in position to use his off-speed pitch or change-up and every time he was behind in the count, West Virginia knocked him around as hard as he has been all year, so he didn't miss a barrel in the first inning. I complement West Virginia on their discipline and on being efficient in fastball counts."

On...recycling some of his guys and using them later in the week.

"Yes there is no doubt, Zeferjahn will pitch tomorrow, and this was (Ryan) Cyr's bullpen day. He wanted to go early when we cut it to 8-6 and I wasn't going to use him 'til it was later in the game, in lieu of his bullpen outing before because we will obviously need him to start as well. We are going to play. I know it sounds cliché, but we are going to play one game at a time and we are going to worry about tomorrow

and the possibility of playing either West Virginia or Texas Tech on the following day. The good thing for us is that we fought our way into the bubble and those are both huge RPI games and we need to find a way to win one of those. I'm a big believer in this conference and if you are the number two RPI conference in the country, and everybody's plays over 500, everyone should be able to get in and I see people talking about eight or nine teams. The cut is probably four or five games under 500 league records. I don't know how in the world that could be the case, but it gives us something to play for. It gives Oklahoma something to play for and again, it gives us something to play for as well."

On...being down, what did you tell your team?

"You play against the baseball not against the scoreboard and it takes maturity to get to that point. One of the things I'm proud about our guys of is that we play in one of the best leagues in America and you have to be mentally and physically tough. Our guys kept competing."

Benjamin Sems, Jr., INF

On... fighting back.

"We have a resilient group of guys coming to the yard every day, ready to work hard. We are going to play as hard as we can for all nine innings. This game, you know it hurts, but we are going to come back tomorrow with the same intensity."

Nolan Metcalf, So., INF

On... the motivation coming out of this loss.

"Well it's good to know that we are not going to roll over when we get down like that and that we are going to battle, so we are just going to keep that rolling into the rest of the tournament."