



June 1, 2012

University of Central Florida

Postgame Press Conference

Head Coach Terry Rooney

Opening Statement

"First of all, that was an outstanding college baseball game between two teams that played their hearts out. First of all, I can tell you this. This starting pitcher, [Nick] Petree from Missouri State, did a fantastic job and he was every bit as good as advertised. He is one of the best pitchers in the country and he certainly pitched like it today. They have an outstanding ball club. On our side, the same can be said for the guy sitting next to me Ben Lively. Ben did a tremendous job for us. Went pitch for pitch. Two of the best pitchers in the country went at it today. It was a great college baseball game. We talk a lot within our program of 'win the last three' (innings 7-9). Regardless of if you're down or up. When you have the lead in the last three innings it takes composure to hold on to it and when you're down you have to have the confidence to fight back and obviously our guys did a tremendous job by winning the last three against an outstanding pitcher for their ball club".

On LHP Joe Rogers getting out of the 8th inning:

"Huge moment would be an understatement. During the delay we were talking amongst ourselves as coaches and I said that inning has the potential to go down as one of the greatest innings in UCF baseball history. I mean really, a 1-1 tie game, 8th inning, NCAA regional, bases loaded nobody out. And for Joe Rogers to work out of that, it was incredible. And, then to come back and get the go ahead run in the bottom of the 8th. It had everything you wanted in college baseball. College baseball is in a large part about momentum, maybe more than anything other sport and you've got to seize that moment. And what Joe did there was spectacular."

On LHP Chris Matulis closing the game:

"One thing with these kids is the consistency all year long as a team. I knew that Chris would come out. He has served a variety of roles for us. He's started, he's come out of the bullpen for us and I thought that was a perfect situation for him to come into that environment and that setting and to come in and throw the way he did, that was awesome."

On RHP Ronnie Richardson:

"Ronnie Richardson is one of the best players in the country. Ronnie Richardson is one of the most clutch players in college baseball and he rose up. Your best players rise up in big situations and Ronnie did that and obviously got the hit there again late. But, I've said it before and I'll say it again: Petree is awesome; he's great. There is no question that guy is one of the best pitchers in the entire country and he did a great job today"

On RHP Ben Lively:

"Ben has done that all year. His stuff is electric. From a pure pitching standpoint, he is very special. The one aspect that Ben has consistently gotten better at is his command. The competitiveness comes out in him and rises up and makes a big pitch. When guys continually make big pitches, it's not luck. Ben lively has made big pitches throughout his entire career here."

On being in the NCAA regionals before:

"The one thing we wanted to take out of last year was the experience of it. Nothing can replace experience."

On the team:

"This is a veteran team in many ways. There are players who have gone through this. These guys have been in this environment before so they were loose and confident. How you deal with adversity says a lot."

On the team mentality:

"Do not worry one bit about the mental state of our team. They're on a mission to do something great."

RHP Ben Lively

On homerun in bottom of first inning:

"It pumped me up right away. I saw how the game was going to go. I knew it was going to be a close game. I knew that might be the only one."

On cramps:

"I started cramping a little bit in the last inning I pitched. Nothing serious. I just wanted to make sure I got some liquid in me when I came out there."

On pitching:

"I usually settle in later in the game. I get more relaxed later on in the game and get more comfortable with everything."

C Chris Taladay

On Petree:

"He threw well. We knew he was going to spot up."

On getting out of jam:

"That really gets us going. We always do that. We live for that momentum. Everything gets you going at that point. You gotta get that win. That was huge."

On RHP Ronnie Richardson:

"I've played with Ronnie a long time. He's always been a very clutch player. He comes up big all the time. He's a big part of this team. He's a big leader on the team and all year he's been doing that."

On post-season experience:

"It helps a lot. We don't want that again. We lost last year and we don't want to do that again."

On rain delay:

"We were sitting in here trying to stay loose the whole time. Never knew how long it was going to be, we were just trying to get out there and win the game. Our main focus was just staying loose and getting ready to go back out there and finish it up. Just got to stay focused at all times."