



# SOFTBALL

## POSTGAME QUOTES: ARIZONA 4, ARKANSAS 1

### Courtney Deifel, Arkansas Head Coach

#### RE: Opening Statement

"I first want to congratulate the University of Arizona. I thought they played a tough two games and I just give a ton of credit to Coach Candrea. They are always really well prepared, they play the game the right way and are always really classy and I wish them the best. With our team I'm crushed for them, I'm crushed for them. This is a really special group. This is a group that had a lot of firsts and will be remembered for a lot of things that they did but, beyond that it was my favorite group I've ever coached. I think for us we're just crushed that this is the last day we get to work with them. I'm just really proud of them.

#### RE: Autumn Storm's performance

"I think that's who Autumn has been for us since the time she stepped on campus. She's a fighter, she's feisty. She's a gamer. She's a competitor. She had good stuff today and she has that adrenaline with that just look in her eye that she's gonna make you earn it and so I'm just really proud of how she fought. She hasn't really been in many games in the last few weeks with just kind of working through an injury. I thought she had a ton of guts today as she's had her entire career."

### Danielle Gibson, Arkansas 1B

#### RE: Overall thoughts on the season

"It's heartbreaking. It's hard to kind of remember all the greats when you lose like this and pour your heart on the field. The season will be remembered for a long time and changed Arkansas softball and what it means to be a Razorback and wear a softball uniform. I'm just so proud of our seniors, I'm so proud of every single player in this program. We've fought and had a really really good, it's hard to even speak to it because of the losses but, I'm so proud of what we've been able to create this year."

#### RE: Autumn Storm's Performance

"Autumn's a fighter. She fights and she's extremely competitive. We knew that giving the ball to her that she was going to put our best look out there today and she did and she had a great outing. I'm so proud of her and just her fight for this team, this university. She's just amazing and to have a pitcher like that come out when we didn't have the greatest outing yesterday in the circle. She came out and absolutely 180-ed it and just really proud of her."

### Mike Candrea, Arizona Head Coach

#### Opening Statement

"Right now, we're playing our best softball, which is what you want at this time of the year. We just need to be able to carry that into Oklahoma City because it's the next big challenge. I'm very proud of this group. A lot of hard work and dedication went in to maintain our bubble and even get on the field and play. I commend these young ladies for the job they've done over these months and the senior class and for everyone to just be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor all year and have it work out and culminate into a victory and another trip to Oklahoma City is pretty fun for me. We're very excited about our return trip. Our hats go off to Arkansas. They are a great team and a great program. I think Courtney [Deifel] has done a great job and they are going to be something to reckon with for a long time. She's built a culture here that I think is going to be a winning culture. We beat a really good team on the road with great fans. It's just one of those experiences you try and prepare your kids for but you really can't until you get here. I was really amazed that our kids played loose and had fun, competed hard and all of the things we talked about all year; they kind of put it all together because it definitely could be a challenging place if we didn't have the experience with our senior class."

#### RE: On Alyssa Palomino-Cardozas's go-ahead home run

"I'm so happy for her. I know what she's been through; I've been through it with her. I knew today was her birthday and to see her put a great swing on a good pitch and hit a ball out to put us ahead 2-1 was very fitting for her. She's one of those kids that you pull for through her ups and downs and today she is a hero. I think it's well deserved and I'm so happy for her. She's had a career that's been very challenging and for most kids, it would've been easy to throw in the towel, but she's not one of those types. She's competitive and a great teammate and when you see good things happen to good people it makes you excited."

### Alyssa Palomino-Cardoza, Arizona OF

#### RE: On her go-ahead homerun

"I just told myself to breathe and to get one pitch at a time. My previous at bat before that, I hit a backdoor pitch and they just told me to stay on it. That's what I got first pitch and that's just what I felt and I took a hack at it and it felt good off the bat and I was excited."

#### RE: On Arkansas pitcher Autumn Storms

"We said to just stay on her and we knew we were going to find a hole. We knew going into regionals and super regionals that our bats were getting hot. Even though she was throwing a no hitter, we just said stay on her and stay calm and breathe and we'll get through it."

#### RE: On going back to the College World Series

