



FAYETTEVILLE NCAA SUPER REGIONAL

June 11, 2021

Arkansas vs. NC State

POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS 21, NC STATE 2

DAVE VAN HORN, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening Statement

"Just really good job by Patrick Wicklander giving us six innings tonight. They scored in the second on us and he got out of a jam in the third. Then we came in and scored some runs, a couple of big swings... Robert's two-run homer and that was big, all of a sudden, we're up 3-1. It looked like [NC State] was going to get out of a jam, and with bases loaded Smith put the big swing on it. The ball was jumping tonight at the ballpark, big time. It almost played like the wind was blowing out. We got some balls up, hit them out of the park, took advantage of a lot of walks and different things too. I think when NC State pulled Johnston, they went with some guys that weren't as experienced when we got up 7-1, and I don't blame [Coach Avent]. Sometimes you just have to let it go and that's what they did."

RE: Patrick Wicklander's Performance

"I think he really pulled it together when he got out of that jam in the third inning. Maybe his confidence jumped, he got it together and gave us 3-4 more innings. He started working ahead of hitters, started flipping some curveballs up there, a couple of change-ups.... got some pop-ups, fly balls, some quicker innings. That first inning, he threw a lot of pitches and we're thinking, 'he's not going to be able to give us 3-4 innings, even if he turns it around because of his pitch count.' But he went out and had a couple of good innings, one for sure with less than 10 pitches."

RE: Heston Tole's Performance

"I thought he did a really nice job tonight. He came in and he did go full count on a couple hitters that he ended up striking out. He fell behind 2-0 but he got them. Other than that, he was ahead of the count, throwing strikes, threw his fastball knee-high away, 90-91 mph... sliders, a couple of changeups to lefties... it was good to see. We could have sent him back out in the ninth but we thought we might need him again, so we didn't want to run his count up too much."

RE: Arkansas' Historic Offensive Performance

"We've played so many tight games in the SEC tournament and also the regional, I mean it was different, it was nice to win one and know in the middle of the game that if we just held it together a little bit, we were going to win it. Because we've had some really tight ones, pins and needles basically. Gave us a chance to play a couple different guys and rest some guys for a few innings. It just wasn't expected, so that's what made it different."

RE: First 50-Win Season

"I hadn't really thought about it. 50 is a big number. We've won a lot of games. We still have work to do, we're not going to get all carried away about it. It'll probably be something we talk about when the season is over, but we gotta keep winning."

RE: Team Depth

"We just say, 'next man up.' We feel like we've got some good players over there waiting to play and like I said, the team likes each other a lot. They help each other out, they pull for each other. It's just what we've been doing all year, it didn't surprise me a bit. It was a good team effort."

ROBERT MOORE, Arkansas 2B

RE: Bats Being Quiet Before Tonight

"I don't know if the bats were kind of quiet if you look at our match-up against Nebraska, they had to bring in a lot of arms that matched up perfectly with our lineup because our lineup is so good and talented. We are taking a lot of walks and a lot of good at bats we have been getting the job done. We're not getting doubles, triples, and home runs like we used to, but I wouldn't say they're quiet."

RE: Team Depth

"Someone made a comment the first week of the year and we went down to Texas, and we won those three games with different lineup because (Matt) Goodheart was out and guys playing a little out of position. We do not necessarily have nine guys we have 12 or 13 we just don't have a 9-guy lineup which is credit to our coaching staff and getting everyone here and with developing these players and that have players that are dynamic that can be in multiple roles."

RE: Cullen Smith Grand Slam Changing The Game

"It was huge because it put it out of reach where they were going to throw their main left-handers out of the pin. Yes, they are saving them for tomorrow but it kind of guaranteed us a chance to win this game because they weren't going to throw those two left-handers."

PATRICK WICKLANDER, Arkansas LHP

RE: Mindset In The Fourth Inning With Bases Loaded

"My mindset was to get a punch out, to get him to bite on the fastball it was just a big-time pitch in a huge situation."

RE: Feelings On Outing Tonight

"Well, it was hot but in between innings have a fan and keep drinking water but as the game went on it started to cool down a little bit."

"Just figuring out what pitches were working and how to stand my legs a little bit better just trying to get back to myself in the middle was a huge momentum change for me."