



FAYETTEVILLE NCAA REGIONAL

June 4, 2021

Arkansas vs. NJIT

POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS 13, NJIT 8

DAVE VAN HORN, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening Statement

"That was a marathon. I give credit to our team for hanging in there. It was not going our way early, but on the other hand you have to give the other team credit. They were scrappy. They were hard to strike out and whenever we made a mistake, they hit it. (Caleb) Bolden opens the game, goes 0-2 with two nice fastballs away and is supposed to throw another pitch away and he throws it down the middle and he hits it into the bullpen and they're kind of going wild. I think it shook him a little bit. He never really had command and he went one and a third so we knew we were going to use some pitching today. Connor (Noland) came in and got through the inning, didn't get through the next one and we were off and running. We stayed out of that big inning against them. The first three innings they scored one in the first, second and third where they really could have punched in a couple more here and there and got a big lead on us with one of their better pitchers on the mound. Who knows how we would have responded, but we did a nice job of putting up two in the third and then blowing it open there with seven in the fourth. (Kevin) Kopps came in, did a tremendous job just throwing strikes, making them swing. That's what we wanted them to do so we could get another inning or two out of him. I think he ended up throwing 24, 25 pitches and I think he got us seven outs. Hated to take him out, but trying to win the tournament we're probably going to need him for the next game or two and just kept going with guys and it didn't go good with a couple of them. It's a good win, bottom-line this time of year, find a way to win and hopefully we'll do a little better tomorrow."

RE: Momentum

"We needed to slow them down, we needed to stop them then. They didn't need to score any more runs. At the time, we just felt like it's time to go. We kind of know what we're going to get from Ryan Costeiu. We're gonna get, every time, four outs maybe five and after that it gets all over the place. He drilled a guy and two on, I think at the time and we just felt like we can't let them keep scoring on us and then (Christian) Franklin came in and made a tremendous catch, he made a tremendous catch. Kevin (Kopps) gets ahead 0-2 and probably threw the worst pitch he's thrown in a long time. He left it up and in and he hammered it and Franklin helped us there making that catch to save at least two runs."

RE: Offense Response To Kevin Kopps

"Yes. We felt like if Kevin came in and slowed it down maybe our guys would relax a little bit and I guess you could say they relaxed. I think we scored seven runs, and scored two or three home runs that inning. Matt's right, whenever Kevin comes in it seems like we score. We did it again."

RE: NJIT Pitching

"The lefty came in and I felt like he was up and out. I think he walked the first hitter on four or five pitches and I think he was overthrowing a little bit from what he normally does and he tried to put some curveballs in there and some change ups and we were just sitting kind of slow. Even the fastball was 83, 84 and we hit them just enough and got a couple of balls out of there. As far as the starter, he's a pitcher. He's a good pitcher. He doesn't throw the ball around the plate much and he tries to work away to both hitters, left and right and he did a pretty good job with it. He got behind the count a little bit and that's where we got him. He had to come over the plate a little bit more and made a couple mistakes. If you think about Webb's two-run homer, he worked it to a full count and then he threw one I think was more on the inside and I don't know if he was trying to sneak it by him, but he hasn't pitched there much and Webb smoked it down the leftfield line and kept it inside the foul pole and got us right back in the game."

CAYDEN WALLACE, Arkansas 3B

RE: Christian Franklin's Impact

"I feel like it definitely changed the game cause our offense has been pretty good so far, we just had some bad luck. It kind of sent a spark and it just turned out our offense had a really good day and it doesn't necessarily look like it, but we had a really good day."

RE: Kevin Kopps Spark On The Offense

"We just know that he's not going to give up any runs and if he does we've got his back. We know he's going to give us his best every time so we are going to give him our best every time too. It just works out pretty well between us."

RE: Patience In The Offense

"They threw a lot of strikes and it took a little while for us to get going, but we ended up doing pretty well. We stuck to our approach that Coach Thompson and we did a really good job as an offense."

RE: Coming Back From The Deficit

"It's no big deal. Our offense can spark at any point, by anybody. If somebody doesn't get it done, the next guy will. That's how our lineup rolls. We're good from top to bottom."