



FAYETTEVILLE NCAA REGIONAL

June 5, 2021

Arkansas vs. Nebraska

POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS 5, NEBRASKA 1

Dave Van Horn, Arkansas Head Coach

Opening Statement

"I felt like we played really good defense, I think Patrick Wicklander had just enough. A little erratic the first couple innings, third and fourth is just seemed like he was throwing the ball a little bit better, throwing a changeup, a couple breaking balls. Nebraska did a great job at fouling off a lot of pitches, they got his pitch count up, but he contributed to that by getting behind in the count early but he fought back a lot. He really did a nice job, got us into starting the sixth and gave up a leadoff single. We went to Kevin [Kopps], he did a tremendous job as usual. We scored just enough runs, got a couple big hits and manufactured two runs in the sixth on a couple of really tough at-bats that turned into walks. Nebraska pitched really well tonight so I feel really fortunate that we scored five runs on them."

RE: Nebraska Approach To Kevin

"They did a pretty good job. The zone was jumping all around back there, neither pitcher knew where to throw so that was a little frustrating. I think it cost both pitchers a lot of pitches. We won't know who is going to throw next until we see who wins tomorrow."

RE: Arkansas Defense

"I thought Cayden Wallace did well, got an in-between hop and smothered it and we got the out. They ended up scoring a run that inning with a big two-out hit into left-center. Nesbit made a really nice play to end the game too. Plus, the grass is wet, we're playing late at night, it's tough for both teams. I thought Goodheart made a nice play in the first inning, we were just solid. Opitz had a great game behind the plate blocking balls, pitchers throw down there to him because they trust him."

RE: Number Of 3-2 Counts

"I thought both teams did a really nice job fouling pitches off and getting the pitch count up. That's what went on, there were a lot of pitches thrown tonight. We ended up drawing a lot of walks because of it."

PATRICK WICKLANDER, Arkansas LHP

RE: Overall Performance

"Tonight I was just kind of working it. Fastballs, breaking balls especially. The first few innings I kind of got my pitch count up, but a quick fourth really helped me get my pitch count back into better shape."

RE: Outing Tonight

"It's definitely a good outing, but I wouldn't consider it one of my better ones. There's definitely been better ones in the past, but something great to build off of right now."

RE: Having Kevin Kopps In The Bullpen

"Obviously no one wants a quick hook, but having Kevin be back in the bullpen makes things a little bit easier."

RE: Approach Towards Nebraska

"Just moving the ball up and down, in and out, mixing pitches whenever I could. They're a really good team, a big physical team. Just overall being able to move the ball around."

RE: Pitching In This Atmosphere

"It's incredible. Especially in front of a big crowd like we had here tonight. Especially against a good team. It's really something to build off, going into supers, bringing into tomorrow and the future."

MATT GOODHEART, Arkansas RF

RE: Home run In First Inning

"He gave me a fastball and that's usually the pitch a lot of us are trying to attack, especially early in the game. I saw it and decided that if I was going to hit it, I was going to have to hunt it off the ground and try and get under it. It's nice to jump out ahead, it's always nice to score runs regardless of the situation. It also goes to show that no matter what part of the game it is, no matter what the score is, I have confidence in my team, whether it's the pitching staff or the hitting."

RE: Offensive Approach As Leadoff Hitter

"I think there are parts of an approach that are constant, that are going to stay the same, throughout my career, no matter the pitcher. Then there's some that are pitcher to pitcher, that are going to change with every pitcher and a lot of the times, even pitch to pitch. I would say it's more dependent on the setting, if there are runners on, how many outs there are. Our approach as a team was to see it up, see it in the zone. The first guy was a sinker kind of guy, he liked to look down in the zone and he did a good job at it. We had to hunt it down, make him throw over the plate, make him throw it knee-high and when we did that, we were much more successful."

RE: Trending Upwards