

**#7 Louisville vs. Illinois State**  
**NCAA Baseball Championship – Louisville Regional**  
**Jim Patterson Stadium**  
**June 1, 2019**

(Opening Statement) ISU Head Coach Steve Holm: “Like we said yesterday, if you’re going to play a team like that, you’re going to have to play really, really well, especially defensively, which is what we did. You’re going to have to get a couple breaks. They hit some line drives right at people. We got some double plays when we really needed them. Came up with the big clutch hit by (sophomore infielder) Jeremy (Gaines). That’s basically all she wrote.”

(On his pitch selections) Matt Walker : “Just the fastball and the slider, and being able to throw strikes. As long as I throw strikes, I feel like I can get anybody out. So, I just have to do that.”

(On his complete game performance) Walker “It was something that I never really expected. I just let my adrenaline and the momentum that we had get me through the game.”

(On Walker’s pitch count) Holm: “I don’t know, but it was definitely more than we’re normally going. Normally, we’re around 105, and at that point, if I would’ve tried to take him, I would’ve gotten hit.”

(On choosing to remain in the game) Matt Walker: “I made sure that I initiated the conversation after every inning with a thumbs-up. *(follow-up about only needing thumbs up)* “Thumbs up are pretty good.”

(On having had previous pinch-hitting success) Gaines: “Yes, I have actually. But obviously, last weekend, I didn’t against Dallas Baptist. I haven’t pinch hit much on the year, but usually when I get my chance to go in the game, I take advantage of it and do what’s best for the team and try to get the job done.”

(On inserting a pinch-hitter in the sixth inning) Holm: “If you’re looking at their starter, he was throwing the ball extremely well, and we hadn’t made much contact. Obviously, (junior outfielder Joe) Aeilts got to that one fastball. We knew we had a couple guys who we had circled, who were going to be a good matchup about two, three innings into it when he got through the lineup one time. We had some matchups that were not going to be good for us. We had him circled as one of the guys, and you look at it right there as, ‘Well, this is the game.’ We knew the game was on the line at that point. They went out, they talked. They did not take him out. They came off and that’s when we burned our pinch-hitter, and he went it, and he hadn’t played much left field all season, so we were just hoping the ball didn’t get hit to him.”

(On how much notice he had before pinch hitting) Jeremy Gaines: It was pretty much go up there and go. I had about two minutes to get ready. He said, ‘hey, grab a bat’ and about 15 or 20 seconds later he said, alright, let’s go.

(On the feeling after hitting a double) Jeremy Gaines: “Oh man, I knew it was close. I was peeking and about halfway down the line, I was saying ‘get down, please get down’ and the ball got down and adrenalin took over from there. “

(On comparing this outing of Matt Walker's to others) Coach Holm: "He really commanded his fast ball. When he would get down 0-1 in the count automatically he would always go 1-1 virtually every time today. When games get away from Matt it is when he is not able to command the baseball. He has stuff. He has big league stuff and everybody knows that. He has a slider that he threw for 86 mph which is virtually unheard of from a left handed college pitcher. With that, when he is commanding that, it is really, really special.

(On this being Walker's best game) Coach Holm: "Oh without a doubt. He had shown some signs of this at certain points in the season and then again at certain spots when you don't throw strikes it makes for a quick exit at times. Going to back to the Illinois game, at Illinois, we had to go get him in the first inning. He has grown a lot as the season goes along and threw really, really well down the stretch for us. By far this is his best outing.

(On when Holm knew Walker was going to have a great game): "When he started giving me the thumbs up when he walked off. You know, he got through that sixth inning and he looked at me because they are not stupid, they can see people up in the bullpen. And he looked at me and gave me the thumbs up and virtually every inning until the end.