

Illinois State vs. Louisville
NCAA Louisville Regional | June 2, 2019
Illinois State Postgame Quotes

Head Coach Steve Holm

(Opening statement)

“Obviously, that wasn’t the way we drew it up, but we’ve done a good job this year as a team. We have taken a lump like that and responded the next day. So, you got to like where we’re at, you know, I think six months ago, if you would have asked these guys, if they would take this opportunity, I think they’d jump on it. Both teams are going to play for all the marbles tomorrow, and you’ve got to love where you’re at.”

(At what point does it become a matter of saving arms for tomorrow? From the beginning, or after you get behind a certain amount?)

“We were looking for Lindgren to get us through three, and kind of re-evaluate the situation and we would try to break that game up into three pieces: the first three, the middle three and the last three. If you look at it we had two hits, we got a bunt base hit to lead off the game, then we got a chopper, and I guess we ended up getting that third hit there on that fly ball that they lost. We had to make a decision there, we went with Harvey and he obviously gave us a chance, I think about four frames there where he threw up some zeroes and gave us a chance to come back in. We certainly knew that we were going to have to show some more life offensively to burn some of those other big boys that they haven’t used.”

(What was Luke Smith doing that was throwing off your hitters?)

“I thought he did a tremendous job of commanding three pitches for a strike. I thought we had a chance to get him, I think I was in the fourth inning, he threw a couple of balls, it was a 3-1 count and I do think it was a strike, but it was close pitch and he got it, made it 3-2 and then from there, it clicked for him. You really didn’t see him get squirrely after that. I think he did a tremendous job of regrouping, because we did have him on the ropes, he kind of had himself on the ropes and really regrouped well and that normally doesn’t happen to a college baseball player so that’s a testament to him.”

(Had you recruited him?)

“When I was at Purdue, I’d seen him, yeah. I certainly knew who he was. We did not go down that road with where we were at with our own scholarship situation, but I knew of him and I had seen him pitch before.”

(When you saw him, did you think he had stuff like this caliber?)

“I saw him at a junior college... I remember seeing him, I remember thinking, ‘starter in the Big Ten.’ What that means for Louisville, I don’t know the league well enough to pencil him in at that, but we circled him as a potential starter. When I saw him, I thought he was going to have to put on some weight, but obviously he threw 129 pitches so, he didn’t have to put on too much weight.”

(On the pitching plan for tomorrow)

“Anybody who’s got a pulse will be on the mound. It’ll be all hands on deck. We’ll break it up into three pieces again. We don’t expect to get a complete game tomorrow by anybody, so it’ll be a matchup game as we go. We’ve got lefties, we’ve got righties. We’ll just try to pick it apart.”

(Do you have a starter?)

“I imagine we will, but we don’t know who it is yet. I usually just sleep on it and when I wake up, I pick a guy out of a hat. We did the same thing in the conference tournament. We didn’t name a starter until the next day. They don’t know who starts, I just go ahead and text them in the morning.”

Illinois State Players

(On what they saw from Louisville pitcher Luke Smith)

John Rave, Junior, OF

"Luke threw a great game. He commanded three pitches really well. And he gave them a really good shot to win today. He had everything going for him and kind of kept us off balance. So, we tip our cap to him."

(Had they seen Louisville's pitcher anywhere else before)

John Rave, Junior, CF

"Yeah, I knew of him. I faced a couple times in summer ball. Both starting pitchers today were both from Champaign, Illinois. We were aware that, but yeah, just once or twice in the past."

(On the team's approach for tomorrow)

Joe Butler, Junior, 3B

"We're just ready to go. We always have been. We love this opportunity. We love who we got on the mound tomorrow. And a couple of extra arms in the pen. We've got a lot of confidence in our guys at the plate and in the pen. We're really looking forward to the chance to play tomorrow and go for it all."