

Louisville vs. Illinois State
NCAA Baseball Louisville Regional
Jim Patterson Stadium | June 1, 2019

Louisville Head Coach Dan McDonnell

“Obviously, congratulations Illinois State, those guys deserved to win. The guy pitched his tail off, a complete game. They made a few more things happen that we did, so it’s part of it. It’s this time of year where you’re playing good opponents. So we’ve got to play a little bit better and maybe catch a break or two. But the good news is our season is not over. So let’s not act like this is a morgue here, alright? Just throwing that warning out there. We still got life. We’re still gonna be ready to play good baseball tomorrow. So if you’re professional, if you’re tough, you move on – that’s what you do. So we’ll move on tomorrow.

(On the sixth inning) “From the dug-out it just looks like a double play ball where it comes out the bat. I coach the infielders so I always feel accountable. And then you think okay am I teaching that flip to the perfect spot? Lavey’s done a great job, not going to say he made a bad a flip I’m sure there was a combination. The flip was probably a little deep and Fitz had momentum going that way so, obviously we can make that play and maybe there would have been a different outcome. At the end of the day, we still have to do more offensively. Reid pitch flow enough to win. Looking at it now, three hits and 11 strikeouts and I know if we score eight run then everybody’s acting like we pitched great. We just gave up more than we scored. Fortunately, we have tomorrow.

(What do you want to see with the team’s approach tomorrow) “Just not to press. This is a crazy game, sometimes you could want it too bad, too much, try too hard. Have that balance of confidence, looseness, and freedom in your swing. Once we hit into a couple line drive double plays. Jake’s ball looked like it was hit good. That ball gets hit to the corner and we probably score a run with the tying run on second maybe third. But like Fitzgerald said sometimes all it takes is one guy to get it going and that belief, if you see one guy doing it you think I can do it. Like Fitz said, it’s contagious.”

(On tomorrow’s matchup with Indiana) “Yeah it’s a fun one for the fans, and they’ve got a really good team. It really doesn’t matter at what point you’re playing them this is the regionals. Until you lose twice, you’re alive. You’ve got two good teams who play tomorrow and we don’t want to feel sorry for ourselves. Let’s give credit to Illinois State and let’s come out and play baseball again tomorrow.”

(On Illinois State’s Matt Walker) “The slider, cutter, the ball that was mid 80s seemed to give us trouble in the ACC Tournament as well. You saw we those two lefties, that could really pitch. He didn’t throw a ton of fast balls but just enough to sneak it in there. But our hitters had a really tough time, our charter had a tough time. Each hitter would come back and say something a little different - it’s a cutter, it’s a slider, it’s just taking something off the fast ball. I think the key was when he walked two guys and I don’t think he hit anybody, so we had our chance that bases loaded inning. Great bunt - Dunn works that at bat, and Jake has the great punt, we’ve got the bases loaded, nobody out 3,4,5 – and we come away with one there and two. Obviously we wish we could’ve gotten up on the gap but this is not slow pitch softball so it’s not as easy as you want it to be.”

(On consistency at the plate) “Not worried, you’ve got to get the lead-off guy on. Our strength, our offense, with the pressure we put on you – stealing bases, bunt for hit or the hit and run, I think the few innings we got a guy on- at least early in the inning we put some pressure on, it’s just easier to pitch out

of the wind up and tip our hats off to him. He didn't let us get on early, he forced you to hit."

#2 Tyler Fitzgerald, Jr., INF

(Tyler, how do you guys move on after a game like that) "You know, adversity sometimes this season is going to happen, weather its earlier or late. Obviously it's happened right now. But we talk a lot in this program about toughness, and you know we're going to turn the page on this one and we're going to come back tomorrow and fight, play our butts off, and we're going to have some fun tomorrow. So, we'll be back."

(Your thoughts on Walker and his performance and how he was keeping you guys off balance?)

"Yeah, he had command of all his pitches. He was throwing them all for strikes, he was changing up speeds on us, his ball had a lot of movement today. He's a good pitcher and I tip my cap to him. Could never really get the bats going, and like I said, that's contagious, so hopefully tomorrow we can get 'em going and keep it rolling."

(Tyler, what's it gonna take for you guys to get those rolling and get some runs across?) "Yeah, someone's gotta step up. Being a captain, I take a lot of responsibility for what's going on and when i'm in the three hole. I need to do a better job of bringing guys in, getting on base. So, it's going have to start with me at the top of the lineup tomorrow to get things going and hopefully we can keep going form there."

(On his spin move) "Yeah, my momentum kind of 360'd with the flip. Wasn't a terrible flip, but I kind of had to do the spin move in order to get a strong throw, so it's just part of it."

#42 Reid Detmers, So., P

(Talk about your performance today and maybe those two that you kinda gave them.)

"Yeah, I mean, I missed my spots on both pitches. I got real ice on it. But at the end of the day, three walks and hit by pitch and four runs is unacceptable at this time of the year."