

UIC vs. Louisville

NCAA Louisville Regional | May 31, 2019

UIC Postgame Quotes

(Mike Dee Opening Statement) “I was pretty proud of our kids tonight. I thought they handled the environment really well. We got beat, we’re obviously a very good club but we didn’t get beat because we couldn’t handle the pressure, we weren’t nervous. I thought once we had Figueroa go out of the game and we had to play all sorts of games in the line-up – I thought our guys handled it very well. They’re a very good team.

(On jumping on starter then settling down in the second inning, what did you see from Bennett?)

Derrick Patrick: Basically, there were fast balls early on, especially first at bat. Then I saw a lot of curve balls after that, that’s pretty much the only difference I saw out of him.

(What was the emotion in those first couple of innings with long balls)

Derrick Patrick: “Obviously we were pretty excited, especially leading off the game with it. I was happy to see all the guys jumping around, hollering and stuff. I was excited, that pumped me up. Then Figueroa hit one and I was like “Wow, we have a chance here, we’re here” and it was a good time, a good feeling.

Jacob Key: “Obviously, jumping out with a lead when you come out, first game of the regional like this, both teams kind of feel the imbalance like it could go either way. Nerves are wracking. So to be able to get out with a lead and have the whole team kind of settle in, relax a little is definitely a big moment.”

(On Michael McAvene in the ninth)

Derrick Patrick: “He threw some heavy fast balls and threw it over, too. We don’t see much like that in the Horizon League, but it was good pitching, really. I just got out there and did the best I could.

Coach Mike Dee

(Can you walk us through what happened with Joshua’s concussion?) “Well, he’s being evaluated. They haven’t called it a concussion, so he came out for further evaluation. His symptoms were better towards the end of the game. But I have no way of knowing whether he’s going to be available to play tomorrow or if they’re going to have to evaluate him again.”

(Was it Dee’s call to take him out?)

“It was the trainer’s decision.”

(How do you rebound so quickly after what was a great game to then focus on Indiana?) “I don’t really worry about that with our kids. Our kids are pretty resilient. We went into the game, our goal was, if we get beat, let’s not get beat because we were nervous and we screwed it up that way. I think those guys feel pretty good about themselves. The last inning, that guy comes in... I have to explain to Derrick, there aren’t very many people in the world who can throw 100 miles an hour in the ninth inning. That’s asking a lot even for big leaguers. So, that kid came in and shut the door on it. But I was really proud of their effort, I think they feel good about it. I think we’ll go back and eat and be ready to go tomorrow. I would be very surprised if that weren’t the case.”

(About having Bennett at 3-0 with best hitter up and then he retires 12 in a row) “I’m telling you, this is the stupidest way in the world to make a living -- especially baseball. You just don’t know. Guy’s one of the best players in the country and the difference between a line drive in the gap and a ground ball into second base is a quarter of an inch. I felt really good about our chances at that point but, even when it’s Scotty or it’s Ryan you’re still talking about... you’ve got a 60 percent chance you’re gonna fail. So, I give the kid credit. He did settle down, and he got them some innings. That was very important for them. But again, I really was very proud of our effort tonight.”

(On handling a 100 mph fastball) “You know, you haven’t seen that. I’ve played professional baseball and you have to experience that to be able to handle it. And your hope is that he comes in, and he’s a little bit wild, then gets a little bit tentative, and now instead of 100, maybe it’s 95 or 96, and that’s something that we do see and we can handle it. But the adrenaline was pumping for him tonight, and he was throwing them over the plate and... I don’t think there’s a lot of teams in the country that are gonna do something different than what we did against him. That’s special stuff. That’s really special.”

(Up 3-0, you give up three runs in the second, can you talk about how you thought Jacob Key responded to that?)

“I was disappointed that Jacob uncharacteristically was getting behind the count. That’s just not something he does very much. And for him to be effective, he’s got to have guys that are almost overly anxious to swing the bat. If we could’ve just given them one run in that inning, I think we might’ve had a different outcome. But I can’t fault Jake. He’s done a good job for us all year. You can’t ask guys at this level and at this age to be perfect. They don’t make a million dollars a year. That’s just part of the game.”

