

UIC vs. Indiana

NCAA Louisville Regional | June 1, 2019

UIC Postgame Quotes

Head Coach Mike Dee

(Opening Statement)

"We're obviously disappointed in the outcome. But I was really proud of our kids – that was pretty quick turnaround from that game yesterday. I thought our energy level was really good from the beginning of the game and throughout. Like I said last night, we got beat because we didn't execute, but we didn't get beat because we were nervous or afraid and that's a win for us, that's a really big. We just didn't execute. Indiana is a very good club as all the teams are in this thing. Two or three pitches executed a little bit different and it's a completely different outcome."

(On comparing Indiana and Louisville)

"They're different. Each game is different. Each team is different. And when you're unfamiliar with a team...you can get scouting reports, as we all do. Then you have to take that information and you've got to look at your players and say, 'What can these guys do to try and take advantage of this deficiency or whatever.' I thought we did a better job yesterday on the mound. I thought we could exploit Indiana a little bit more today than we did in terms of striking them out. They usually do strike out a lot. That's one of the reasons why I took (senior starting pitcher) Joe (Fredrickson) out was because his breaking ball and his change-up weren't where they needed to be. I'm just glad we didn't have to face someone throwing 100 miles per hour like we did last night."

(On relief performance of Sam Menegat)

"We knew we wanted to stay left-handed until we got to (senior pitcher Alex) Padilla because I knew Padilla could do a good job for us. The fact that we had to go so early to him kind of exposed us a little bit there, and I was really hoping we could get through that inning and then bring in the freshman, who came in and did a pretty good job for us. And then leave it in the hands of Alex. It worked great except we hung a breaking ball in the middle of the plate. The guy hit it out, and that's the game. That's part of the game. That's the frustration of it. It's just a crazy sport, a really crazy sport."

(On their approach against Andrew Saalfrank)

"It goes back to the character of our team. I thought we were really relaxed. When you're relaxed, you see the ball differently. You don't try to do something that you're not capable of and I thought they were terrific that in the beginning. He got behind in the count at times and that's a little bit predictable. It's kind of an interesting deal, two of the coaches, [Jeff] Mercer is a really good friend of mine from when he was at Wright State. I coached against Justin Parker... so I kind of know what those two guys are going to be trying to do. When you're relaxed, the game is a lot easier and I thought that's really what it was. If they could keep laying off that pitch, force him to bring it up into the zone and he did too. We had some really good at bats. He's a good pitcher and I thought he responded well after we put those runs up and he settled in. That was a big key for them that they got the innings out of him today. Again, I'm proud of us getting that guy out of the game – the Big Ten Pitcher of the Year. That's doing a pretty good job."

(On Josh Figueroa's performance)

"Josh is a great kid, but he doesn't communicate particularly well. So this whole thing yesterday was difficult for our training staff and the medical staff, because he wasn't communicating very well, so he scared everybody and we got to the park today, he went through extensive exercise and stuff out there. He seemed to be fine. We had the doctor here involved in it, we also had our doctor back in Chicago involved in it. At the end of the day, I put him at the DH spot because I was a little bit unsure... he was never diagnosed as being concussed, but I was concerned. If he caught, and he caught a ball off his facemask or just exertion of doing that, then I might get myself in the same jam that I was in last night where I've got to decide do I hit the pitcher or do I take the pitcher out and pinch hit for him. So we just felt the safest thing for him to do was to DH. We have a lot of confidence in Ryan Hampe and Josh did a nice job at the plate. He fell down twice running and I was afraid he got a concussion falling down around second base one time. He did a nice job for us today."

UIC Player Quotes

Joshua Figueroa, Sophomore, DH/C

(On his injury Friday evening against Louisville)

"I'm fine. They didn't diagnose me with anything. I feel better. Just glad I was able to play."

Scott Ota, Senior, OF

(On his first inning home run and single-season home run record)

"Gave it the best we did and didn't get the opportunity to move on."

(On the pitch he homered)

"Fastball away."