

Norman Regional Postgame Quotes
Tulsa 5, Arkansas 4
May 19, 2017

Tulsa Head Coach John Bargfeldt

Opening statement:

“The first thought that comes to my mind is that a win is a win. It probably wasn’t what anyone was expecting with the quality of pitchers that were out there. Hitters did a good job, made good adjustments. Pitchers usually make mistakes during the game and a lot of times you can minimize those mistakes, depending on the situation that you are in. I’m proud of Emily (Watson) because when things don’t go her way, and things have been going her way a lot, you could see that she was stoic out there. She was calm, cool and collected. She just knew that she had to continue to do her job, and the offense got a chance to pick her up for one time. And they did a great job of it.”

On if he knew it was a home run when it left Haley’s (Meinen) bat:

“I did; I thought it was gone. The wind was blowing so hard that you knew. That was my concern after we took the lead in the sixth, somebody just had to hit a routine, fairly deep fly ball, and it was going to go out.”

On what he can do as a head coach with the delays:

“It’s really tough. The biggest thing was, and maybe that’s why the pitchers got off to such rough starts, their routine was completely disrupted. As you see, they give up three runs and two runs in the second inning. Then they settled down a little bit. That’s hard to deal with because the players are not doing what they usually do to get focused for a game. Then all of a sudden, they say they we’re going to play in 30 minutes, and they have to get warmed up and go. It’s something I haven’t experienced, even as a coach, because usually in conference, we’re not in a rush to try to get on the field and get it going like we were in this Regional.”

Tulsa Designated Player Haley Meinin

On her walk-off home run:

“I just knew that I had seen her a couple of times already, and I just knew that I was going to get something out. I put a good swing on it and it went.”

On what the moment was like for her:

“I don’t really know it’s over until I hear everybody yelling. I’ve never run the bases so fast in my entire life. I was just hoping that it would land and I would get on base for the next person. It landed outside, so there was no next person.”

On being able to play close to home:

“It’s pretty great. My parents, my aunt, my sister are here. My sister painted her hair blue. My dog was painted blue. It’s really great to be able to do that (hit a home run) in front of my family. We don’t have to fly and deal with time changes, so it’s nice.”

Tulsa Pitcher Emily Watson

On how the strategy of the game changed with the weather:

"I was just trying to keep the ball dry and my hand dry. I don't know if you could tell, I had to have my glove down so that the rain wouldn't get on it. Rain still gets on the ball whenever it goes through the air, so I would have to wipe it off. I tried to do the best I could."

On how her shin is feeling:

"It has got a bruise. It will be fine. I just have to ice it."

On what she told herself when Arkansas had the big second inning:

"Just keep moving forward. Don't think about the past, and just get the next one."

On if that is something she's had to learn over time:

"You just learn to bounce back from those things, especially home runs. I just have to shake it off and get the next one."

Arkansas Head Coach Courtney Deifel

On her thoughts about the game:

"Well that's a postseason game for you. It's a battle and both teams kept throwing punches and, unfortunately, they got the last punch. I liked how our team fought throughout the game but I felt like we had a few innings where we gave up too much and they capitalized on our mistakes. They did what Tulsa does, and they put pressure on our defense and they scored some big runs that way. Congratulations to Tulsa because they earned that win. Now we'll work our way through the loser's bracket."

On how she kept her team poised during the inclement weather:

"When we set out today this is what we were expecting. More than anything it was just making sure they knew we were in for a long day and to make the most of it. We really like hanging out with each other and that got us through. Fortunately, we got to play the whole game out but it's just the mindset they had early we can't control it and it's just how we look at it."

On how she felt about the team's hitting:

"I was really happy with how we hit (Emily) Watson. I don't think she was as sharp today and so it was a good combination of those two things. I really liked our approach today and I think we had some innings where we didn't keep the pressure up. The girls had a good understanding of the zone and the pitches they wanted to attack. They put some really good swings on pitches today."

On the team's resiliency going forward:

"Now that's really going to be tested. I think we've been tested quite a bit throughout our conference schedule. We consistently took our hits Friday night and came out ready to battle Saturday. They know what's at stake, and they know

they're going to have to show up big time from the first pitch against whoever we play to the last pitch of the day. They've played with a lot of heart all year and that's what I'm expecting to see tomorrow."

Arkansas Outfielder Autumn Russell

On her third-inning hit:

"I was just looking for a pitch in the zone and I was ready to put a hard swing on it. My teammates gave me the confidence to do that, and Nicole Schroeder took the pressure off early getting the lead. Kudos to my teammates for putting me in that position."

On having to play through the weather:

"On defense I was really trying to keep my hand dry by keeping it in my glove until the last second possible. Up to bat I wouldn't say there was many adjustments. I know as a team we were working on trying to hit more groundballs to put more pressure on the defense but that was it."

On her thoughts of the back and forth seventh inning:

"That one pitch didn't lose us the game; we had opportunities before that to score runs and we didn't capitalize on it and sometimes it just doesn't go your way. We had every opportunity to separate ourselves in that game and we didn't do it so we got to do better next game."

Arkansas Infielder Katie Warrick

On her game-tying home run in the seventh-inning:

"I was just trying to make an adjustment from my previous at-bats. Trying to get on top of the ball more and find something in my zone. I wasn't really looking where the ball was going but just to make good contact."

On her thoughts of the back and forth seventh inning:

"We were just really excited for each other. We were trying to pass the bat and battle through it. Sometimes you just don't win but we were just really confident in each other when we were up to bat."