



2017 Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championship

**WVU POSTGAME QUOTES - Game 1
Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark: May 24, 2017**

No. 4 WVU 11, No. 5 Baylor 1 (8 inn.)

WVU Head Coach Randy Mazey

Opening statement...

“Wow. I think that’s all I can say about that one. Who knew? You’re getting ready to find out that Isaiah Kearns does not give you the impression that he’s a morning guy but apparently he is because that’s as good a pitching performance as the Mountaineers have had this entire season. To go out and do what he did today and coming off a short week, it enabled us to get through the first game without using any of the bullpen and turn around our weekend starters. It’s just unbelievable what he did today and kudos to him. He pitched really good in the last outing against Pitt. He threw a shutout that day in our last midweek game. It was really good to see Jimmy here swing the bat well because he played really well here last year in the conference tournament. He got a lot of hits for us and he always plays great defense. They don’t let me write a script for this thing, that’s what you guys do but if I had to write one, man this is the one I would have written today.”

On this performance compared to last year’s...

“ I don’t know if you guys remember last year but, we lost Michael Grove in the first inning of the first game and Chad Donato in the first inning of the second game. Relievers had to step up and win those two games for us. So yeah this is the exact opposite. We lost a lot of pitchers this season and I’ll bet we lost 200 innings worth of pitching to injury this year. So we asked some guys to step up and fill their spots and they saved our season, they really have. Guys like Kearns, Ryan McDonald, Sam Kessler, guys you’re going to see the rest of this week. But who could ask for anything better than Kearns today.”

On the key for Isaiah’s performance...

“You know we went for a period here with Kearns where he wasn’t feeling good. He had a pulled muscle and missed a couple starts. He had to rest. He had to miss some time and came back not only healthy but I think that rest really helped him. Sometimes you don’t know what’s going through Kearns’ mind over here. After his last game against Pitt he told Coach Matlock that he, Isaiah, can pitch up and down. That’s not anything...that’s west coast pitching up in the zone. We don’t do much of that. Kearns took that upon himself to command the zone up and down instead of side to side.”

Isaiah Kearns, Fr., RHP/INF

On the game plan today...

“The game plan was not to let them hit the ball but, sometimes it happens and fly ball outs are outs so we’ll take them.”

On his mindset today...

“Command the zone, throw strikes and get ahead in counts. I didn’t do that the whole game but, I worked through it and battled it out.”

Jimmy Glausky, RSo., INF

On their early seven runs...

“I think not only for the rest of the game but I think the rest of the tournament kind of start off on the right foot. Gives us some confidence going into tomorrow.”



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BAYLOR POSTGAME QUOTES - Game 1 Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark: May 24, 2017

No. 4 West Virginia 11, No. 5 Baylor 1 (8 inn.)

Baylor Head Coach Steve Rodriguez

On why they couldn't get their offense going...

"I think (Isaiah) Kearns did a really good job getting ahead of hitters. He pitched in the zone where the wind was blowing in. I thought he did a pretty good job of elevating his fastball and our guys were swinging at it. We were trying to make some adjustments later, but I just kept telling our guys – we got to make sure we keep pushing the ball down in our zone; offensively, to make sure we get some line drives. We just weren't able to make that adjustment. He did a good job of bearing some sliders and elevating a fastball right about your waist and have our guys swing. I thought we laid some pretty good swings on some baseballs, but just wasn't able to get line drives and base hits when we needed to."

On trying to rattle Isaiah Kearns' confidence as a freshman...

"I think at the end of the year, freshmen and seniors, it's all completely irrelevant. They've gone through the year. I give freshmen a couple weeks once the season starts to be a freshman but after that you're a baseball player. I think he did a really good job. He pitched well. He threw strikes. He let the defense play for him. We just weren't able to put the pressure on him on the bases like we wanted to."

On pitcher Nick Lewis' start...

"His command was not very good. It was pretty simple. You give up one run in the first inning, and you have nobody on. We were able to pick up a guy. We got two outs. You hit a guy and walk a guy. We were missing spots and getting balls in the dirt or getting behind hitters and offensive counts. They did a good job of hitting ground balls, line drives and constantly putting the pressure on. Unfortunately, that was the thing. That one bad inning was just kind of hard to recover from."