

STANFORD ATHLETICS



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Pepperdine vs. Arkansas

Game No. 1 - Quotes

Friday, May 30, 2008

Stanford Regional

Stanford, Calif.

Arkansas Head Coach Dave Van Horn

(Opening statement) "You've got to give credit to Pepperdine. I thought they played excellent defense, made all the routine plays, pitched well, threw a lot of strikes. Their starting pitcher has a very good out-type pitch, downer, split-finger pitch and we didn't handle it very well. The few times that we had an opportunity to drive in a run from third off him with less than two, we didn't get it done, and that kind of stings when you lose by a run. Really, there's not much to say about us. I think they just played better than us."

(On the game's ending) "It's just a disappointing way to end the ninth inning. Again, give credit to their pitching but I didn't think we swung the bats very well. Again, we had our opportunities. We had our opportunities to build on a lead and we didn't. Even though it might have been one run here, one run there, we just didn't take advantage of it. We can look back and pat ourselves on the back and say 'boy, if he hadn't have caught that ball, we would have had two runs and have a lead going into the bottom of the ninth' but you know what? We should have scored more runs."

(On the last at bat) "He did a good job putting the bat on that last pitch. It was a pretty good pitch and he kind of hit it off the end of the bat. When he first hit it, I thought it was an out and then realized that the center fielder was running hard and the wind was kind of pushing it away from him. The top of the ball had a little over-spin on it and I thought for a split second there the ball might drop. It was one of those dives where he wasn't extended as far as he could go but he had to dive to make the play. The question was did he hold onto it and he did."

(On defense) "We felt like it was going to come down to defense, and we kept telling our guys, to win in this tournament, you're going to have to hit. We didn't do that, we left two runners at third base with less than two outs. That was the killer. We didn't score in the first inning, three hole hitter up, runner on third, one out and then we had the six hole hitter up with a runner on third and he took strike three on a pitch that was kind of a hanger. He was throwing some good split-fingers, but that one wasn't. Those were the two at bats that really hurt us the most."

(On having their backs against the wall) "We have nothing to lose, and we have to get it done. It's tough to even talk about the game to the players after the way it finished but really the main thing we got out of our little meeting was that we got to get out and play better tomorrow, whoever we play. The only thing we know is we play the first game. We've got to hit and just play better baseball. I figured we'd be a little bit rusty for not playing live competition for two weeks, but I thought we'd snap out of it. We never really put together an inning, but credit them. We got three one-run innings and we needed two and three run innings to win that game."

(On Stanford and UC Davis) "I've commented a couple of times that Davis might be the best four-seed in the country and Stanford is just solid. When you look at their lineup, they've got a lot of right and left-handed hitters. They can platoon and looks like they do a little bit and they hit the ball out of the park. Whoever, it's going to be a tough road for us."

Chase Leavitt

(On watching the last play from third base) "It was kind of hard not to watch and see if it was going to fall or not. If it did it's a pretty easy trot in from third to score, so I did watch it a little bit and it was disappointing to see him come up with that catch. It's real frustrating because you want to win real bad and we're battling the whole game and to see them come up with that great catch, you just have to tip your cap a little bit to the center fielder who stayed on that ball there. If he doesn't catch it, I score and maybe Logan scores and we're rolling with a couple more runs."

(On being in a tough spot) "As a baseball team, we're never going to give up. We're going to battle day in and day out. That just goes to show what kind of team we got, what kind of program and what kind of coaching. Unfortunately, like coach said, we just couldn't put together that big inning and get two or three more runs and that's what we needed really bad."

Cliff Springston

(On the Pepperdine hitters) "You've got to give the credit to Pepperdine. They kind of took away my fastball early in the game and made me use a lot of my off-speed pitches. They did a great job of capitalizing when I made a mistake. If I got two strikes on them, they did a good job of fighting pitches off and they didn't chase very much, and they just put together good at bats."