

Head Coach Dan Heefner Begins with opening Statement

Head Coach: “Virginia Commonwealth is a solid team and played really well down the stretch, and we definitely saw that today. In the postseason and really anytime in baseball the team that plays better wins, and they played better than we did today. I give them a lot of credit and their starting pitcher did a great job.” (Opening Statement)

“Joseph did a good job too, and I thought he had good stuff and gave us a good start. The inning where he gave up five started off with a couple hits not squared up real good and hit a batter, and things kind of snowballed from there.” (Regards to Shaw’s outing)

“Looking forward to the opportunity bouncing back right away and I just like the character of our guys and feel good they will come out and play well tomorrow.” (Closing opening statement)

Coach: Is there any kind of distraction with hosting for the first time in school history? Did that have any effect today?

“It was something we were trying to guard against this week, but you cannot shelter it completely. There is more attention and I believe the guys really wanted to perform well to kind of just validate that they deserve to have this and everything. However, I did not see anything in the game that demonstrated nervousness. We just did not make the adjustments on the slower lefty and with the approach and our timing.”

Talk about validating with tomorrow’s contest against Texas. How do guys think you will handle tomorrow’s situation?

David- “I feel like we play a lot of big name schools, some come here and a lot of times at their place. Honestly it is just another game; yes it is the University of Texas, but we are going to come out and play baseball and do everything in our power to win.”

Virginia Commonwealth Head Coach – Shawn Stiffler

Opening Statement

“It was a great job by our guys tonight. I’m super excited for VCU tonight. I thought our guys did especially good with two strikes. Once the middle of the game came around, I thought we did a good job of making them command the breaking ball a little bit more and that allowed us to string some good AB’s together and find some holes. On the mound, JoJo kept them off-balance and they were unable to string together that big inning and that was really the difference in the game. I loved the way we came out and competed and acted like we certainly belong here.”

What has made JoJo so effective in this recent stretch?

“I’m not so sure JoJo’s done a whole lot different than what he was doing early in the year. I really like how he’s attacking the inner half of the plate more with his fastball, which is opening up the outer half of the plate for him. JoJo competes and really gives you the same effort no matter who it is or where it is.”

Redshirt Freshman DH - Brett Hileman

What turned this season around for this team?

“I felt like after we lost the second game to St. Louis there was a lot of doubt on our team and we just wanted to get out of there. We wanted to get home and restart and that’s really what we did. We got back on the plane, flew home, and we sat down as a group and looked each other in the eyes and said we got to do this. We have to win four out of our next six to even get out of the conference tournament and we knew what we had to do. We grinded through practice and games and we’re right now in the postseason.”

Senior Left-Handed Pitcher – JoJo Johnson

Do you feel like you were able to take away their aggressiveness at the plate tonight with your change-up?

“I think I was able to get them out on their front foot early and get some outs early on against them, but they definitely settled in and starting taking good swings against me. They made me make good pitches. If I didn’t make a good pitch, they hit it. They forced me to be good and if I wasn’t good, they were going to hurt me.”

How good did you feel your change-up was tonight?

“It was okay tonight. There were a couple of times that I pushed it and didn’t throw it that well. I threw a few good ones, but there were about three that I would really like back. I think I softened them and didn’t thrown them with enough intent and it could have been a little better today, but I’ll work on that and it will be better next time out.”