

## **VCU POSTGAME**

### **OPENING STATEMENT (Shawn Stiffler)**

“A nice job by Dallas Baptist who obviously are playing really well right now and have been playing hot the last two days. Obviously Brandon Koch lived up to the hype and the billing; he demonstrated outstanding command for coming in there and throwing four and two-thirds innings. We just didn’t have many opportunities today and the opportunities we did, we squandered early. We walked a lot of guys, we were behind in the count all day, which really took away from the flow of the baseball game and kind of deflated our offense. We could never have that quick inning where you know if we got the momentum back on our side. Dallas Baptist did a great job of getting runners on even with two outs, so we never got the momentum back and just is tough to win that way.”

### **WERE YOU SURPRISED TO SEE DBU’S CLOSER THAT EARLY?**

Coach Stiffler – “No you are never surprised; we finished with an outfielder playing first base. So you are never surprised in elimination games, and you know games to move on to Super Regionals, on what you are going to see. You have to have your best guys and having an opportunity to have your best players to win games for you. So I am not surprised, and honestly kind of was glad to see him that early, because got some pitches on his arm.”

### **HOW IS THE STATE OF THE PITCHING STAFF IN THE FINAL GAME?**

Coach Stiffler – “We are ok, Sean Thompson has pretty much been our third started the past couple weeks and will start for us. Everybody is all hands on deck, I mean it has the chance to be the game that advances you into Supers or has the chance to be your last game of your career. Our bullpen is full of seniors, so they’re going to take the ball no matter what, and I am sure their guys will too.”

### **MATT BLANCHARD ON HIS OUTING.**

Matt Blanchard – “You know I just didn’t feel good all day, and any pitcher that doesn’t feel good, you know you are going to have to battle through things. I was able to get a couple of quick outs in an inning or two, but just led to walks and hits, so just wasn’t one hundred percent . Again, I didn’t feel well from the beginning, but you just have to battle through that and any pitcher has those days. It was tough that mine came today.”

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### **OPENING STATEMENT FROM COACH HEEFNER**

“It was just a great game I thought, well played on both sides and well-pitched. Dalton gave us a good start and made an adjustment after he lost the zone a little bit. Brandon came in the fifth and that is what Brandon has been like all year for us. He has never gone that long, but he has

been that dominating. So that was huge for this tournament, huge for our season, and huge for our program. I thought we gave good at-bats going all day long, and just didn't get a timely hit. I think there were four or five innings we had runners in scoring position with two outs and didn't get that hit. So offensively I think they have a good approach, and like their mindset right now. We are just looking forward to playing another game."

**ON USING KOCH THAT EARLY IN THE BALLGAME AND THROWING THE MOST HE HAS EVER PITCHED? (HEEFNER)**

"He is a competitor, you see what he looks like, he is really strong, well-trained, and rested. I didn't feel for one second and neither did our pitching coach, Wes Johnson, that we were putting him (Koch) at risk doing that. In a game situation like this and your season is on the line, you want your best guy out there. He delivered for us."

**HIGGINS ON HIS EMOTIONS THROWING IN A GAME LIKE THIS, AND WHAT IS THE FEELING LATER IN THE DUGOUT WATCHING?**

"It is always fun to go out and watch Brandon, he is nails for us is just going to go out there and compete. So what he did today was phenomenal, and it was real fun to watch and great to be in the dugout cheering and able to witness it all."

"The thing coach Heefner has emphasized all season is mental toughness and that was huge for me today. We have gone through that training and just had to go out and be mentally tough."