

**Southeast Missouri Head Coach Andy Sawyers**

"I thought we were pretty good job in terms of our preparation. We thought Garrett (Schmeltz) threw more of a horizontal breaking ball. He would throw that thing, basically behind left hand hitters and move it back on the plate. And we tried to, you know, encourage our guys to swing at the ball that started out off the plate and God bless it, you know, we couldn't do it.

We couldn't pull the trigger on that pitch. And I thought he just did a really nice job executing pitches. I mean, you look up and it's nine innings only five hits, but I don't feel like we played poorly.

I thought he did a really nice job of executing, especially that breaking ball to start off the plate. I thought it was a pretty good game probably for the first six seven innings you know, Jason Rackers gave us a good start. I didn't let him go super deep. He made his last appearance of the year last week in our conference tournament. He threw 122 pitches and 9 2/3 to get us here and then you know with being short night rest coming back to the Friday game. I didn't really anticipate him going much longer than five or six innings and had to go get him in the fifth. He was good to kept us in the game. We scored two runs at the top of it and got a lead and we just were not able to extend that and push them back really once they start scoring there in the middle innings.

**On the Levi Usher hit and the three balks**

It's hard to say, we didn't really answer back offensively so don't know how much that affected the win or loss. I felt like Jason (Rackers) was actually pretty good at that time. Jason is a guy that might have our best composure of anybody on the mound and hasn't balked all year. And so those you know, the three balks were certainly out of character and very unexpected, all three different things. It's an NCAA tournament, everybody's evaluators here and we get balks all over the place that I was a little bit surprised at but we had an e-pitch on the first one. They said he rolled through usually they're not like the roll through guys roll through all the time. Usually if you're not using it to gain advantage on the running game, the runner was it second and nobody was trying to run. I wasn't expecting those to get called right there. The third one was obviously a balk. Those did seem like it kind of sucked the winds out of our sails a little bit and kind of helped help them tack on a few more runs. There's not a game that has been played that any team plays a perfect game. We set a school record for come from behind wins this year. We had 26 come from behind wins. We're certainly used to dealing with adversity. Our guys played amazing in the conference tournament and a ton of things that didn't go our way. That in itself, you know, certainly wasn't a great ending. But for me to say that that really was the backbreaker. I don't think that's the case. That's something that we should be able to come back from because the first game of a double elimination tournament sets the tone for the rest of the tournament, usually, but the good thing is it's double elimination. You still get to play. Yeah, I didn't think we played a bad game at all. I'm disappointed we didn't win. I talked to the team in the eighth inning and I was like, hey man, seven months ago at the start of the school year if I told you guys, you guys are going have a chance to be the top 15 team in the country you guys would be out of your minds excited for that chance. And here we are. I didn't think we played a poor game at all. It's just we didn't really do enough offensively to extend the early lead we had. It's just it's one of those things. Hopefully, we can come back and play good tomorrow. It's been a team of great resilience and tons of comebacks and awesome moments. We had five walk off home runs or something like that over the course of the year. Our team's done a lot of cool stuff and I expect us to be ready to play tomorrow.

**Jevon Mason****On the execution of Garrett Schmeltz**

"He was executing his pitches really well; demanding the outside of the zone, getting the umpire to call a couple of pitches that, you know we had to fight off and we just couldn't get in the zone. So I mean, he

was executing really well and he had some stuff on and it's hard to compete in that situation. But I mean, he did a really good job."