

Cincinnati Head Coach Jordan Bischel

Opening Statement

JB: “Well, I appreciate everybody being here. Obviously, we’re excited to be here. It’s a pretty impressive field. We’re really focusing on Louisiana for now, they’ve played awfully good baseball in the last few weeks and worked their way into a great position. I thought there was a pretty good chance they’d be a two seed coming in, so we know we’ll have our hands full tomorrow, but everybody in the regional is obviously very good. I’m excited, again, to be here. Unbelievable facilities, we’ve been fortunate enough to be here once before, and I know these guys are going to play in a great atmosphere with great baseball teams.”

It’s been a very up-and-down year for your team; can you walk us through it?

JB: “Yeah, you know, our league, SEC, ACC, probably the Sun Belt, it’s pretty hard to go wire to wire winning series. It’s just good team after good team, and the talent level is so deep that you’re going to have ups and downs. I think for us, and for a lot of other teams in our league and in all four of those leagues, it gets you ready for this, knowing you’re going to face good teams. But we also have a pretty young team. If you look at, Nate on Fridays is pretty darn experienced for us, but if you look at the lineup, consistently seven, sometimes six freshmen or sophomores are out there. That’s going to take some ups and downs. I think that’s when we really learned what type of team we are when we were 4-8 or 6-10 in the league. We knew we had to play good baseball, or we weren’t going to play at this point in the season. Our guys did a great job of trusting who they were, sticking with the process and we got back to where we wanted to be.”

What are your pitching plans for the next couple of days?

JB: “Yeah, I’m hoping Nate can go 9 and we’ll go from there. I think we’ve been pretty good at worrying about the next one. We know Nate will give us a great chance to win tomorrow. I would imagine as the weekend plays out, we’ll follow the same rotation we have for a while now with Logan Knight and Connor Blue. When you get to this point in the year, it’s all hands-on deck trying to win the one in front of you. That’s where we’re at. I think, without a doubt, Adam Buczkowski will play a big role in this regional for us. He’s been pretty lights out the last month, but there’s a lot of bullpen arms that have helped us a lot. That’s a big difference from last year’s team.”

Cincinnati Pitcher Nathan Taylor and Outfielder Derrick Pitts

Nathan, you've been a workhorse for this club. What does this moment mean for you and your teammates?

NT: "Yeah, it just means everything. I don't think when I came here my freshman year, two regionals in two years is pretty cool, knowing where we were before this. It's just a surreal moment getting to play past the Big 12 Tournament. Getting to play extra baseball is awesome."

What has it been like to be a part of this high-powered offense and how fun has it been to play in?

DP: "Oh man, it's so much fun. Having guys that can run the ball out of the yard, it's great to see for us, not just the fans. But obviously, when you can have those explosive types of plays on the offensive side, it's good at any time. Just trusting the next guy and understanding the depth of our offense and how good we can be when we just trust each other is the biggest thing. In our mind, there's no group that can stop us when we're all clicking and all playing team-ball together."

Do you feel like you have enough confidence in your offense to get you runs?

NT: "Yeah, I mean it's awesome. I mean, last year in the regional I think I gave up a pretty good amount of runs, and I mean, my offense had me the whole time. It's happened multiple times this year, even on the defensive side. It's an awesome thing for a pitcher, getting to be able to spike a slider almost every other pitch and having them block just about everything."

What are your early impressions of Louisiana?

DP: "Yeah, we'll look into it and we'll prepare like we always do. This game is no different from, I mean, if you want to look at it as a midweek, since we're only playing them once. It's no different. We go in and prepare the same way, and they play similar to us, but it's all about who trusts their identity the most."