



2002 NCAA Division I Baseball Championships
South Bend Regional
May 31-June 2, 2002
Frank Eck Stadium

Ohio State vs. South Alabama (Game #5) Quotes

OHIO STATE

Ohio State Head Coach Bob Todd

On tonight's game...

"If you like college baseball, you had a good evening of entertainment tonight. The first two innings were like two heavyweight champions going at each other and then both pitchers settled down and the last couple innings turned into a pitchers duel."

On the pitching of Scott Lewis...

"He was outstanding. I thought that he mixed pitches and when he settled down he started throwing two pitches for strikes. I thought that his breaking ball from the third inning on had great bite and it was difficult for batters to catch up to it. The one thing that I have been talking about since the beginning of the year is competing. We've had some past teams compete and come back and this team is doing that right now. We are competing."

On tomorrow's championship matchup with Notre Dame...

"I don't think there's any question that Notre Dame is in the driver's seat right now. There is no tomorrow in terms of what we have to do on Sunday. The only thing that we can do is approach it one game at a time because if we don't win the first one, we're not playing the second one. I think it is important and I am proud of our team for showing some mental discipline today. It has been a long day for us, but I am sure that adrenaline will be flowing tomorrow; if we are as poised and mentally tough a team as I think we are we will end up trying to give Notre Dame a good battle."

Ohio State Pitcher Scott Lewis

On getting the start in the elimination game as a freshman...

"We had to win this one to stay in the tournament. I was thinking about just going out there and putting it out there, throwing strikes. The fielders did their jobs and we got some runs early and I settled down and tried to finish strong."

Ohio State 1B Nick Swisher

On any breathing room provided by his homerun...

"I think that whether we score that run or not we win the ballgame. You can't give enough credit to Scott Lewis. He pitched a heck of a game for us. He kept us in the game and that's what we were looking for. He kept us in it and we got some key hits."

SOUTH ALABAMA

South Alabama Head Coach Steve Kitrell

On the game...

“It was a tough loss. We came back (from losing to Notre Dame earlier), got off to a good start, scored a couple runs, but they came right back and scored two. Then we scored two more and they came right back and scored two. Then we got good pitching from Bert Heath but just couldn’t score. You have to give Lewis credit (OSU pitcher Scott Lewis) - he didn’t walk anybody and struck out 10. He pitched a great game for Ohio State. It was a pitcher’s duel after that. We had a couple opportunities to score, but we didn’t, and it came back to haunt us.”

On this year’s team...

“I know it sounds like a cliché, but I’m really proud of our team. I know we had a disappointing postseason, but we had a great regular season. I thought these guys overachieved during the year. I was a little worried about this team, but they clutched up and had a great year.”

South Alabama Pitcher Bert Heath

On the two home run pitches...

“I just hit too much of the plate and they got good swings on them. I tip my hat to them. They’re a good ballclub.”

On his success on the mound...

“I usually work on my changeup. Today my fastball was hitting the spot. All three pitches were working. Other than that, they guessed right on two pitches. That’s what the game had to end on.”