

# College World Series: Baton Rouge Regional

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

## Wayne Graham Glenn Otto Ryan Chandler

Rice - 13, Texas Southern - 6

THE MODERATOR: Along with Coach Wayne Graham, we have outfielder Ryan Chandler and pitcher Glenn Otto. Coach Graham, if you could talk a little bit about today's day. Long day. And then we'll swing over and get a statement from each player.

WAYNE GRAHAM: Well, obviously, we were quite fearful of Texas Southern, but I thought Texas Southern swung the bat very well and played well. We just were (inaudible). Finally got something to fall in, and I thought we got around the bases. We hit some balls pretty good, I thought too. I thought Texas Southern did a good job and played well.

THE MODERATOR: Centerfielder Ryan Chandler, big day for you at the plate. 3 for 4 with three RBIs and the big home run there in the seventh inning. Talk about that home run and your big day at the plate, please.

RYAN CHANDLER: Yeah, today obviously was a good day for us. We got the win. I was hitting the ball well today. The at bat I hit the home run, I got that first pitch curveball. And I knew he was going to throw it again. I was fortunate to drop down, and it was a curveball down and in.

THE MODERATOR: Glenn Otto, relief pitcher. Glenn, you came in and kind of shut the door there. Talk about your outing, please.

GLENN OTTO: Yes, sir. It's a lot easier to pitch when you get ahead. That's something I learned a lot about this season. You're not going to blow mid-90s fastballs past hitters, especially in an NCAA Regional, and you have to be able to get ahead of them with your secondary pitches when you need to. You've got to be able to hit spots when you need to. You've got to be able to pitch to guys.

I feel like I did a really good job of that today, and that's why I was effective.



THE MODERATOR: We'll take questions for both the players and coach.

**Q. Wayne, how important was it when Willie came in there -- Willie had kind of a rough start, but he settled down, took you through the rain delay. How important was Willie's performance for the team?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: I thought Willy did a great job. Obviously, with the rain delay, I didn't want him coming back. We can't leave this part unplayed. The score was tied, and they were swinging the bat really well. Willy had already pitched last night too. So it worked out real well for us that Willy was able to do what he did.

**Q. Coach, another day where the slow start, got up on you 5-0. What is the problem with you all in the first couple innings this weekend so far?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: I told Esquivel, if he didn't get the curveball over, they were going to kill him. I didn't realize how prophetic that was. He didn't get the curveball over, and they hit him. Every -- all the hits were fastballs. Five hits on fastballs.

**Q. I'm obligated to ask you if you have pitching plans for tomorrow.**

WAYNE GRAHAM: What's that?

**Q. Pitching plans for tomorrow.**

WAYNE GRAHAM: It's hard, but I kind of think right now -- and I'm not sure of this, but I might start Kendal Jefferies. He's done pretty well in the starting role.

**Q. Who?**

THE MODERATOR: Kendal Jefferies.

WAYNE GRAHAM: He pitched well the other night. We've seen him good in the starting role.

**Q. For Wayne and for Glenn. Do you feel like you can bring Glenn back later this weekend if you need him?**

WAYNE GRAHAM: I'm sure, if we got to Monday, he'd be able to pitch. It's just how he feels tomorrow. If he wants to go, I'm not going to hold him back.

**Q. Can you talk about the city of Houston. Just you guys, TSU, University of Houston having tremendous success. Talk about the city of**

**Houston, you know, the state of baseball there.**

WAYNE GRAHAM: Are you asking me?

**Q. Yes.**

WAYNE GRAHAM: Well, in general, I think youth league baseball has gone crazy all over the country. Atlanta area is very prime, and Orange County has always been huge. But Houston is just crazy how much baseball there is there. So there's a lot of good baseball players. Not necessarily major league prospects, but you can build a team on good ball players, and there's plenty of them if you can just go out there and find out who they are.

**Q. You hit that rain delay last week and came up real big after that rain delay and pushed ahead of Texas Southern after the rain delay today. What is it with you guys and rain delays? Is it something you guys are doing during the break, or how you just come out and prepare for it?**

RYAN CHANDLER: Well, today we were going to try to stay focused during the rain delay. We went in the room, and they had a nice room for us with air conditioning and things like that, and we had food and snacks. It was pretty relaxing. We stayed focused on the game and tried to talk about what the pitchers were doing to us and things like that.

It kind of gave us a little bit of break because things got hectic there. It was 6-6, I believe, when the rain delay happened, and Dunlap had just hit the home run. We put together a pretty good inning after the rain delay. They didn't score the next inning, and we jumped on them quick.

I think that shows the character of this team. We're always trying to keep on grinding because that's what the whole season has been for us. It's been a grind. It hasn't been pretty all the time, but we've kind of stuck it out.

**Q. Coach, can you talk about Tristan Gray's day. He had a big day, two home runs and a bunch of RBIs. Can you talk a little bit about how his bat played there. He had five RBIs and two home runs.**

WAYNE GRAHAM: He had a great day. He'd be in here too, but he's a little shy. I thought he hit a couple of pretty good pitches out of this ballpark. They weren't bad pitches.

He's really made a tremendous difference to us since he got in shape after coming back and not playing the first 17 games of the year. He's made a difference defensively, and obviously he helps a great deal with the bat.

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## Michael Robertson Christian Sanchez Jose Camacho

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THE MODERATOR: Mike, we'll get you to talk about a little bit here.

MICHAEL ROBERTSON: Well, a great venue. I think one of the best places to have an opportunity to play here, period, whether you're playing in a regional tournament or just coming here to play for the regular season. Everything really first class.

In terms of the season, man, it's probably the toughest one in 30 years for me because I don't ever remember a time we traveled so much. Out of 48 ball games, we played 36 on the road, and we asked our kids to hang in there, hang in there, and pick up their stuff for graduation. And give it all you got, and they indeed did that.

They stayed the course. We started this August the 24th. Everything that we accomplished this season was a by-product of what we started on that day. So I'm very proud of my kids, the way they performed, and the way we stayed in there throughout the season.

THE MODERATOR: First baseman Jose Camacho, big day for you, 2 for 4. Talk a little bit about the quick start in the first inning and also your season.

JOSE CAMACHO: This season, I explained that everything was an up and down season. We had to overcome a lot of adversity, and we did it as a team. The year -- we won our tournament, which was great. So we played for it. This year was special. We felt like it was special, and we could have done more. Everything comes to an end sometime.

THE MODERATOR: Right fielder Christian Sanchez, 3 for 5, three RBIs. Please talk about the early start in the first inning and also the year.

CHRISTIAN SANCHEZ: My teammates responded by jumping in early. We knew we were going to battle, but we just needed to finish. Just blessed to be here.



THE MODERATOR: We'll take questions of coaches, student-athletes.

**Q. Coach, after that early lead, you all looked to be in control. Just what happened from there?**

MICHAEL ROBERTSON: Well, the thing that's been haunting us throughout this tournament is missing pitches, leaving pitches up, walking them.

They put a little bit of pressure on us in the second inning. I thought we helped them a little bit, but they put some good swings on the ball. I thought we had to make quality pitches. Oliver was okay in the first inning, and then the second inning he wasn't able to land his breaking ball, and then he lost command of his fastball. So they were able to get five runs in the second inning.

We got through the middle innings okay, but, again, we've got to keep scoring. We're in a situation here in the tournament where you've got to keep putting pressure. You're playing for everything.

I thought we competed well up until the seventh inning, and then again, Chandler put a good swing on it, and I think that really got them going. From there, we just left some pitches up, and they capitalized. They did what they're supposed to do when you miss pitches.

THE MODERATOR: Anything for the student-athletes? Congratulations on a great year.