

**2015 NCAA Softball Regionals – Postgame Quotes
No. 23 Arizona State vs. No. 8 LSU – May 17, 2015**

LSU Head Coach Beth Torina

Opening Statement ...

“Congratulations to Arizona State. What a great team they have, what a great fight. That felt like that should have been a World Series game and not a regional game. They should be really proud of the season they had and all that they accomplished. A big thank you to all of our staff that worked so hard to put this event on, I thought we did it first class. I think everything we do at LSU is first class. As for my team, I really couldn’t be prouder. There were so many things; I could hardly go over all of them after the game of all the things that I was proud of. I could go down the entire lineup and in the dugout and make a list of all the things that I’m proud of. We had awesome pitching performances all weekend. We had great clutch hitting. Bailey Landry was phenomenal. Bianka (Bell) gets a big hit. There’s so many kids that if I sat up here and named all the good things, I would be up here for an hour. Ultimately, I’m so proud of the team. I’m proud of their fight. I feel like a sleeping giant has been awoken. Hopefully, we can continue to roll this into the next weekend, and hopefully this is just the beginning of a great postseason run.”

On being able to get the team back on a roll after Saturday’s opening game loss ...

“Again, we have played the number four (Auburn), the number eight (Tennessee) and number 10 (Missouri) in this tournament coming in here from our last seven games. If we played a different schedule, there would have been zero questions coming in here. It’s a great Arizona State team that we played this weekend, and we played right with them all weekend. I think we played good competition, and we have risen to the test. I think when you are playing Top 10 teams in the country you are going to get beat up a little bit. I don’t know if they ever lost it. I think they just got challenged, and I think they have a lot of fight. I have enjoyed every minute of this season. It’s flown by because of how much I’ve enjoyed it. I’m just standing out there thinking, win or lose, I’m proud to be the coach of this team and these young women.”

On facing pressure situations throughout the weekend...

“I think against Nebraska last night, being able to show that we can still fight through some things and fight through some adversity, I think it reminded them that they are capable of that. I think that was huge moment. What’s funny about today is in game one there’s almost more pressure on Arizona State somehow. If you lose that game, everyone is back even in game two. It was almost like we got to be the ones playing today with something to prove, and we are really successful when we are in that spot. I think when they’re loose, and when they’re play with something to prove, that they always seem to do a good job. So, the dynamic of this day is interesting. But, I think they did everything that they needed to do.”

On her approach to using her pitching staff ...

“I’m really confident in Carley (Hoover), Allie (Walljasper), Kelsee (Selman) and Baylee (Corbello). I think I have such an advantage over a lot of coaches having fresh arms. Allie pitched a long game last night, but she only pitched 118 pitches. She threw so many strikes and did such a great job for us on the mound. Some may have thought that she was going to be tired today. I thought she was going to be in better shape honestly than the Arizona State pitcher (Breanna Macha) who had thrown so much.”

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LSU SS Bianka Bell

On the keys to winning two games today ...

“I thought we did really well. We fought until the very end and kept us in the game. Allie (Wallijasper) kept us in the game starting off and did a phenomenal job keeping us in the game. Then, Carley (Hoover) coming in and shutting them down. We had terrific defense, hitters coming in clutch and it was just a terrific showing for us this weekend.”

On her thoughts going into her at-bat during the 9th inning ...

“I just had a lot of things burning through my head. I was just thinking this probably could cost us the game. I just didn’t want to go back to my freshman year again and just had to try to keep it together. I got a little emotional and just thinking that my teammates are here for me. I just tried to fight through it and just tried to bounce back and beat them with the sticks.”

On the team’s approach coming into today ...

“Coach (Torina) just said that nobody beats us twice on this field. (We) just wanted take it to them and play our hardest. We had the mindset to go in and go at them hard every chance we got. We just fought the entire time and just knew that we were going to get the win for LSU.”

LSU P Carley Hoover

On the team’s performance to win two games ...

“I really thought what we did today was we competed, and that’s what this program is about. With our best and our worst, we are always competing. We are always trying to find a way to win, and that’s what we did today. We competed.”

On today’s wins being a total team effort ...

“My team was absolutely incredible today. At the end of the day, this is still a game. We are just having fun. So, yeah I gave up a run. It sucked, but we came back. We had fun, and we rallied back.”

On the team fighting through adversity this weekend ...

“It’s frustrating when things don’t go your way, and you don’t get certain plays or done get certain at bats. But it’s all about controlling the controllables and forgetting about all the other stuff. I love what Coach (Torina) said about awakening the sleeping giant. I think we really embodied that definition today.”

2015 Baton Rouge Softball Regional-May 17, 2015
Arizona State vs. LSU
Arizona State Quotes

HEAD COACH CRAIG NICHOLSON

On his thoughts on the game...

"I'm proud of the way we came out and competed today. Obviously, LSU is an outstanding ball club, and I thought we battled for 16 innings, and we had some opportunities especially early in that second game. We really squared up some balls right at people. It was a well-played game, and I'm proud of the way we competed and what we did this weekend."

On the play of pitcher Breanna Macha...

"I thought she was really outstanding all weekend, and I know she was getting tired at the end of that game, but she wouldn't admit it. We felt like that was the best opportunity to win and that she was still making pitches and still doing a good job of getting outs. I think the top of the eighth inning was 1-2-3 right? (It was) maybe a seven or eight pitch inning. She really gave us an outstanding job of giving us an opportunity to win all weekend long."

On taking the lead into the bottom of the seventh...

"I thought we did a really nice job of making some adjustments, and obviously we swung the bats better than we did in game two today than game one. We're two outs away from winning, and the person who we really didn't want to beat us tied the game, but that's the way the game goes. If she bounces that ball a little bit shorter, it's a ground ball to third base and maybe we get out of the inning. But that's softball."

PITCHER BREANNA MACHA

On how she approached the game after pitching on short rest...

"We kind of went at it like it was just another game and just like any other time. It just sucks, but being able to play with (Amber Freeman) and all the seniors, this last game definitely meant a lot more. (LSU) played a really great game as well. It's just how it goes."

On if she has ever pitched this much in a short time period...

"Not lately, but definitely in high school and club ball. Coming out and having to pitch those games, I wouldn't want to be in any other position but that. It was exciting, and I'm happy with what we've done, and I'm excited to see what comes."

CATCHER AMBER FREEMAN

On her thoughts on the game...

“Honestly, I kind of felt like I was struggling a little bit at the plate today. I wasn’t feeling like myself in the first game and at the beginning of the second game, but I have great teammates and they pulled me aside and they told me to remember who I was and I felt like I really settled in and I was able to calm down at the plate and give my team the best chance of winning.”