

**2008 NCAA Super Regional  
Louisiana-Lafayette 4, Houston 0  
May 24, 2008  
Post Game Quotes**

**Houston Quotes**

**Head Coach Kyla Holas**

***Opening Statement***

"I just want to congratulate the Cajuns. I thought they played a great weekend series. I thought they played great ball all weekend and I wish them a lot of luck in Oklahoma."

***On starting pitcher Angel Shamblin***

"I thought she pitched better in the second game. It's really hard to win a ball game if you don't score a run. I think that our offense needed to step up. That was part of our game plan, that we needed to put runs up on the board. We didn't execute. She threw a great game."

***On the importance of the Ragin' Cajuns' pitching depth***

"I thought it was really huge. Anytime you have depth in the pitching staff and when you have weekends like this when you have in games, then you have the advantage clearly."

***On the Ragin' Cajuns powerful lineup***

"That is one of the best hitting teams in the country. We were really clear with what they were bringing."

***On the Super Regional loss***

"Anytime you are a competitor and you lose at this point in the season, realizing how close you were. You were one game away. I think you could go back and say you were only two pitches from being in a different spot in that game. Anytime you are a competitor, it's not enjoyable. You don't enjoy it at this point. Maybe later we can look back and say that, but most people in this spot – if you're an athlete – will say 'it's not good enough and I'm not going to do that again'."

***On her team's resilience in winning game two***

"Anytime you get to this point, you have to have some fight in you or you're not going very far. The first day was a very close game and it could have gone either way but we lost it at the end. The team really responded and came out today and said 'we're not going to be done, we're not ready yet.' I felt that they did the things that we asked of them in the first game."

***On Angel Shamblin's last game***

"I just don't think you can replace kids like her. It's really hard. Very few people come into your program and do what she has done. She's been amazing."

***On her plans for pitching Angel Shamblin in all three games***

"We had said from the very beginning, that if we were going to lose, we were going to lose with her on the mound."

**Junior Shortstop Jessica Valis**

***On the large strides the program took this season***

"It's been an amazing year. I don't know any program that could have possibly worked any harder than us without literally dying. We worked to death to get into this spot and it goes to show you how far hard work can get you. But sometimes you can only fight so hard."

## **Senior Pitcher Angel Shamblin**

### ***On her pitching performances today***

"I was playing with the mentality of one pitch today. I told my third baseman before the game that if something crazy goes on out there; just remind me of one pitch. I wrote that on my arm today. I felt for the most part I stuck with that plan to give our team a shot to win."

### ***On if fatigue was a factor in the third and decisive game***

"I didn't feel like it. I felt like I was getting stronger, they were just putting the bat on the ball. This is their third game in a row they have seen me."

### ***On the large strides the program has made during her career at UH***

"I was glad to be a part of it and have the chance to be a part of it. It's a great team and I enjoyed every moment of it. The girls are great. They fought hard every inning of every game this year. It was great to be a part of it."

## **Louisiana-Lafayette Quotes**

### **Head Coach Stefni Lotief**

#### ***Opening Statement***

"I would just like to thank everybody, our fans, our administration, our staff and our team for an outstanding tournament and a victory and a chance to advance to the World Series. I couldn't be more pleased with these young ladies and their efforts, their fight and their drive and our staff, our administration and our fans. I think it was a win for everybody. We're excited."

#### ***On the pitching***

"I want to reiterate something that we have been telling them all season. Fight every pitch and play every pitch, and that's what I just keep trying to tell Ashley (Brignac). She is a fighter and had a great effort out on the mound today and yesterday. I applaud the entire team's effort and the staff."

#### ***On pitching depth***

"I think pitching depth in a long season like this is big throughout the whole season. We are very fortunate that we have three amazing pitchers and a couple other pitchers that have allowed us to do some special things in practice. I think every single person on this team has pulled the rope and held the rope, and contributed immensely to the success and chemistry to this team. "

#### ***On the pitching***

"I wish that I could maybe prepare it to a baseball situation where you do have a large staff and you have go-to, closers and middle relievers. They know that they can trust their defense and if we need more than one pitcher to go in and battle the team than we do. We have a couple pitchers with a couple different looks and their all very aggressive. They trust their coaches and their teammates. It has worked to our advantage to have a staff and their youth is just that. Just because their young, doesn't mean they're not ready or not good. Just means that they are focused."

#### ***On the pitching for next weekend***

"We are just going to play every pitch. We are going to show up and make sure we are as prepared as best we can be and play every pitch. Hopefully everything else will take care of itself. "

#### ***On the year***

"This has been a very special year, obviously. These girls have accomplished a lot. They've come together as a team. We brought in some senior leadership with some transfers that has added to our team and gave us some special depth and character to this team, and I thank them for that. I can't be more proud in the way it progressed and how they grew together as a team. As a coach that is what you like to see. Kids that accept the challenge understand the challenge and then go work hard everyday to prepare for that

challenge. They prepared for it and they've achieved one step closer to their ultimate goal. I am very proud of them."

### ***On the performance of Vanessa Soto and Holly Tankersley***

"They have been leaders throughout the year. They are money players as we like to call them. They are money. I think they feel the moment. Those are the kind of athletes that feel the moment and know that the occasion is big and can step it up and I think that all three of these young ladies did that today and I can't say anything more than that and that's money."

### **Freshman Pitcher Ashley Brignac**

#### ***On the feeling of the win...***

"It feels amazing. These are the things we've been dreaming about since we were little girls. This is what every girl's dream is who plays softball. We've all worked really hard and we are really excited. I know I am."

#### ***On how she was able to stay calm and pitch well***

"When you come in, it's that next pitch. I said 'I'm going to fight, our team has fought, and I am going to fight.' Things are going to happen. You aren't going to play perfect. Adversity comes. We lost game one, and came back and game two in the circle and fought every pitch. We are starting off on a clean slate for both teams and we are going to go out there. It is going to be a war and a battle, but we are going to go and fight."

### **Senior Second Base Vanessa Soto**

#### ***On her feelings of the win...***

"It's a dream come true. We had a common goal at the beginning of the year. We worked really hard to get here; every weight session, every running session, every practice, every hitting session. All the hard work paid off for us. Fortunately, we had a group of girls so committed to this team and would do anything to win. And we proved that this weekend."

#### ***On clutch hitting***

"I just think this season has prepared us for those big time moments. We played in some really big games; the Olympic Team twice. That's a big stage. We get out to a situation like this where we've put ourselves in similar situations in the past and it prepared us for that moment. So when it comes down to that time, there is no extra pressure. I have so much faith in my teammates. I know if I don't get it done, I have one of the best hitters in the country right behind me in the lineup. It makes it a lot easier for me to go up as an individual and relax at the plate. I know my teammates feel the same way. We have so much trust in each other that it's not about one pitch, one at bat. If we don't get it done at that time, we're bound to get it done another time."

#### ***On her thoughts of Angel Shamblin***

"She is a very talented pitcher. We knew that coming in. We knew it was going to be a battle. We had to commit to our game plan and know that, yeah we might get some strikeouts; she might get a few of us out, if we fought and fought and fought, and made some adjustments that we would be successful in the end. Our team has really fought and we fight every pitch; we never give in. They scored six runs in that inning and came back in the bottom of the seventh and put them in a situation where we could have easily come back and won that game."

#### ***On the hitting during the weekend***

"I personally don't even feel like we had trouble in the first game. We faced a little adversity in the first game in the sixth inning; we felt like in the bottom of the seventh that we could've won that game. We have a lot of confidence in ourselves and each other. Here it is this is for the money. Who is going to step up? And we did, and rose to the occasion. Ashley (Brignac) rose to the occasion."

**Senior Designated Player Holly Tankersley**

***On her feelings of the win***

"It's exciting. It's been our number one goal since we started playing. Not in college, since we were like five. That is every kids dream and that was our dream and that is our dream and we are going to go forward from here."

***On wearing down the pitcher***

"I wouldn't say wear her down; she's a great pitcher. She has as much heart as anyone else. We had to keep fighting, everyone has to keep fighting. It was a great match up and I give her great props for that."