

**2009 SEC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**May 7 \* Game 3 Quotes**  
**Auburn vs. Florida**

**FLORIDA HEAD COACH TIM WALTON**

*Opening Statement:*

“Obviously, Stacey Nelson did a good job. She really pounded the strike zone and I was pleased with how she threw the ball. Francesca (Enea) coming up big in the first inning was huge and then Aja (Paculba) giving us a little bit of insurance in the third. When you have a pitcher like Stacey that is throwing strikes and getting in on the hands, it makes it pretty hard to get comfortable in the box.”

*On scoring two runs in the first inning:*

“It’s huge. That’s the nature of our game. You have to get momentum first and then keep it. I thought we did a good job coming out and grabbing the momentum right out of the gate.

*On the team’s goals for the rest of the weekend:*

“We still want to win. That’s the goal and that’s what are trying to do. Don’t know who we are going to pitch yet. Stacey threw well today and Stephanie (Brombacher) has been throwing great in the bullpen, so I would feel comfortable going to either one of them tomorrow.”

*On the decision to pitch Stacey Nelson:*

“Over the last three years that I’ve been here, we’ve played Auburn tight. Anna Thompson is one of the best pitchers in the league and we’ve had trouble with her, as have so many other people in this league. We’re just glad to get that first win.”

*On Auburn getting runners in scoring position in the fourth and seventh innings:*

“I don’t expect Stacey to be perfect, whether she walks a player, hits a player, or someone gets a hit. I thought she did a great job making quality pitches when she needed to. She threw about five pitches tonight that were hard and had great, sharp break, so I was very pleased with her.”

*On how well his team is playing at this point in the season:*

“I don’t know that this is the best that we’ve played all year long, but I think this is the best we have pitched all year long and that is what wins championships. That has really helped us a lot. I think we need to get a little better offensively. I don’t want to say that we are tired or make any excuses, I just think we are facing better pitching and they are starting to bear down on our hitters.”

*On the benefits of a conference tournament:*

“If the conference tournament is good, it is good for one thing and that is getting your team used to playing a single-elimination format tournament against quality opponents. I definitely like playing a conference tournament before an NCAA Regional because it really helps you to get ready for quality pitching.”

## **FLORIDA PITCHER STACEY NELSON**

*On Auburn's offense:*

"I guess they never really let me settle in. Their hitters were making some adjustments and made it a bit of a volleyball game out there, going back and forth."

*On getting early run support:*

"It's very nice, especially when they were getting those runners on base. Obviously, I wanted to get out of it with no runs, but knowing I had a three-run cushion really made me a lot more comfortable."

*On Auburn getting runners in scoring position in the fourth and seventh innings:*

"The top of their lineup is very strong and I knew they would be tough all day. When they got on base, I was a little worried, but my defense picked me up."

## **FLORIDA SECOND BASEMAN AJA PACULBA**

*On her home run in the third inning:*

"I was just trying to get on base, actually swung at a pitch that I usually don't swing at and it went. It was high and outside, but I had one strike on me, so I just told myself to swing if it was close. I think it set the tempo for the rest of the game. We always try to get on top at the beginning, because it allows us to let loose for the rest of the game."

## **AUBURN HEAD COACH TINA DEESE**

*On her team's performance today:*

"I was proud of the way the girls battled. We came out and we challenged them one through seven. The battling wasn't good enough for sure. We've got to come out better than we did in the first inning. We've got to make sure that we're there for the first inning. I'm glad we settled in. We just couldn't put enough hits together. We had our opportunities for sure and kept it within one swing of the bat. We just couldn't get it done."

*On Florida pitcher Stacey Nelson:*

"She's good. I mean, look at her numbers. She's good. She's one that you've got to get out and be aggressive. You can't let her get ahead of you. You've got to get the first couple pitches or she's going to get you. She's got all the pitches. She keeps it low and keeps you in the park for sure."

## **AUBURN JUNIOR PITCHER ANNA THOMPSON**

*On her first inning performance:*

"You throw the pitches and you hope everything goes the way that you've practiced. Sometimes it does, sometimes it doesn't."

*On getting into a groove after the first inning:*

"I settled down and hit my stride after that. The team helped a lot. They calmed me down a lot."

*On facing Florida:*

“The hardest thing is knowing that you’re the underdog coming in; knowing they’re the No. 1 team in the nation. They’ve earned it. They’re wonderful and my hat goes off to them for that win.”

*On looking ahead to the NCAA Tournament and getting out of the SEC:*

“The caliber of the teams in the SEC right now is ridiculous. I know it’s the best it’s been probably ever. I’m excited to be able to play against these teams every single day. It’s amazing, but going into NCAA Regionals is a relief (to play teams outside of the conference).”