

**2009 SEC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**May 7 \* Game 4 Quotes**  
**Tennessee vs. LSU**

**TENNESSEE CO-HEAD COACH RALPH WEEKLY**

“LSU didn’t walk a lot of batters. We made it close which we’ve done in a lot of games this year. So, I’m proud of them, they fought. This is the eighth game that’s been decided in the seventh inning for us and we have to win those.”

*On his decision to put in Jessica Spigner to pitch in the third inning:*

“I’ll tell you exactly what it was, I know what it might look like from the outside, but we needed to keep them from leaving the ballpark. Even when they hit and made outs, they were hard outs. (Spigner) has been very successful in keeping the ball down and our three coaches felt that we could put Jessica in and put (Cat Hosfield) back in the bullpen to work on her change and let her come back with it. It didn’t work out tonight but I would do over again. Jess is a really good pitcher they just got to her. I told the kids, I’ll take that. Coaches make moves and sometimes they work and sometimes they don’t.”

*On playing Florida in the second round:*

“We are really proud to play Florida. I think Florida is by far the best team in the country, no question about it. It’s kind of like playing the New York Yankees. You’re just going to go out there and give it our best shot.”

*On whether playing a close game tonight will help motivate the team:*

“I don’t know. We’ve had a lot of close games recently. We start four freshmen and three sophomores. This is a good learning experience and I know this is going to help them down the road, I just don’t know how far down the road.”

**TENNESSEE JUNIOR NICOLE KAJITANI**

*On making the last out:*

“I knew the ball was coming to me. I was hoping for it. It’s one of those things where you just feel like the ball’s going to come to you. And I’m glad it did.”

*On having the runner charging in on her during the last play:*

“I was waiting for her to run into me. That’s what I was waiting for. That’s what you practice as a second baseman, you’re going to stand your territory and if she runs into you, she’s out.”

*On the physicality of the game:*

“I think any game like this is going to be intense. I don’t think anything was personal. There’s so much emotion and intensity going on that things are going to happen sometimes.”

*On the importance of winning this game:*

“It was so important especially since we didn’t get to play that third game down at LSU. When you think about it, this was kind of like our third game. We knew we should have won and I think tonight we proved it.”

## **TENNESSEE FRESHMAN PITCHER CAT HOSFIELD**

*On coming back into the game:*

“I wasn’t hitting my spots on my pitches (before I came out). When I came back, I was really fired up and win this.”

*On what she did to get the last out:*

“Basically, my shortstop and second baseman were like, ‘You got this, you got this. You’re the best. You can do this.’ I did not lose a drop of confidence at all. I was just trying to throw good pitches. I wasn’t going to throw a fat pitch in the seventh inning.”

*On getting the close win:*

“We just talked about how this is great momentum for our game tomorrow. We couldn’t ask for a more exciting game. I think it’s awesome for our team.”

## **LSU HEAD COACH YVETTE GIROUARD**

*Opening Comments:*

“Four errors, not enough good pitching and not enough timely hitting in what we call ‘prime-time’ at-bats. To Tennessee’s credit, they took advantage every time the situation was in their favor. I’ll be content to not see another orange team the rest of this season.”

*On pitcher Kristen Shortridge’s performance:*

“What a player she is. I wish I had put her in a little bit sooner. She came in and stopped the bleeding for us and gave us an opportunity to come back and win.

*On the team’s future:*

“This is a team with its future ahead of us. We have some young players, just like Tennessee does and we’ll be better next year and the following year.”

## **LSU PITCHER KRISTEN SHORTRIDGE**

*On the game:*

“It was a battle. We knew it was going to be a good matchup. They gave us a hard time in our series earlier this year and we wanted to come back with revenge. They played a great game and we played a great game, it just went their way tonight. Everyone fought and our goal is to not leave the field with regrets. I hope my teammates didn’t do so, I know I didn’t. We just have to give 110 percent. Sometimes it just doesn’t go your way. We had four errors, they had a couple more hits and we were still in the game. That says a lot about us as a team. We just have to get that all cleaned up and we’ll be back to winning.”

*On coming back from injury this season:*

“What’s working for me is my mental game. I just want to get the job done. Our pitchers have been working their butts off all season and some of them have been struggling through injuries just like me. When coach calls me into the circle, I want to do my best to be trusted by my teammates and to be trusted by the person that I’m saving. I just try to focus on my spins and getting the job done, getting ground balls and trusting my defense.”

*On getting ready for the NCAA Tournament:*

“It is a fresh start. These freshmen have never felt that, so I’m hoping that we can get back to our field this week and practice. We just need to go through the motions in a positive way, get behind each other and come back.”

*On Tennessee pitcher Cat Hosfield:*

“She does a great job. I have a lot of respect for her. She throws hard and doesn’t seem to miss much. She throws hard, so it throws a lot of people off. You have to hit it in the right spot. I have respect for her.”

## **SEC TOURNAMENT SINGLE-GAME RECORDS UPDATE**

**Hits:** 17 – LSU vs. Tennessee (5/7/09 – 1st Rd.)

**Stolen Bases:** 6 - LSU vs. Tennessee (5/7/09 – 1st Rd.)