

## Oklahoma State head coach Kenny Gajewski

### *Opening statement:*

"It's a big deal to get the first win for us. With everything that's gone on here, all the people that have put in the work to make this thing happen, I can't tell you how excited our team is to have the opportunity to play at home. To win that first game and to get to 40 win for the first time in our time here, and for the first time in a long time here, this team just continues to break barriers and do things we haven't done in a long time. It's a credit to kids like the ones sitting next to me [Madi Sue Montgomery and Samantha Show]."

"I thought we were a little tight in the top half of the first, to be honest. I just thought there was some tension there. But we got out of that. I thought was the one inning Sam [Samantha Show] kind of labored some, and we didn't make a play at short that would have helped her. But, we got out of that and scored runs. And then we just kind of went away, and I'm not really sure why. Credit their kid [BYU pitcher Arissa Paulson], I thought she threw well, especially late. We just held on enough, and that's what good teams do. We put ourselves in a great spot for the second day and I look forward to taking on a really good Tulsa team."

### *On what he saw from BYU tonight that he didn't see on tape previously:*

"They were a little more aggressive at the plate. They swung at the first pitch maybe 12 to 14 times, which is a lot. But, I thought that Paulson got better as the game went on. We were on her and took some good at bats – we were fighting. And she was nibbling some too, trying to figure the strike zone out. It's tough. This time of year the zone always gets a little tighter. I thought she was good and got better as the game went on. But they were what I thought. They were tough and well-coached. It's the postseason, so everyone is good. It's a grind. I'm just happy we're on the good side."

### *On his team having fun while they play:*

"I think it's cool to hear as a coach. We talk about playing like you're eight years old. Play like you're at recess. It's just what you do. You show up and you can't wait for that hour each day at school. I think this team genuinely can't wait to get to the field each day. Some of the stuff that comes out of our dugout, our chants make me shake my head at times. But, it's just fun. It's fun to be around them. It's a joy and it keeps me young. They truly enjoy each other."

### *On facing Tulsa on Friday:*

"I see a good team that we've gotta beat that we've struggled with. The last time we played it was six to zip, but I've got a lot of respect for John and his staff, the way that they play. They're going to give us everything that we want and more. I expect it to be a really good softball game. I expect it to be a crazy crowd, and I can't wait. I can't wait to wake up and play."

### *On facing a team that OSU has faced already this season:*

"I don't even look at them as if we've already played. We've gotta prepare. They're different from when we played them then. We're a little different too. We know their kids and they know us, so I think it's pretty equal. I know it's going to be a fight. Every pitch is going to count. Every swing is going to count. The team that plays free. The team that plays clean, that's who is going to win."

## **Oklahoma State senior second baseman Madi Sue Montgomery**

### *On the atmosphere:*

"We've got to credit our fans. They were awesome. They we're loyal. They're true. Just having them out in the out-field yelling at us the whole game, and having our fans behind us cheering for us when we're at bat, knowing they have our back. It's just really cool to be able to play at home. It's something we've always wanted to do."

### *On getting her 200th career RBI:*

"RBIs mean that someone's gotta be on base, so my team is doing their job getting on base in front of me."

## **Oklahoma State senior pitcher Samantha Show**

### *On her mindset after her team gives her an early lead:*

"It's like the pressure is off my shoulders. I was able to just go out and pitch and have fun. I wasn't worried. I knew that we were either going to put more runs up or the defense behind me was going to make plays when they needed to. I couldn't have asked for a better game."

### *On the team having fun while they play:*

"You're playing your best when you're having fun and when you're with your friends. You're just a little kid out there. That was my big thing this year – just go out and have fun, play like you're a kid at recess. I think people tend to get too tight, too focused on what they're doing. Your body is not going to perform well when you're doing that. Keeping this team loose, keeping things fun is how we're going to go far."

## **BYU associate head coach Pete Meredith**

### *Opening Statement:*

"I have to give a compliment to Oklahoma State. They came out and played a good game. Solid pitching by their pitcher, Ms. Show, so hats off to those guys. We basically held our own for the last five innings of the ball game. For the first two innings of the ball game we had to get in sync and timing, you know, a little coaching change especially with my position as well. It might have cost us a little bit, but once we settled down we got back in the ball game so I'm very proud of our team, proud of how they played, and obviously [Arisa Paulson and Libby Sugg] were key to shutting them out for the last part of the game."

### *On defense for the next games:*

"Obviously, that's a momentum builder for us. That was kind of a little bit of the talk after the game, you know, keep it going and basically fight toe-to-toe going out and at the end of the day, throw a few sticks, score a few runs, and hang a few goose eggs. We're excited about what we can bring tomorrow and keep the momentum going."

### *On whether the atmosphere of tonight affected their success:*

"I don't think it's the noise. Our first seven weeks of competition is all on the road so we play against that kind of thing, so I don't think it was the nerves, I think it was just the start of the tournament as Arissa said kind of settling down, getting the bugs out, and working through it. I don't think it affected us, I think we just needed to settle down and get into our rhythm."

## **BYU sophomore pitcher Arissa Paulson**

### *On making pitching adjustments:*

"I just had to relax a little bit and get in to my groove, get into sync with the umpire as well and then just realize my defense is good and let them do the work for me. That was the change."

### *On the focus in the next game:*

"I think just taking it one pitch at a time is gonna be key for our success tomorrow and then just bringing the energy."

## **BYU senior catcher Libby Sugg**

### *On plate vision tonight and expectations for Arkansas:*

"I think that I was seeing the ball well, I was seeing her movement and seeing the different pitches that she threw. She kept me off balance that's for sure. She did an amazing job throughout the entire lineup, but just picking pitches that I could see well and hit well was the key. For tomorrow, just keeping that same momentum, seeing the ball well, keep stringing hits, and trying to produce runs."

### *On motivation for the next game:*

"I have to go all out, this is it for me. This really could be my last week and I really don't want it to be, so I'm going to do everything I can to keep on playing and to keep on winning."