



NCAA



2022 DIVISION I  
**SOFTBALL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
BLACKSBURG REGIONAL



**Kentucky Softball**  
**Head Coach Rachel Lawson Q&A Highlights**  
**Game 3 Postgame Presser**  
**May 21, 2022**

***Opening Statement:***

“Obviously, what a game. I mean, for them to come out first inning [and] hit a grand slam, you know, that was kind of heartbreaking. So, we’re sitting there like, ‘Whoa.’ Especially with what a great job their pitching did. Lemley was just outstanding the entire game. Hats off to Lex [Lacatena]. She came in [and] she shut them down through the rest of the game, and she gave us an opportunity for our bats to come up and eventually come through in the end. I was really proud of what she did. Of course, I can’t say enough about [Vanessa] Nesby coming in and getting on there in a tight situation. [Then] Kayla [Kowalik] getting on and giving Renee [Abernathy] an opportunity to come up and swing the big bat. Just a great day [and] good game for us.

**Kentucky Softball**  
**P Alexia Lacatena Q&A Highlights**  
**Game 3 Postgame Presser**  
**May 21, 2022**

***On what worked for her today:***

“Whatever pitch I was going to get, I knew that I had to visualize what I had to do with my body and what I wanted the pitch to do. It didn’t really matter what pitch was going to be called. I just knew that I had to visualize, step back, and trust my stuff, and let it fly.”

***On the pressure of being down four runs:***

“I have so much faith and trust in my team. I know that it doesn’t matter who, someone in our lineup can make something happen. We were right there, close the entire game, so I knew eventually it was going to bust open.”



NCAA



2022 DIVISION I  
**SOFTBALL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
BLACKSBURG REGIONAL



**Kentucky Softball**  
**OF Renee Abernathy Q&A Highlights**  
**Game 3 Postgame Presser**  
**May 21, 2022**

***On hitting the go-ahead homerun:***

“You have to give props to Vanessa [Nesby], Kayla [Kowalik], and Erin [Coffel] for getting on base before me because that’s not possible without them. They gave me the confidence and we feed off each other. We are never out of the fight. We know that. I was just trying to put the ball in play hard.”

***On watching the homerun leave the park:***

“I didn’t see it go over the fence. I just knew it off the bat. Having my teammates celebrate me like that is awesome, too. It was just an amazing feeling, and I am glad to be able to play again tomorrow.”

***On her mindset entering the 7<sup>th</sup> inning:***

“We are never out of it, we know that. We have come back in the seventh before. We’ve come back from larger deficits than that all year. We know we’re never out of it. We knew we needed to get our leadoff batters on, and they did an excellent job of that. Then, we had the heart of our lineup coming up and put the ball in play hard.”

-----

**Virginia Tech Softball**  
**Head Coach Pete D’Amour Q&A Highlights**  
**Game 3 Postgame Presser**  
**May 21, 2022**

***Opening statement:***

“Congrats to Kentucky. Our kids fought hard. Kentucky is, in my estimation, one of the best two seeds in the country so it’s nothing to hang our heads about. Hopefully, we have three more games to go.”



NCAA



2022 DIVISION I  
**SOFTBALL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
BLACKSBURG REGIONAL



***On mentality after a tough loss:***

“Two options for us. We can say we suck now and we're not going to win any more games, or we can go out and play. The loss is over with. What are we gonna do about it? This team's pretty resilient and I think we'll be ready for tonight.

***On Keely's pitching performance:***

“I thought she threw okay. She fell behind... [inaudible] ... and then gave up the home run. I could see when she had command on her drop ball she was getting swings and misses. That's why I brought her in. I think her velo was a little bit down but she was getting swings and misses except for that one pitch.”

**Virginia Tech Softball**

**DP Meredith Slaw Q&A Highlights**

**Game 3 Postgame Presser**

**May 21, 2022**

***On her view of the last play of the game:***

I mean, obviously the outcome sucks. But if I had ran a little faster it wouldn't have come down to that. So yeah.

***On hitting two grand slams against Kentucky this season:***

I wasn't really thinking about what I had done in the past. I was just thinking about this pitcher. This [today] was a different pitcher. So I was thinking about what she threw and how to approach her.

***On mindset after losing a game that the team nearly won:***

I mean, like Coach Pete [D'Amour] said, this is just fuel to win the next three. So [we] just have to look ahead and forget about the loss.