

Virginia Tech Softball
P Keely Rochard Q&A Highlights
Game 7 Postgame Presser
May 22, 2022

On her mindset in the 7th:

"I just keep telling myself to compete every single pitch. The other day, I caught myself not competing every pitch, but ever since then I have been telling myself 'Compete, compete, compete'".

On Emma's performance:

"Emma did amazing. It helps so much to have her, and I told her that. She did amazing and I am so thankful that she is on this team. Her performance today was amazing. I can't say anything else other than that she did great."

Virginia Tech Softball C Mackenzie Lawter Q&A Highlights Game 7 Postgame Presser May 22, 2022

On mentality going into the day:

"We knew we were capable. We knew we just had to play within ourselves. We had to prepare and have a solid approach. It was really important for us to have that mentality and not let any outside distractions get to us."

On the crowd environment:

"Our crowds have been amazing here all year. The added stands just to our support, so we definitely appreciate it. They're heard and help us more than they know. We really appreciated the crowds this weekend."

On her homerun:

"We wanted to keep playing and we had to get runs on the board. Luckily the past few days I was fortunate enough to be able to help us do that, but we know our whole lineup is capable. We just kept going out there and trusting our approach and luckily, I was able to help us out."



Virginia Tech Softball
IF Jayme Bailey Q&A Highlights
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On the team's mindset:

"We are all fighting for each other. It was known before each game that 'This is it. We have to do this for our seniors'. We just wanted to come together and make sure we got it done so we can move on to Super Regionals."

On the quick turnaround:

"It was a known thing that everyone was tired at this point in the season, definitely during postseason, even the other teams are tired. Kentucky is tired. This is a hard game, seven innings of mental and physical strain. You just got to use that mental side of the game and say, 'Hey, you have to step up now. It's now or never'. We had that in the back of our minds and knew what we had to do."



Kentucky Softball
Head Coach Rachel Lawson Q&A Highlights
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Opening statement:

"First, I want to congratulate Virginia Tech, they're a heck of a team. They've had a great year. They play well and have great hitting. They've got great pitching, great coaching, and are just really good all the way around. I want to congratulate them on moving forward. I also want to thank Virginia Tech itself. They hosted a great regional, everything was run really well. The NCAA rep did a great job. Everything about the experience was run first class, the amount of money and resources was tremendous. I thought the crowd was awesome for Virginia Tech. You don't want to be the one on the other side of it, but I thought the crowd here was great. They showed out for their team, man they know how to make an entrance. They show up regularly and I think it's really cool. They should be proud of what they've built here. Today felt like a super regional matchup, all three games to be honest with you. It felt like a super regional matchup with a couple other games just mixed in there for fun. The other teams did well but when it came down to it each game against them (Virginia Tech) was just a heavyweight boxing match. It was back and forth throughout. Elite level pitching usually stops elite level hitting at this time of year. It always comes down to the timely hit and who's got a pitcher that is dealing. I felt like they got a big hit and had that big inning along with elite level pitching. I think the game really came down to that."

On why Tech's hitters were successful:

"I just think they did a really good job of getting on time. They knew what they were doing and I thought the ball was a little flat at times. I thought that game one today wasn't great, but today I thought Stephanie did a really good job. She kept them at bay and had a ton of scoreless innings. They're just very competitive. They're gamers, and they know how to fight. At the end of the day they put some people on, got a big rush from their crowd, and they were able to score. To be honest with you, I just think they're a really good team."



Kentucky Softball Vanessa Nesby Q&A Highlights Game 7 Postgame Presser May 22, 2022

On mindset knowing that Virginia Tech had to win two games to advance:

I knew that we had to be competitive, be aggressive, especially when we've seen that pitcher [Emma Lemley] a couple of times. Just swinging early, being aggressive and moving and scoring runners.