

**Men's College World Series Notes – Game 14: Championship Finals, Game 1 – June 24, 2012**

**Arizona 5, South Carolina 1      Time of Game: 2:40**

**Attendance: 24,748 (2012 MCWS Total: 302,862; Avg. 21,633)**

**(2011 MCWS Total through CWS Finals Game 1: 294,963)**

**Game 2 – June 25: Arizona vs. South Carolina, 7 p.m. (central)**

**Game 3 – June 26: Arizona vs. South Carolina, 7 p.m. (central) if necessary**

**Overall:**

- \*-The last 35 Men's College World Series (MCWS) games have now seen the losing team score four runs or less (dating back to June 24, 2010). That streak is easily the longest in NCAA history, surpassing the previous long streak of 24 consecutive games set from June 10, 1954-June 14, 1955, and then matched from June 13, 1973-June 8, 1975.
- \*-This is the third meeting between a team from the Pac-12 and a team from the SEC in the championship game/series. The SEC has taken both previous matchups, as LSU defeated Stanford in 2000 and South Carolina downed UCLA in 2010.
- \*-The 2012 Championship Finals marks just the third time since 2002 that the two teams in the championship game/series have each previously won a national title. The only other times were in 2004, when Cal State Fullerton (won fourth title) defeated Texas (five titles), and in 2009, when LSU (won sixth title) also triumphed over Texas (six titles).
- \*-South Carolina and Arizona were meeting for the first time on the baseball diamond. The last time the two teams in the Championship Finals had never met before was in 2008 (Fresno State and Georgia).
- \*-Arizona has 16 complete games this season, including eight over its past 19 contests. South Carolina, meanwhile, has had just one, by Michael Roth against Kent State on June 20.
- \*-In the 2012 MCWS, the team that scores first is 11-3. However, the three comeback victories all belong to South Carolina.
- \*-Since the Championship Finals (best-of-three) were installed in 2003, the team to win game one is 7-2. Oregon State (2006) and Fresno State (2008) are the only two teams to come back from an 0-1 deficit.
- \*-Through the first 14 games of the MCWS this year, the winning team's starting pitcher has averaged 6.88 innings pitched, while the losing team's starter has averaged 3.17 innings. The losing team's starter has now gone 2.1 innings or less six times in the 2012 MCWS.

**Arizona (47-17):**

- \*-Arizona has won 10 consecutive games and 17 of its last 19.
- \*-Head coach Andy Lopez is seeking to become only the second coach to win a Division I baseball national title at two different schools. Augie Garrido is the only to accomplish the feat so far, winning with Cal State Fullerton in 1979, 1984 and 1995 and with Texas in 2002 and 2005.
- \*-Andy Lopez, with one national title to his credit already (with Pepperdine in 1992), would set an all-time record for most years between national championships should the Wildcats claim the 2012 title. Augie Garrido currently holds the mark, going 11 years between titles with Cal State Fullerton (1984 and 1995).
- \*-Arizona is attempting to become the 14th different team and ninth different school to win a national title without losing a game in the NCAA Tournament. Those to accomplish the feat so far are California (1947), Texas (1949), Oklahoma (1951), Southern California (1973, 1978), Miami (FL) (1982, 1999, 2001), LSU (1991, 1996, 2000), Cal State Fullerton (1995) and South Carolina (2011).
- \*-Arizona's advancement to the MCWS this year made Lopez one of just four coaches to make multiple MCWS appearances at two different schools. In addition to Lopez and Garrido, Dave Van Horn (twice with Nebraska, three time with Arkansas) and Larry Cochell (two with Cal State Fullerton, three with Oklahoma) have also made two or more trips to the MCWS at two different institutions.
- \*-Arizona enters the 2012 Championship Finals having won national titles in three straight Championship Finals appearances (1976, 1980, 1984). The Wildcats had fallen in its first three appearances in the final game (1956, 1959, 1963). The three-year win streak in the MCWS championship game/series tied for the third-longest in NCAA history, behind only Southern California, which won in nine straight finals appearances from 1961-78, and LSU, which won in six straight from 1991-2009. Minnesota (three straight wins from 1956-64) and Arizona State (three straight from 1965-69) have also emerged victorious in three consecutive finals trips.
- \*-Arizona is 21-5 in 2012 when scoring in the first inning and 27-6 when scoring first. The Wildcats are 14-3 when hitting a home run in 2012.
- \*-With two sacrifice bunts on Sunday, Arizona now has 17 during this year's NCAA Tournament. Arizona's opponents have zero.
- \*-No team has made it to the MCWS and had its starter go at least 7.0 innings in every game during the NCAA Tournament that year since at least the 1993 season. Arizona starters have gone at least 7.1 innings in every game of the 2012 NCAA Tournament, averaging 8.59 innings per start through Sunday's game.
- \*-The last team to have at least a 7.0-inning start in every one of its games in a given MCWS—as Arizona has done thus far in 2012—was Cal State Fullerton in 1995. That year, Fullerton got starts of 7.1 (Ted Silva vs. Stanford), 7.0 (Jon Ward vs. Tennessee), 8.0 (Tim Dixon vs. Tennessee) and 7.1 (Silva vs. Southern California) innings en route to a 4-0 sweep in the MCWS and a national championship.
- \*-Konner Wade is the first pitcher to throw consecutive complete games at the MCWS since Jason Windsor (Cal State Fullerton) did it in 2004. Wade is the first player since at least 2005 to throw three consecutive complete games in the NCAA Tournament.
- \*-Wade moved to 4-0 with a 1.29 ERA in four NCAA Tournament starts this year (35.0 IP, 5 ER). He has walked one batter his last 34.0 innings. His walk in the sixth inning snapped a streak of 30.2 innings without a walk.
- \*-Wade allowed his first run of the MCWS in the sixth. He had 15 consecutive scoreless innings dating back to the ninth inning against St. John's (NY) on June 9.
- \*-Robert Refsnyder's first inning two-run home run gave him two blasts in the 2012 MCWS and was his eighth of the season. Refsnyder extended his reached base streak to 38 games and collected his 18th multi-RBI game of the season.

- \*-Johnny Field's two runs scored give him 13 in the NCAA Tournament to go along with 13 RBI. Field is the first player since John Hinson (Clemson - 2010) to have 13 runs scored and 13 RBI in a single NCAA Tournament. Hinson had 13 runs and 13 RBI that year.
- \*-Field has now scored 24 runs in his past 17 games dating back to May 13. He has eight multi-run games over that stretch.
- \*-Bobby Brown's RBI single in the seventh gave him five RBI in the 2012 MCWS. That puts him in a tie for the overall RBI lead at the MCWS with teammate Refsnyder and Justin Gonzalez (Florida State).
- \*-After a 3-for-4 day on Sunday night, Riley Moore is now 7-for-14 (.500) in this year's MCWS. Joey Rickard is now 16-for-38 (.421) during this year's NCAA Tournament following his 2-for-4 effort.

### **South Carolina (49-19):**

- \*-South Carolina is the first team to play in the championship game/series in three straight years since Texas from 1983-85. The Longhorns won the title in 1983 and then finished runner-up in '84 (to Cal State Fullerton) and '85 (to Miami).
- \*-South Carolina's 30-3 (.909) record over the past three seasons in the NCAA Tournament is the second best three-year postseason record in NCAA history (must make tournament all three years to qualify). The best mark belongs to Miami (FL), which went 22-2 (.917) from 1999-01.
- \*-Entering the 2012 Championship Finals, South Carolina had allowed four runs or fewer in 19 consecutive MCWS games dating back to 2004, the second-longest streak in MCWS history. The only team to put together a longer streak was Arizona State, which yielded four runs or less in 22 straight MCWS games from June 12, 1965-June 11, 1973.
- \*-South Carolina's batters have notched 14 walks with just 11 strikeouts over the past three games. Gamecock pitchers, meanwhile, have punched out 33 and walked just nine over the past four contests.
- \*-The home run by Refsnyder was the first allowed by South Carolina since June 2, snapping a 77.0-inning homer-free streak for Gamecock hurlers.
- \*-Ray Tanner is attempting to become the seventh coach in Division I baseball history to win three national titles and the second to win in three straight years (Rod Dedeaux of Southern California won five straight from 1970-74, the only time a team has won the title three or more years in a row).
- \*-Starter Forrest Koumas made his first appearance in the NCAA Tournament this year. The last pitcher to appear in no NCAA Tournament games before the Championship Finals and then start a game in the Championship Finals was Florida's Stephen Locke in 2005. Locke made his only appearance of the NCAA Tournament in game one of the Championship Finals against Texas and took the loss (4.0 IP, 4 ER).
- \*-Koumas entered the game having made just three starts and worked only 25.2 innings this season. Since the best-of-three format began in 2003, only one pitcher has entered a Championship Finals start with fewer starts on the year: current South Carolina hurler Michael Roth, whose start in the 2010 Championship Finals opener (against UCLA) was just his second of the season.
- \*-Koumas' 25.2 innings entering the start were also the second-fewest among any pitcher entering a Championship Finals start, as Fresno State's Sean Bonesteele, who came into his start in the 2008 Championship Finals opener (versus Georgia) with only 22.2 innings on the year, is the only to have worked fewer innings prior to a starting nod in the finals. Bonesteele also only had three starts prior to that game.
- \*-Christian Walker notched his 27<sup>th</sup> career MCWS hit in the game, second all-time to Dustin Ackley of North Carolina (28). Walker's 71 at bats trail only Garrett Gore and Chad Flack of North Carolina (both with 73).
- \*-Evan Beal made his 28th appearance of the season, but his first since June 11 against Oklahoma. His 5.0-inning outing set a new career-high. His previous long was 4.0 innings, which he had done three times this season. Beal allowed two runs (one earned) on seven hits and four walks.
- \*-Beal's relief outing was the second longest in Championship Finals history. The only player with a longer relief outing during the Championship Finals (which began in 2003) was Oregon State's Kevin Gunderson, who went 5.1 innings on June 25, 2006, in the deciding game against North Carolina.
- \*-Evan Marzilli (1-for-4 in the game) now has 67 career at bats at the MCWS, seventh most all time.