

2007 MVC Baseball Championship

Game 5 Quotes - No. 4 Evansville vs. No. 6 Missouri State

Evansville coach Dave Seifert

(on the third-inning collision at home plate between MSU's Nolan Keane and UE catcher Kirk Bacsu, in which Keane was ejected for running over the catcher)

"We've been flat for about a month and a half. We needed something like that to really get us going. It definitely became (and emotional game) after that home plate incident and we just needed something like that to get our season going. We've been playing .500 ball for the last month and a half, just kind of going through the motions and that really just got everybody going. Like Ben (Norton) said, Kirk's out there everyday. Kirk's a warrior, probably the most loyal kid on the team and he's out there battling, battling, wearing the gear."

(on Kirk Bacsu's fourth inning bunt that helped spark a three-run fourth inning)

"Kirk actually couldn't feel his shoulder and he couldn't even swing, so that's really the only option he had at that point in time. The sensation came back in his shoulder in later innings, but he couldn't feel it then."

(on starting pitcher Ben Norton's performance)

"Ben started out slow. I thought his fastball velocity was good early but it was very, very straight, something he's struggled with at times with year. But once he got through that third inning, he wasn't throwing nearly as hard, but had more cut and life on his fastball and he found his slider and that's his best pitch."

Evansville starting pitcher Ben Norton

(on the third-inning collision at home plate)

"It all started with Kirk (Bacsu) getting run over, my catcher. That just lit a fire underneath me. He's out there everyday giving his all and I wasn't pitching to my par at all, so I really had to suck it up and really turn it on after that third inning."

Missouri State coach Keith Guttin

"I felt like we just made too many mistakes, more than they did certainly, mental and physical. I thought when we were up 3-1 with runners at first and third and didn't score, that was a little bit of a momentum shift. I thought we had (Ben) Norton on the ropes and he got out of it and then felt pretty good about himself and settled down and got better."

"We're swinging the bats decent, but there's about four mental mistakes that aren't on this sheet right here. We don't get a bunt down, we got a 3-1 run-and-hit and we don't swing and the guy's thrown out by 15 feet, we try and race the runner from third base home early in the game, just too many mental mistakes. And we don't tag up when we should and if we do that, that play (collision at the plate) never happens."

(on the third-inning collision at home plate)

"It appeared to get them a little bit excited about playing. It's one of the shifts in energy in the game....Then the next inning we go up there and have to bad at-bats and swing at pitches out of the zone and both guys might have walked. They're trying to do too much."

Missouri State starting pitcher Scott Carroll

(on Evansville's three-run fourth inning)

"I was kind of getting behind some hitters and wasn't locating as well as I should have been. When you get behind hitters and they're a good hitting ballclub, it's tough to come back and try to get things done. Working behind was probably the biggest thing for me."