

2007 MVC Baseball Championship

Game 9 Quotes - No. 2 Creighton v. No. 3 Bradley

Creighton coach Ed Servais

"We needed our starting pitcher to give us a good performance so we didn't have to go to our bullpen. We wanted to save our bullpen as much as possible for tomorrow. Because of Ben's (Mancuso) good work, we're probably in as good a shape as we could anticipate at this time this late in the tournament with our bullpen probably as rested as they've been in weeks."

(on having a rested bullpen)

"We've been running those guys out there every game, so get through three games and have Scott Reese not having pitched at all, Andy Masten having thrown 10 pitches, Pat Venditte on two days rest...I don't know what's Pat's going to do tomorrow on two days rest. It's a better scenario than we ever thought we'd be in. No Creighton team's ever been in this situation before. We're usually at this point coming through the loser's bracket with dead arms and wondering how we're going to survive. Now we come into this thing with the best arms we've had and the best matchups because we like our lefthanded pitchers against these guys and we've got a lot of them sitting there."

"Let me say this about Bradley. Don't be too deceived by this score. I was really impressed with Bradley this week. I really thought they were playing the best baseball this week. They just ran out of pitching."

Creighton starting and winning pitcher Ben Mancuso

"Especially as the game wore on and we scored more runs, that was the focus so we didn't have to burn up the bullpen. I thought I threw alright. I had my curveball working and the other two pitches, were alright, but weren't working that well."

Creighton shortstop Chad Ogden

"I think it's going to be big for us to hopefully get on a roll before we head to Regionals. It's going to be a big thing I think taking it one game at a time. Yeah, we were disappointed a week ago, but we fought back and persevered over what was pretty disappointing for us, for the seniors the last game at home losing it like we did, but hopefully we'll be able to celebrate a championship, ironically, on Missouri State's field."

Bradley coach Dewey Kalmer

"We had three errors, but I thought they were all tough errors. At no time did I think we were kicking the ball around at all. They were all tough plays that we didn't get and we were kind of a little bit unlucky...it seemed like nothing went right, but I got to give credit to Creighton. You know they beat us five times. We finished third in the league when the two guys in front of us are nationally ranked and going to the NCAA Tournament and I felt we played as well as we could this year."

"What Creighton does is they execute and play great defense. They do a lot of small things well and they probably, over the years, have been one of the tougher teams that give you what I call mental and emotional toughness, somebody that gives you 100 percent on every pitch. Creighton does a better job at that than anyone else in the league and that's why they win."

Bradley third baseman Paul Rice

"We obviously came to do one thing and came up a little short, but everybody ends up with a loss, but we didn't come to finish third. We had the chance, our chance was last night. We came out a little flat tonight I thought. We were just unlucky the first couple innings I felt like. I didn't feel like (starting pitcher) Collin (Brennan) was that off, just had some bad luck and that'll happen."