

World Baseball Classic: Pool B - Czech Republic vs Japan

Saturday, 11 March, 2023

Tokyo, Japan

Tokyo Dome

Team Japan

Hiroya Miyagi

Postgame Press Conference

Japan 10, Czech Republic 2

Q. You pitched five innings, 67 pitches and seven strikeouts, including five consecutive strikeouts.

HIROYA MIYAGI: First, I gave up a two-base hit, two consecutive runs. Although I've got two strikes, I gave up two base hits. So from the third hitters that I faced, the top fifth, I changed to more aggressive. And then within the pitching limit situation, I am so glad that I pitched through -- to the fifth inning.

Q. Just mentioned the pitching limit. At the top of the eighth, you pitched 45 pitches, and before you go into the top of the ninth on the mound, what kind of conversation did you have with your pitching coach?

HIROYA MIYAGI: To be honest with you, I didn't expect that I pitched in a complete game, but my physical is ready and I had momentum from the team; and thanks to them.

Q. Let's talk about the Czech offense. Although they are hitting hard, including first off against Sasaki, hundred-plus mile pitches, how did you feel when you pitched against Czech Republic's offense?

HIROYA MIYAGI: They have great hitters on their lineups, so I talk with our catcher, Kai, and I made many, many communication with my catcher because they have great hitters in the lineup, and I put the extra energy because they are such good hitters.

Q. Now, your role for the upcoming semifinal, quarterfinal, semifinal and final, you probably are going to be used as a second starter. What's in your mind right now?

HIROYA MIYAGI: Well, I have no options where I'm supposed to pitch or where I prefer to pitch. All I can say is just do what I have to do and to concentrate and be



prepared for the future.

Q. Your starter, rookie Sasaki, you and Sasaki are the same age. Did you have any special conversation? And also, today's game, you got a save, and I don't think you have many save situation before. How do you feel about getting a save?

HIROYA MIYAGI: Before the game, I spoke with rookie Sasaki to work hard together, and so after the game, post-game, we spoke with each other, what a great game, good pitch. Probably this is my first save, and it was such a difficult -- totally different than as a starter, and it's such a great experience that I closed the game.

Q. You pitched in your first appearance with the top team, Japan, and also your first appearance in the WBC. In the top of the ninth, after two outs, the count was 3-2, if you let him walk or let him get a base hit, the new pitcher has to be coming. What was your feeling at that moment?

HIROYA MIYAGI: The first question -- what was the first question? Oh, yes, this was my first appearance pitching for top Team Japan. And I had a lot of pressure, but my teammates make me relax.

Even though the count was 3-2, I didn't think especially nothing. You never know the result until you pitched, so I pitched hard.

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