

2019 Mississippi State Baseball
Postgame Quotes
Mississippi State vs. Southern Miss
February 22, 2019

Head Coach Chris Lemonis

Q: What have you seen in the last couple of outings offensively?

CL: We are not doing a great job with pitch selection and making pitchers work a little bit. Are we a little anxious? Are we a little excited? Are we trying to do a little too much? Maybe. We have had two good starters pitch against us so I will tip my hat to those two guys. But we can be better. We have some really good hitters in that lineup. We are not good in our offense right now. We kind of have nine guys doing nine things instead of nine guys fighting as one. We have to figure that out.

Q: Have you been unlucky with your hits?

CL: There is a little bit of that. Overall, their starter was at 37 pitches going into the fifth. I mean, you are not going to win that game many times when that happens. You have to make guys work and compete a little bit more in the box.

Q: What did you think of Ethan Small?

CL: That is the best I have seen [Ethan]. Now is the best I have seen him right there. [He kept the ball] low, was hitting spots and changing his rhythm. That was a Friday night ace. I hate that we did not get that win for him because he pitched so well.

Q: Can the nine guys working as one happen in the middle of the series or does it take time?

CL: It happens. We will go in and out of it all year at times. We have a veteran group. They have played a lot of baseball. Offensively, we have to relax and let the game come to us some. I think that will be a piece that you see. They are very talented and have played a lot of high-level baseball. I just feel like we have some guys trying a little too hard.

Q: Do you anticipate tinkering with the line up?

CL: I will probably tinker a little bit, but nothing drastic. We don't have a lot of drastic moves there, but we can make some changes and do some things to get us going.

Q: Do you feel like pitch selection is easily corrected?

CL: I do. I definitely do. I think a little bit of it is us being anxious. One to hit, one to go. Sometimes you just have to let the game come back to you, especially early in games. I know we have one of the best lead-off hitters in the country. We let him swing and let him go. That is a piece of it. Sometimes we are ahead of that. We have to make guys work a little more first.

Ethan Small

Q: What was working for you tonight?

ES: I was just locating fastballs on both sides. When the velo[city] starts to drop a little bit, and [I] got little tired, [I] started mixing the off speed in a little earlier than last week. Really that is the biggest thing.

Q: How frustrating is it to lose a game like this, where you pitched so well?

ES: For me it is bittersweet. I would rather [our team] win [the game] than do what I did. If this team has proven anything it is that it can bounce back. I feel like we beat them in every category but one and that is the runs scored. That is baseball. We have experienced it. We have been on the other side of that. Really, it is just getting everybody to stay up. We will probably talk a little bit with all the guys and make sure we are all ready for tomorrow.

Q: Did you sense any frustration in the dugout after your guys were stinging some balls early on?

ES: It might sound like a play out of the same book from last Friday, but it is just baseball. There isn't anything you can do about it. Dustin Skelton had a hell of an at bat late. Love the fight. We will be fine. We will be great.