

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball
Postgame Quotes
Mississippi State vs. Southeastern Louisiana
February 27, 2019**

Head Coach Chris Lemonis

Q: Now that it's time to take the show to the road, where do you feel like you guys are as a team?

CL: I think we're playing good baseball. We've learned a lot about ourselves, some roles and our pitching [as] we've been trying to figure out those pieces. I'm excited to see how we match up against some of the better teams in the country.

Q: What are you seeing from Peyton Plumlee right now?

CL: Tonight, it was a better breaking ball, I thought. It was the first night that he really had his breaking ball and could use it in any count. He really established it early in the game and he held his stuff all the way through, I thought.

Q: What do you expect to see out of some of the opponents in Texas this weekend?

CL: Sam Houston State is a really good program, I think they were in a Super Regional two years ago. [A team] that could put a lot of pressure on you. I think we're facing a really good arm on Friday. Texas Tech [is ranked] one, two or three depending on the poll you're looking at. Then you have Nebraska, which I came from the Big Ten and I know how tough Nebraska can be. Darin Erstad has a great team. Like I said, we're going to have to strap it on and show up and be ready to play all three days against a different opponent each day.

Q: How difficult is it to get going when you're on the road and playing a different team each day?

CL: It's a lot harder for the coaches doing the scouting. My scouting guys have a gotten a team each week with five different opponents so you're figuring out the team. Sometimes it's good. It keeps us fresh. It makes you feel like you're in a regional, which is what I like about this. You're traveling so much everywhere and playing in a regional atmosphere, so it should get our guys ready for that.

Q: Is this offense just scratching the surface of what it could be?

CL: I think we were fortunate tonight. We got that first inning going and we had a bad base running play from our best base runner, probably. And then [Justin Foscue] picks him up and gets that big hit. That kind of takes the pressure off of you and the guys are able to relax and hit. I do think that we have a good offense, but I don't think you're going to get twelve every night. Probably this weekend you're going to be locked in some great battles so it will be interesting to see.

Peyton Plumlee

Q: It looks like you had everything working for you, how'd that feel?

PP: I felt really good. I knew coming into the game that I was going to have to pound the strike zone and mix in off-speed pitches, and work both sides of the plate and establish the fastball inside. After I did that and established the breaking ball, things started to roll for me."

Q: It's been a year since you've thrown some live games, do you feel like you're knocking the rust off?

PP: [As far as] knocking off the rust off, I would say I did that in the spring scrimmages. Coming up, you don't really have time to knock the rust off when you get into the games. Having the year off, I really prepared myself well, mentally and physically, coming into this year and I think that's what's helped me so far.

Q: Two years ago control was a problem for you, what's the key behind your success now?

PP: "Trusting my pitches. Sophomore year I struggled with just trusting my pitches and staying in the zone. This year, I've really found a safe point in my mechanics where I'm able to get down in the zone and pound both sides of the plate."

Q: When you see how well the weekend rotation starters are doing, what's it like trying to live up to that standard as one of the midweek starters?

PP: "That's one of the good things about our staff is that we're so deep and have so many good arms that everyone is pushing each other. Whether it be Friday night starters or Saturday or Sunday or if you're starting in midweek, I think everybody is equally pushing each other and I think that's why our staff is the best in the country.

Q: Where do you feel like this team is right now and how good can you guys be?

PP: This is the probably the best baseball team that I've ever played on in my entire life. That even goes back to sophomore year with Brent Rooker and all of them. This is no doubt the best team that I have ever played on. Moving into this weekend, I feel like we're going to have to take care of some business and I think it's a chance for us to make a statement down in Texas and put our name on the board.

Justin Foscue

Q: What was the offseason been like for you? It seems like you've put on some good muscle and have been seeing the ball really well.

JF: I think I put a lot of emphasis on my nutrition this fall. I think that helped me put on a little bit better weight. I developed my swing a lot [in the offseason]. I worked hard on my swing, so I wouldn't be missing those fast balls right there. That's basically all it is, just taking care of your body and working hard in the [batting] cage.

Q: How do you feel like this past weekend prepares you all for this upcoming weekend where you're going to see three really good teams?

JF: I think it prepares us a lot. [Southern Miss] is a good bunch over there. They're well coached and I think playing a couple good opponents will prepare us for teams like Texas Tech and Sam Houston State. So, it's good to face some guys like that.

Q: Are you ready to get on the road with this team and see what you all are made of?

JF: Absolutely. I'm ready to go.

Q: Take us through that grand slam. What was it like down there for you?

JF: I was just looking for a good pitch to hit. I got up in the count, three-one, I was ready for that fastball, and they gave it to me.

Q: Coming up at bat again with the same situation, does your heart skip a beat thinking you can do it again?

JF: No. My mindset doesn't change. Just hit the fastball and try to put a good swing on it.

Q: How well are you seeing it right now? Sometimes you hit balls up the wall, and sometimes drive it into gloves.

JF: I'm seeing it well. I worked hard on my swing this offseason, and I think it's showing now. That's basically, all it is, just working hard.

Q: Do you think you guys are just scratching the surface of what you can be as an offensive team?

JF: Absolutely. I think the coaches have worked hard with us all year, and I think this offense [can be really good]. We have a lot of experience. We have a bunch of veteran guys that have gotten stronger, so I think we're going to put up a lot more power numbers this year than normal.