

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball  
Postgame Quotes  
Mississippi State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
March 6, 2019**

**Head Coach Chris Lemonis**

***Q: What did you feel like you got out of your pitching staff today?***

CL: [Our pitchers] got good work in, number one. We kind of scripted it out before the game and I thought all of the guys came out and competed and threw strikes. We played pretty solid defense and it kept us in a frustrating game a little bit. We were in the sixth or seventh inning and the guys are over-swinging a little bit and had some soft outs. Our pitching just held them right there.

***Q: Did you think it was just a matter of time before they broke through at the end of the game?***

CL: I wasn't so sure. We decided late in that game to make sure we had some of our better [pitchers] up and moving because sometimes you get stuck in that game. The velocity from our opponents; some of those pitchers kind of had us off balance. I turned to Coach Foxhall at the end of the fifth and said, 'This one may be a little closer than we want it to be.' But all of the guys that we ran out there pounded the strike zone.

***Q: What do you tell those guys to just keep them locked in?***

CL: I'm just trying to get them to slow it down and get a good pitch. Our outs tonight were a lot of pop-ups and a lot of infield pop-ups from trying to get there a little early. I thought we were able to slow it down and stay on some balls, so we were able to have more success later.

***Q: Do you expect that from facing teams with great arms and then you run into a team that uses a different pitching approach?***

CL: It happens. It just does. It's either be above that speed or under it. The starter for them was a little under it but it's better for them because he was really effective. He pitched really well and had us off balance.

***Q: Are you proud of Justin [Foscue], because it looked like he was locked in all the way through?***

CL: Yeah, he had a good night. I thought he played well in the field especially; he made a couple of really nice plays. He had a nice back hand with two outs and also the double play he started. The line drive he caught and the four good at-bats. He's been like that for a couple of weeks now. He's been really impressive.

***Q: [Foscue] says that this is what his teammates expect out of him. Is this what you expect out of him?***

CL: Yeah, coming out of spring training. He's a real professional. He comes in everyday, works, and puts his time in. Baseball is really important to him so he's very prioritized in what he wants to do. You're starting to see that come out in his game. If you watch us every day, like you guys do, he comes and gives you a pretty consistent performance.

**Justin Foscue**

***Q: What do you feel is working for you right now at the plate?***

JF: I think I just have an approach to hit the fast ball, and I'm getting in good counts to hit them. They're leaving me something in the zone, and I'm putting a good swing on it.

***Q: It seemed like everyone was on their front foot, soft-tossing it in the beginning, how long did it take to make that adjustment?***

JF: It took a little bit. You know, we faced a good arm yesterday, throwing mid-90s. It took a bit of an adjustment. Maybe two times through the lineup. Then, [coach Jake] Gautreau came to us and said to slow the game down, get your pitch to hit. I think that's really what started going for us well.

***Q: Do you think it was just a matter of time before the bats broke through?***

JF: Yeah, that's how it always is. When we're struggling, we have a good bunch here that always stays confident, and [we] know that we're going to eventually come through.

***Q: What have your teammates said about the way you've been swinging the bat, overall, this year?***

JF: They just say, 'Keep doing your thing.' I believe that this is what I should be doing for the team. I feel like I'm helping the team, this year, more than I did last year. They know that's where I'm supposed to be, so they just say, 'Keep doing your thing.'

***Q: What did it mean to wear the [teal] jersey today?***

JF: It means a lot. I knew Alex [Wilcox]. Alex meant a lot to the university. To wear the teal jersey, we're playing for her. We're playing for her family. We're playing for ovarian cancer. It means a lot. It definitely brings a lot of support for her family, and it means a lot.

**Eric Cerantola**

***Q: What was your approach tonight?***

EC: I was just trying to get ahead. I was trying to stay efficient on pitch count, throw strikes and make them uncomfortable. That's basically it.

***Q: What's the adjustment been like for you to the college level?***

EC: Basically, you have to make sure you're not making mistakes and you're minimizing them. At the same time, keeping the ball down, switching up pitches and not falling into any tendencies [that hitters can sit on], just switching it up [to keep them off balance].

***Q: What's it like being on, what some people are calling, the best pitching staff in the country?***

EC: It's humbling. Every guy has their role, and we're just trying to do our best out there. It's working out pretty good right now and hopefully it continues.