

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball
Postgame Quotes
Mississippi State vs. Auburn
March 24, 2019**

Head Coach Chris Lemonis

Q: What did you see from your team today that enabled them to keep pushing and get the win in that game?

CL: It's just that no quitting mentality. I've known it about this group, but even when we gave up those seven runs in the middle innings, they just came in and went to work. It's the special quality of this team. We're talented and have some really good players, but this is a tough, gritty group. And they play for each other. They just stay engaged. Sometimes you'll see a team back off and put their heads down. Our team doesn't have that about us. Maybe it's a little bit in the park. When you have an atmosphere out there like that, it keeps you going, too. Our fans were outstanding.

Q: What did you see in the fourth inning when some pitchers weren't getting any outs?

CL: We were in the middle of the plate. Spencer [Price] wasn't out there long. He walked a guy and he gives up the hit, just a really hittable ball. Then Brandon [Smith] was just in the middle of the plate. I didn't think he was awful, but they're just too good of hitters and we were just missing spots.

Q: Cole Gordon was extended, do you feel like he just needed the work?

CL: I felt like he was getting those outs. He had a tough seventh, but he went out there and pitched pretty well after that. He just had to fight and he is such a competitive kid. It was nice to see him finish the way he did.

Q: How clutch was Dustin Skelton's bunt with two strikes?

CL: I took [the bunt] off. He's done that three times already this year. I give him the bunt, he misses the first two and bunts the third one. And another time he tried to bunt, but ended up hitting after it. It was a good bunt. He's our best bunter. I don't like to bunt a lot, but when it's up there and you're worried a little bit about the double play, because they do a good job in the middle turning it. So, we just wanted to move the runners over.

Q: Are Brand Cumbest's swings today the reason he has been getting more at bats?

CL: He'll be in there a little bit more. I'm really happy with the way he played today. I thought he had some big hits and he's a really good player. He does football in the fall and everything else, so he is just getting his feet wet. He's a very talented baseball player. He played really well today. He does some nice things for your lineup.

Q: How does it feel staying with Rowdy [Jordan] and seeing it pay off?

CL: When kids struggle and then they come out of it, sometimes they come out of it with a bang and that's kind of what Rowdy did. He had just been really struggling and you get a couple of hits and it's fun to play the game again and all of a sudden, your talent is there. And that's what you're seeing. We knew the whole time. I've had people ask me, 'hey why [stick with Rowdy]?' and even Coach Gautreau is behind him. This is just one of the best hitters in the country. That is how we feel about Rowdy. Luckily, he came out of it this weekend.

Q: As a coach, how awarding is it to see Rowdy so well received after the double in the seventh?

CL: I had goosebumps. When you watch kids struggle the way he struggled, it's really hard for a coach to watch that because you know how hard he works. He had a great attitude through it the whole time. You love to see that piece of it. He almost hit a jack there. When he came up and hit that pop up to right, he just missed that ball.

Q: How important were your senior's leadership in making sure their momentum up and the game going?

CL: They were great. They just kept coming off the field saying, 'hey let's get one. Let's hold them.' It was our seniors, but it was up and down our lineup. That group has played together a lot. They were very engaged all game. They never came in and put their heads down. They just kept playing.

Q: How do you turn around quickly and take care of a midweek game and an early start with LSU?

CL: It doesn't stop. Me being a young coach in this league. It's just week after week playing against the best. We just have to take care of business Tuesday. They're mad at me because they have to go study hall tonight, but we just need to take care of our business with class and get ready for Tuesday and then it should be a fun weekend here Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Q: Has anything about your team surprised you?

CL: No not really. I was a little surprised we didn't pitch [well] today. They just keep going out and playing. I saw that as I came here. I thought that and I saw it down the stretch last year, and being here now, that's just continuing over.