

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball  
Postgame Quotes  
Mississippi State vs. Mississippi Valley State  
March 26, 2019**

**Head Coach Chris Lemonis**

***Q: What do you see going on with [Eric] Cerantola?***

CL: [He's] not trusting his stuff. He looks like he's kind of hoping it's a strike instead of making it a strike. Both weeks Coach Foxhall comes down and it's electric in the bullpen, he's throwing strikes. He's just a young kid fighting the game a little bit right now. He works extremely hard, ultra-talented, but he has to get out there and compete a little bit more in between the lines.

***Q: What were you seeing from Jack Eagan?***

CL: He's been struggling to throw his breaking ball for strike and he's been working really hard on it in practice. I think the couple of adjustments he's made got his breaking ball in there and just makes his fast ball even better. I was really excited with him tonight.

***Q: Is the slump over for Rowdey Jordan?***

CL: I hope so. He was pretty good, especially the last ball. He is starting to drive some baseballs now too, especially to his pull side which he didn't do a lot of earlier in the year.

***Q: What is the real story about the goggles?***

CL: When he was doing really bad, I think Coach Gautreau said, 'Hey, you better get those goggles back on.' I don't know if they make a huge difference but he's hitting better with them. I think he's seeing the baseball a little bit better. He had lost a pair so he just quit using them. He liked to wear his sunglasses and contacts in the outfield for defense. That was one reason he wanted to switch over. If he's hitting with them then I'm all in.

***Q: You have a short week before LSU, does that change anything?***

CL: I don't think so, we will get a good practice tomorrow and be ready to go Thursday night. I know the guys are excited. That's the hard part right now for us, these weekends are so intense and so much on the line that the midweeks get to be a little bit harder. For me, I'm trying to motivate as much as I can. It's not about who we're playing, it's just those weekends are so intense. The crowds are so big. They enjoy playing in those games. They'll be ready to go.

***Q: What's the confidence level right now?***

CL: They trust each other, I think, is the biggest thing. Their confidence is high. They have a lot of confidence in each other. They feel like they can beat anybody. I think they're smart enough to realize anybody can beat them too. They have a real confidence about them, they've had it all year long. I see them continuing it.

***Q: How did Coach Foxhall sort the guys for this weekend?***

CL: Everybody just bumps up a day. The midweek stuff doesn't affect us too much. Last week we had two midweeks, that really shorted us more than anything. Ethan [Small] moves up a day and he starts preparing just one day less and same with JT [Ginn]. We will figure out our game three starter as we get to it. We just don't know right now, it will probably depend on how the weekend goes, try to figure out some things that way. Ethan's done it his whole career. When you play in the SEC it happens a couple times every year. JT, it will probably be one of his first times but he's so athletic. He's ready to go.

**Jordan Westburg**

***Q: How did you feel (offensively) tonight?***

JW: We saw it well. It was a rough start. I think, when you go from SEC-caliber pitching to some of the soft stuff, guys tend to get big. They tend to blame it on the velocity and all that. I think we found our approach later in the game and stuck with it.

***Q: What did you see on that home run?***

JW: Fastball. My approach, going in there, was softer stuff. I'm going to stay on something, try to hit the ball basically the other way. That's what I did.

***Q: That has been the trend this season. You see the softer stuff, but get your swing back come the weekend.***

JW: When you're used to facing SEC-caliber pitching, you have a group like that. It comes easier sometimes than hitting the soft stuff. Coach (Gautreau) was talking about 'would you rather face an SEC arm or these arms'. A lot of us answered 'the SEC arm', just because that's what we're used to. It's nice to get the hits. Some guys contributed here and there. Like you said, [it is] a tune up before LSU.

***Q: How do you tell the guys to enjoy the home atmosphere, but don't get caught up in it?***

JW: I think you just go out and play. It's a game and you're supposed to have fun. When I'm feeling sped up or feeling the atmosphere get to me, I just step out and breathe a little bit. I think, with some of the younger guys, we'll have to tell them to step out, look at everything and lock back in with a deep breath. I think it's going to be a great atmosphere. I think it's going to be way better than this past weekend. We'll have to play our best baseball.

**Jack Eagan**

***Q: How much confidence did you get out of your innings tonight?***

JE: A lot, especially having a couple shakedowns the last couple outings. It felt really good to get back out there, compete and do my job.

***Q: Was the efficient use of the fastball from realizing they couldn't catch up with it?***

JE: It's really just trusting the game plan. Getting ahead early and trusting your off-speed [pitches] late.

***Q: How do you get the guys settled down to take care of business in the midweek games?***

JE: Right, it's just about slowing down there and stopping the bleeding [and] coming out of the pen and doing your job.

***Q: When a starter may not have his best stuff, when do you guys start stirring in the bullpen?***

JE: Especially when he doesn't get out of the first, you have to prepare. Everyone has to prepare that you could get in at any point in the ballgame.