

2019 Mississippi State Baseball
Postgame Quotes
Mississippi State vs. LSU
March 30, 2019

Head Coach Chris Lemonis

Q: How would you summarize the game today?

CL: Not real clean. The last two days we have kind of played the same way defensively, [with] the walks, the wild pitches. We weren't great offensively but we did hit some balls hard. We've played pretty clean all year, played good defense. We just weren't really good the last two days.

Q: Was it planned to have the starter only go two innings?

CL: Definitely. We had everybody available, so we were just trying to piece together. Their lineup is a little unique with all the left-handers, so we were trying to maximize our left-handed pitching against that. We figured if we get one run through with Peyton [Plumlee], go to one lefty, then go to the other, then [we would] get into the back end of our staff. It didn't work out that way.

Q: How does this team feel after this weekend?

CL: They're pissed. We've got to get better. We just have to get back to practice this week and get back to fundamental baseball. In our league, you're not going to win them all probably, so you've got to be able to bounce back and play good baseball. We need two good days of practice and then we need a good day on Wednesday, and then get ready for Tennessee.

Q: What can you attribute to the defensive mistakes?

CL: Lack of communication. We talked about it yesterday, we talked about it today. We'll work on it on Monday and Tuesday, probably. We just have to get a little bit better in those areas.

Q: Is the pitching situation Sunday still TBA?

CL: Right now, probably. I don't know, maybe we'll make a better decision later in the week. But right now, it's probably TBA. We've got to figure it out a little bit. That, and our midweek. We have talented guys; our guys are talented. We just have to get some guys to pitch a little bit better.

Q: After a series like this, can you move on?

CL: I think we have to be able to do that. We have a mature, older team. They've won, and they've lost in their careers, so they understand it. We'll get back to work. I don't worry about that piece of it. We've got to get back to playing good baseball.

Q: What's Tanner Allen telling you about what he's seeing at the plate?

CL: He's just pressing a little bit. I think he's pressing. It's a little bit defensively, a little bit offensively. Usually the game's testing somebody in your lineup, and it's gone to Tanner a little bit now. He was really good opening weekend but he's been up and down all year. He's a super talented player and we need him. We need that left-handed bat in our ballpark. Hopefully, we can get him going here soon.

Q: What was the atmosphere of the locker room?

CL: There was disappointment. Nobody likes to have somebody to come into their own park and beat them. We talked about getting back to playing fundamental baseball and playing clean baseball. They did it on the vice versa; they were great. They made every play [and with] all those pieces, I thought they did a great job with it. We just have to play a little cleaner.

Jake Mangum

Q: What was the emotion in the dugout after today's game?

JM: We just got beat. We just got embarrassed. A year ago, we were two and seven right now in conference, bottom of the chain in the SEC, and we fed off of that. Right now, we have the target on our back, and we're not handling that well. This weekend we got embarrassed in two games and we have to get back to work. We have to defend better, we have to throw more strikes and we have to hit better. In every aspect, we have to be better.

Q: What goes into flushing a series like this?

JM: In every aspect of baseball, if you're 0-for-3, you've got to flush your first three at-bats. In the Auburn series, we lost game one. You've got to flush that. It's a quick turnaround. We play Tuesday night against ULM. They're a good ball club, and if we play like we did that past two days, we're going to get beat. We have to have a good practice, just have to get back to the basics and understand that we have to get better in every part of the game right now.

Q: What do you attribute to the offensive struggles?

JM: We hit eight or 10 balls extremely hard right at somebody. You can't get too much into it. A couple of those balls could have fallen for us. Their ground balls found hole, our line drives went right at people. Regardless, have to be better than that.

Q: Are you surprised that the team has struggled defensively at times?

JM: Absolutely. We take pride in doing everything extremely well. Absolutely I'm surprised. That's not what this program is. Mississippi State's known for turning the most double plays in the country almost every year. I have to do a better job at communicating in the outfield. We all have something that we need to do better. It's not any single position. It's every spot on the field. We have to get back to work, and we have to understand that the target is on our back. Last year, like I said, we fed off of people thinking that we sucked to be honest with you. This year, everybody's been patting us on the back, we're the number two team in the country and we have to understand that we have to play better in every part of the game. We have to turn it around and have a good practice and get ready for ULM.

Q: Does a series like this give you an edge going into next week?

JM: I know [that in] our next practice, we're going to be ready to go. It's going to be a bad taste in our mouth for the next couple days. Hopefully, we can play well against ULM and get a win there and just get over this series and then move on.