

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball
Postgame Quotes
Mississippi State vs. ULM
April 3, 2019**

Head Coach Chris Lemonis

Q: What were you seeing offensively from the team tonight?

CL: We had a good start. Jake [Mangum] was Jake tonight, just another five-hit night. I just thought that first inning really set the tone for us all night long. We had some really good at bats there at the first [inning].

Q: How good did it feel to get runs early in the game versus later like usual?

CL: We've been there lately. We've been a little behind [early in games] and chasing people, so it was nice to be able to play that way. I thought Keegan [James] was really good, too. He was able to run out there and pitch well. We had a chance to play with a lead and were able to put another big inning behind it. It lets you relax a little bit.

Q: How good was it to get Kale [Breaux] out there to pitch?

CL: It was good. He's been ready. He's been on me. I love him, he's a competitor and a great kid and that's the best I've seen his stuff. He's still got to be in the zone a little bit better, but it was good to see him get out there on the mound tonight.

Q: How nice was it to see Tanner Allen hit a homerun after a slight slump he's had?

CL: I thought he hit the one to center [field] really well, too, on the 3-0 count. We moved him back in the lineup a little bit just to change it up. Rowdey [Jordan] has been pretty good lately so we've gone back to the two switch hitters in the front. Tanner [Allen] is just so good and we're about to face three right-handed arms, really good arms, so we're going to need him in our lineup this week.

Q: How difficult is it to change the lineup around after your offense has done so well?

CL: It's tough. Like I told our guys, I think me and Coach Gautreau tore up three lineups today as we went throughout the day trying to figure out what we thought was the best one. Then we had seven straight and guys get on [base to start the game]. We felt like we got kind of close early in that game. It's tough when you move one, and it affects the others. We've had really good success with certain guys, so you don't want to mess up other guys. The continuity of our lineup is a big part of their success with feeding off of each other.

Tanner Allen

Q: A good night with the bats, just kind of take out a little aggression and get rolling again?

TA: Everybody in the lineup, one through nine, [was] swinging a good bat. We got some guys off the bench to continue to have good at-bats and I think we had 19 [or] 20 hits and I don't know how many runs, 21 or something like that. It was a big night for the offense. Pitching did well and defense played well, too.

Q: Take us through your home run.

TA: It was my first at-bat of the night. Coach Gautreau and I have been working all year long, ever since I've been struggling. I just went up there and said, 'you know what? All this mechanic stuff can go out the window. Let's just get up here, see the ball and try to hit a line drive.' I just tried to simplify it. I went 3-0 and coach gave me the green light [and I] swung at a ball. I fouled another ball off, went 3-2. I just tried to hit a line drive and, you know what, it went out the park so I'll take it.

Q: Was communication something you guys worked on during practice this week?

TA: It was funny. We're doing fly ball communication two days ago with music blaring in the stadium and nobody there. It's louder than you think on the field. You have to really scream your head off so somebody can hear you.

Dustin Skelton

Q: How big was it to come out and put up a seven spot in the first inning?

DS: It was huge. I just think that coming out and putting up so many runs early on is huge for our pitching staff. As long as we can just keep putting up seven spots, it will be huge for our pitchers.

Q: When you came up with the bases loaded in the first inning, how difficult is it to stay within yourself?

DS: Its huge. I don't know if you saw the 2-0 pitch that I swung at, but I came out of my shoes because I was trying to hit that ball out. I looked back at Coach Gautreau and he was just like, 'Hey, stay within yourself and put a good swing on it.' That's basically what I did.

Q: What did you see from Keegan to start the game out?

DS: I thought he had really good fastball command. I thought he was working at a quick pace with quick tempo. He had his breaking ball working for him today and his changeup looked very good. I think he had that three-pitch mix and that helped him out a lot.