

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball  
Postgame Quotes  
Mississippi State vs. Alabama  
April 14, 2019**

**Head Coach Chris Lemonis**

***Q: JT Ginn had a much better showing this week compared to last. What were you seeing from him?***

CL: I thought he was really good, better than he's been the last couple of weeks. His velocity is good and I thought his slider was really sharp. He's thrown it harder than he has in weeks. It was nice to have him back out there.

***Q: Did you have JT Ginn on a pitch count?***

CL: Not really, we were just trying to get him through a couple of innings. The biggest thing is we're trying to get Cole Gordon out there in an extended stand. So, we're trying to get his pitch count up a little bit, see how he'd do in a longer setting so it was a little bit of both situations.

***Q: Is JT back on track for next week?***

CL: I think so. We'll see how he feels tomorrow, but he said he felt really good today.

***Q: Tanner Allen was asked about the slump that he was in, and Rowdey Jordan started at .160, and sometimes coaches might sit those batters. What went in to the decision to keep them in the lineup and what does that say about your thoughts on them that you trust them to get out of it?***

CL: They're just both really good hitters. And so, as you know, everybody's going to struggle at some point in time. We knew those guys would come out of it, and they've sat out here and there and moved them around the lineup but at the end of the day we can't be great without those two guys and left-handed hitters in our lineup are huge. I think they were both freshman all-American last year so they're getting right back in to that form.

***Q: With them hitting like that, what does that do for this lineup?***

CL: It's huge, especially for the left-handers, sometimes, in those matchups. I think sometimes ours can be a little right-handed dominant but it was spreading those out through the lineup and TA (Tanner Allen), he's got a little bit of pop in there, too, to where he can make you pay.

***Q: Four runs given up this weekend. What does that say about your starters and your bullpen?***

CL: I thought we pitched great all the way around and I thought we played great defense. I think that's a side that gets overlooked a little bit. We made some really nice plays, and our starters and relievers pounded the zone.

***Q: You mentioned the defense, and a couple of weekends ago it wasn't great here, and then you make a couple of changes. Are you surprised at how quickly everybody's picked up everything?***

CL: I am surprised. Justin Foscue has surprised me because he's played a really good second base over the last couple of weeks and even Marshall Gilbert made some nice plays today.

***Q: Marshall (Gilbert) hit a couple out over the weekend. Is he a guy that could be the everyday third baseman if he keeps playing like this?***

CL: I think so. I think we'll have a little bit of a rotation and matchup and everything else. But he's played really well. The better you play the more you play, so I'm just happy to see him have a good weekend.

***Q: You've had some opportunities to close out some series and come up a game or two short, but you get the sweep. How rewarding is it to get over that hump and get it done?***

CL: It was good. We talked about it last night, and we talked about it this morning. The difference in sweeping or going 2-1 is a three-game difference or a one-game difference, and for us, we need to make up some ground so it was big for us this weekend and as we move forward.

### **Tanner Allen**

***Q: You've been hitting the baseball a lot better. What would you attribute this recent explosion offensively for yourself?***

TA: I give credit to my teammates and my coach for sticking with me. I was struggling there for a while, and they stayed behind me and encouraged me. I've been coming up here early before games and hitting and I've developed a good routine. I feel like that's what gotten me out of my slump. Now, that's not saying next game I'm going to come out here and go 0-for-4 with three Ks. It's a crazy game. Right now, I'm seeing the ball very well.

***Q: Was there anything specific you were trying to fix in those pre-game batting practices?***

TA: I was trying to stay my BP nowadays – or since I've been starting to swing the bat better a little bit – to the backside left-center gap. Staying on balls longer. I feel like sometimes I get too quick in and out of the zone, and that causes me to pop up hook balls. That's the biggest change I made.

***Q: Sometimes coaches will get tempted to sit players that are in a slump. But Coach Lemonis kept you and Rowdey Jordan in the order. Rowdey got down to .160. What does that say what he thinks about you guys, in that he stayed with you? What are your thoughts on that?***

TA: That's a lot of respect for him, because he came up to me and told me when I was struggling. He said, 'Look, you're my first baseman, and you're my three-hole hitter.' That gave me a lot of confidence. To have him there and support me the whole way through that slump was big time. Having a team and coaches behind you, nothing compares to it. If you're by yourself, I can only imagine what it's like going through that.

***Q: Alabama put a guy [Casey Cobb] out there who hadn't started a game this season. Did you intend to come after him swinging and attack?***

TA: Yes, sir. This is the game plan every day: be on the fastballs and see the off-speed up. Work gap-to-gap. We had a great plan against that guy today and it showed. I think we had six runs in the first two innings off of him. He had a good arm. Ninety-four. He had a good curveball, but we were able to put good at-bats together and manufacture runs. That was the difference of the game.

***Q: Speaking of guys behind you, you've got Elijah MacNamee and Justin Foscue behind you. Both of those guys are getting on base and driving in runs. How does that help you work through the slump?***

TA: Those guys have been tearing it up all year long. When you're struggling and you come up with a situation and you don't get the job done, [but you] have teammates like that behind you to pick you up, it takes a lot of pressure off your chest. One through nine, we're swinging the bat really well and it's fun to watch.

***Q: You are halfway through the SEC season and tied for first. Whatever else happens in the conference, do you feel like you've set the stage for a successful second half?***

TA: Yes, sir. It was a good first half, but nobody's going to remember the first half if we don't have a good second half. [We won] a big sweep this weekend, and [we will] play Texas Southern and play them hard and hopefully beat them and hopefully have some momentum going to Arkansas next weekend.

### **JT Ginn**

***Q: Coming out today, you had a pretty good showing, but last week, [you pitched] just the one inning.***

JG: I just had some soreness last weekend. I had to go out today and have a good outing and get ready to go for next week.

***Q: When you came out today, was it about the short rest? Could you have gone longer today?***

JG: Yeah, I felt great. I could have gone longer like you said, but I think they wanted to get me ready for next week.

***Q: What are some things that you've been doing this week in the process of getting you back on the mound this weekend?***

JG: Just getting rest and going to treatment and trying just to get strong again. Mostly rest and taking it easy and doing what I need to do to get ready to go this weekend. I felt good though, so we should be back on schedule.

***Q: What were you throwing that really felt good today?***

JG: The heater. [I am] just trying to stick with the fastball and go out there. I know I had a lower pitch count going into today, so [I was] trying to get early contact and get as far in the game as I could.

***Q: Obviously, in your freshman season, you expect to go through some ups and downs. What was it like going through this the past couple of weeks, being the topic of conversation?***

JG: [I am] just sticking with the plan. You trust the people around you and their advice. [I am] going with what they say and learning from them and listening to the doctors and the trainer and the coaches. They're really going to take care of me. I'm just trusting what they say and getting out there and getting my work in every day. I'm trying to bounce back as quick as possible.

***Q: What were some of the things that your teammates said, and how helpful were they?***

JG: They're ready for me to get back out there, and they've got my back. This team's so close. All these guys – you come into the dugout after [the] Tennessee [game] and they're picking you up. They want me to get back out there and get out there and give our team a chance to win every day.

***Q: Speaking of bouncing back, since the LSU series you guys are 7-1. Did that give a little fuel to the fire, dropping that series?***

JG: Of course. We want to win every game we go out there to play. I think those guys know that. Everybody in the dugout, we're getting after it every day. We're going to go out there and compete every day and give it our best.

***Q: You guys had some opportunities to take all three but have come a little bit short. How does it feel to finally finish one off and get a sweep?***

JG: It feels good. I think we played really good baseball this weekend and we looked really good in all aspects of the game. It was good to go out there and get a good dominant win right there.