

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball
Postgame Quotes
Mississippi State vs. Texas Southern
April 16, 2019**

Head Coach Chris Lemonis

Q: The game was still in jeopardy in the 8th inning, what was the mood in the dugout?

CL: Frustration. I think you have to tip your hat to their guy who pitched tonight (Alex Olguin). I thought he pitched a great game. Especially for a freshman, to come in here and pitch with that composure, it's tough. He was mixing pitches, probably a little below bat speed. It made it tough on our guys, so they were starting to get frustrated there.

Q: It was another midweek struggle, was it another "here we go" type of things?

CL: It was. We we're a little frustrated from the get go, but Brandon [Smith] made a great play to get the double play and get us out of that inning.

Q: Justin Foscue was talking about how, at the plate, he was thrown to slower than anything the guys see in the SEC, what kind of adjustment is that at the plate?

CL: We talked about it beforehand and moved up and moved on the plate, [to] try to be a little bit more middle and a little bit more backside. We were good early then we had a couple hard hit balls at them in those scenarios. Then we tried to do a little bit too much. We have that, you just have to be able to adjust to a little slower and a little harder. I would like it a little harder Thursday night.

Q: What are your thoughts about Arkansas?

CL: Really good. They have a great Friday night starter, some really special hitters, some great arms in their rotation and it will be a fun atmosphere. We're going into one of the better atmospheres in college baseball. It will be my first time so I'm looking forward to it. I just hope it's not too cold.

Q: Jordan Westburg didn't change positions but his defense seems to have improved as well, is there anything you attribute that to?

CL: Sometimes you just go [up and down] in the game. Jordan has been really steady then he had about a 10-day period where he wasn't steady, so I think he's back to being just his normal self.

Q: Between Gunner Halter and Marshall Gilbert, do you anticipate that just being the hot hand?

A: Yes, and Landon Jordan a little bit, too, and getting a left-handed hitter in there. We're going to play the hot hand in the matchup in that corner. I think all of them can help us in certain ways. I thought Marshall was great on Sunday. I think Gunner has been good and [Landon] has a chance to help us.

Justin Foscue

Q: Was there any frustration until the rally in the eighth?

JF: I thought we put a few good at bats [together] in the first [inning]. We had hits in the first couple of innings, we just couldn't get that last one to get some runs. Their guy settled in. We got ourselves out a few times when we didn't swing at the right pitches. We were swinging out of the zone. That eighth inning, Tanner Allen and Elijah MacNamee put some at bats together. It was more about putting more at bats together and swinging at the right pitches. I think that is what we should have done better.

Q: What did he throw you on that ball you got over the third baseman?

JF: If I'm being honest, I don't know. He had a fastball that was eighty miles an hour and he had a changeup that was seventy-five.

Q: When you have a guy that is a soft tosser like that, what is the adjustment as a hitter?

JF: You have to be very selective because he is going to try and throw you a lot of junk. He knows we have a good line up. [You have to be]Swinging at pitches in the zone, swinging at pitches you can drive and not chasing.

Q: How big of an adjustment is it to see what you see on the weekends to what you see the midweek?

JF: It's tough, you have to be mentally strong as a player. You have to be mentally strong as a group and have an approach against different guys.

Q: For that last pitch, did you just sit back and just put the bat on the ball?

JF: Yes, I was missing pitches all game. The one before I popped up I missed it. It was right down the middle and I don't know how I missed it. I was trying to shorten up just a little bit, to try and drive something. I guess the change up sunk a little bit. I got on top of it and hit the turf and got over the third baseman.

Q: How do you think the adjustment to second base has been?

JF: It wasn't that big of an adjustment. I played second base in high school a little bit. It's nothing new to me. I think the game slows down a little bit over there because the ball is not coming so hot at you. I feel good over there, I feel like I'm helping the team a lot more than I was at third just because there was a lot more balls hit to me.

Q: Is there more cohesion in the infield since you've moved to second?

JF: I don't know about that. Me and Jordan Westburg are throwing partners, we have been friends since we stepped on campus. We work very well together. I think [Jordan] and Gunter [Halter] worked together just as fine. Coach just puts out a line up and its whatever's working. I think we are a better group defensively, with me at second and whoever at third.

Colby White

Q: Safe to say your arm felt pretty good out there tonight?

CW: Yes sir, it felt pretty good. I had to get my heart rate up a little bit.

Q: What's it like throwing in these games compared to SEC, is your approach the same?

CW: Well, it was a close game when I came in, one to one. You can get beat by anybody. We don't want to take anybody lightly or they will [beat] you.

Q: Is there an inner competition between the pitchers?

CW: I just try and get better every time I pitch. It's really me getting better. There are a lot of very talented guys on our team, so it's going to be really hard to outdo them.

Q: Are you ready to throw on the back end of Cole [Gordon]?

CW: I'll throw the second inning or the eighth. I just like pitching so it doesn't matter when it is.

Q: How do you know when your arm is feeling really good?

CW: It's weird, I really don't know. I guess if I'm not sore or anything when I get on the mound. Some days I don't throw as hard as others. I'll turn around and look at the scoreboard once and look at it.

Q: When you go in the dugout what does Coach Fox Hall tell you?

CW: He just talks about command and staying ahead [in the count]. If your throwing ninety-six and you don't know where it's going it doesn't mean anything. He is big on command and working up and down [in the zone], in and out.

Q: Do you and Cole [Gordon] talk about setting up each other up?

CW: I have learned a lot from Cole. He's a really good pitcher. I have actually been working on a cutter this year. It's a pitch I struggle with, but I have talked to Cole about it. I've talked a lot with him about pitching and mechanics. I just try and learn as much as I can from him.