

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball**  
**Postgame Quotes**  
**Mississippi State vs. Georgia**  
**April 28, 2019**

**Head Coach Chris Lemonis**

***Q: There was a little bit of anxiety there in the ninth inning. What was the mood like in the dugout in the ninth inning?***

CL: There was a lot of anxiety, probably. I was really proud of Colby [White]. They just got a hold of a couple balls and ambushed a couple fastballs. He has been so good for us, but Colby took a punch. He just came back out there, kept pounding the strike zone, made some really good pitches to the last two hitters, and got us out of it. We are just so used to it. It feels like every weekend. The other teams in this league are so talented and so tough that they are not going to quit on you. Typical of SEC Baseball.

***Q: What did you get out of [Peyton] Plumlee today?***

CL: It was awesome, just the whole week. How about the whole week for Plum? From last weekend at Arkansas, bouncing back from that tough start and giving us a great one Tuesday night [versus Ole Miss] and another great start today. I am really happy for Peyton. He was really good today.

***Q: How does [Peyton Plumlee] mix his breaker in when he does have it going?***

CL: Throwing it for a strike is huge. That is what we saw late. That is why we took him out. He lost his breaking ball command the last twenty pitches. We took him out, probably not the brightest move in hindsight now. He threw one and it was a real hanger. It was really good early in the game. When he has that slider going it is a good pitch.

***Q: How does the offensive performance, coming off that Arkansas series and against one of the better pitching staffs in the country, make you feel?***

CL: We scuffled a little bit last week. I am proud of the guys for being able to come back out. I was just looking at my box score, all those power arms today and I think we struck out six times. We make [Georgia] compete; we make [teams] make plays. We grind out some at bats. We saw some really talented arms out there and our guys competed.

***Q: Where would you be without Jared Liebelt?***

CL: He makes great pitches at great times. The double play yesterday, the two guys he came in and got out [in the seventh] to get us out of that inning [today]. He is valuable piece of our pitching staff. All those guys are. They have all kind of been the rocks for us this year. I know Trysten [Barlow] had a little tough outing today but he has been so big for us. Cole Gordon and Colby White, as well. That is one of the strengths of our team is our bullpen.

***Q: What made you roll the dice of that suicide squeeze?***

CL: Probably over coaching a little bit. Elijah [MacNamee] had struggled a little bit and we thought we were going to get a fastball right there. With the momentum of everything, I thought we were going to get a gimme, but he threw a slider.

***Q: Do feel like Colby [White] has settled in the closing role?***

CL: We close by situation with those four guys I mentioned earlier. We could close any of those four guys, and probably another guy or two. We just try to match up the hottest part of the game. So, if we think the [eighth batter] is going to hit us, then that is where we will match up the best guy. The flexibility of our staff is that we kind of have some mix and match in there. Cole [Gordon] has saved a lot of games. Colby [White] has saved some. Liebelt [has saved some], depends on who the hot guy is and the best matchup at that time.

***Q: Where do you think the bullpen is at consistency wise?***

CL: I think they are fine. They are in some tough situations right now. We are in SEC play so you are facing good hitters. We talk about short memory and handling it. They are fine. We have had a couple of guys have a tough outing or two, but that is going to happen in this league.

***Q: With no midweek because of finals how are you going to use this week?***

CL: Really, it's a short week. We are off tomorrow. We will do a small simulated scrimmage Tuesday where we can have some live at bats, but we also have a couple arms that need to throw. We are out of here Wednesday, practicing Wednesday night in College Station. We are close to being done [with final exams], we are on the back end of exams for us. Our guys jumped out there and got some of theirs knocked out of the way.

***Q: How does this lineup generate power while battling through ABs?***

CL: The more we fight, battle, get base runners on and wear pitchers down, then you get in better counts. The pitcher starts to nibble, you get in a good count and then you get a ball to hammer. I thought that is what [Tanner Allen] did off the lefty. He took two balls, got in a good count and ends up getting ahead and crushing a ball.

**Tanner Allen**

***Q: Last Sunday we had a conversation, a lot of people did to “bury the Bulldogs” and now a much different feeling today.***

TA: It is, obviously a better feeling. We were talking about it in the dugout, last Sunday we were down, this Sunday we’re up. Georgia is the third-ranked team in the country, and we were able to sweep them. Pitched the ball great, obviously [Peyton] Plumlee went seven innings and allowed [one hit]. He did an outstanding job two starts in a row. But, we’re going to stay even keel, don’t get too low on the lows and don’t get too high on the highs.

***Q: You mentioned last weekend how difficult it is to play on the road in this conference. This weekend shows that, but the other way around. How difficult is it to play on the road in the Southeastern Conference?***

TA: It’s very difficult. Look at those fans out there, they love us. They make it hard on the other team, and that makes a big difference in the game.

***Q: You drove in three runs today, considering what happened in the 9th, how big do those swings look now?***

TA: Those swings are nice. I didn’t start off well today, struck out the second at-bat with a runner at second. Never want to do that, but you have to flush it. It’s always about the next at-bat. I was able to come up the third at-bat against the big right-hander, that guy was throwing really hard, he’s almost touching 100 miles per hour. He hung a changeup with two strikes, I was able to put a barrel on it and roll one down the line, drive a few runs in and got us a little momentum and we went from there.

***Q: How good did it feel after struggling a little bit against the pitching at Arkansas to do it against some really quality pitchers from Georgia this weekend?***

TA: The last couple of days at practice we got together as a group and we said we have to get back to who we are. We have to just get back to grinding out at-bats and hitting the fastball. We were taking batting practice all day long with a two-strike approach, because we’re one of the top hitting teams in the country and we don’t strike out that much, and at Arkansas we were striking out left and right. That’s not us. We were able to come out this weekend and compete and put some good at-bats together and get three wins.

***Q: Were you surprised at Jake [Mangum] taking eight-straight pitches and walking twice in a row?***

TA: That guy’s locked in right now. I think getting the [SEC hits] record behind him, he was able to start breathing because in the dugout he wasn’t saying a word to anybody, and we knew what was on his mind. He’s looking good at the plate, and everyone in the dugout is saying “Oh my gosh, Jake Mangum took a walk.” He swings at everything, but he’s swinging it good for us right now and if he keeps swinging he’s going to lead us.

***Q: Not just the sweep here, but you add the Governor’s Cup to it. How big a week was it this week for the program as a whole?***

TA: Big week. After taking the sweep at Arkansas after being ranked number two in the country, [Arkansas] is good and they hit us in the face and woke us up. We were able to bounce back and take one from Ole Miss and sweep this weekend. That’s a very good week, we’ll take that every week if we can.

**Peyton Plumlee**

***Q: That is your longest outing for you in a couple of years. What was so successful for you today?***

PP: Just a steady mix of pitches and filling the zone up. I know coming in on Sunday you can’t be all around the zone, you’re going to have to make guys hit it, make them move the ball and that’s the kind of pitcher I’ve been since the beginning of the year. I’m going to make people move the ball and not necessarily go out there and strike out everybody. But just compete in the zone and make them move it and that helped us out a lot.

***Q: Was there one or two pitches that were clicking for you today?***

PP: My two-seam was clicking for me today. I felt like my location, inside and out, were very good with those. I showed three other pitches for strikes, as well. So, I had a 4-pitch mix depending on what guy I was facing and I had a good idea going into the game about each hitter and that's probably the best thing that was working for me.

***Q: After throwing 60 pitches Tuesday, how did you rebound so fast to be able to go that distance today?***

PP: I've always had a rubber arm, and I've always made jokes about it, like "I'm scared for the day when my arm actually gets sore for multiple days in a row." The Ole Miss game, it was one day and then it wasn't sore the next day and I was good to go. I started throwing bullpens to get ready for this start. I think my arm held up pretty well, and I'll probably be sore tomorrow and maybe the next day after that, but I should be able to bounce back pretty quick.

***Q: How were you feeling when you got taken out in the 7th?***

PP: I was grateful for the opportunity to still be out there and I have no problem handing the ball over to one of my teammates. I got the utmost confidence in every single person that we run out there on the mound, so there was no hesitating with me or thought about "why with a 2-2 count." Everything happens for a reason. Our coaches have a good plan going for us and we just got to ride with it.

***Q: Were you starting to get nervous in the 9th?***

PP: I think we always stay a little nervous because you want to get a sweep. Getting a sweep at home is big time especially against a good team like Georgia and you see the game get away from you but that's what we've been doing all year if someone punches we're going to punch right back and that's how we're going to keep rolling.

***Q: In the first inning the first two guys got on. What did you have to do to refocus?***

PP: I knew I couldn't get too big and I couldn't try to overpower people. I had to stick to what I know and that is moving the ball down the zone and in and out and knowing if I could get those guys to put it in play or maybe get them to a two-strike count that maybe I could just get them on their toes.