

**2019 Mississippi State Baseball**  
**Postgame Quotes**  
**Mississippi State vs. Memphis**  
**May 8, 2019**

**Head Coach Chris Lemonis**

***Q: What did you tell the guys after the first inning?***

CL: I just pulled them up and said "Hey, we have nine innings to go. It's like playing on the playground. We spotted someone seven, let's see if we can catch it up." What you worry about is everyone tries to press and do too much. [We just needed to] get one here, get two there. I thought Marshall Gilbert's big hit got us right back in the ball game. I had a feeling we would score some runs. We are all pitching at the end of the year. Weekends are really important. I felt like we would get some at-bats. It was nice to get some hits there late.

***Q: How refreshing was it for Tanner Allen and Elijah MacNamee to have good nights?***

CL: They were really good. We need all of those guys. Our lineup is really deep when they are all swinging. It's nice to see both of them have good nights. They work. They have been back there this week. We are out of school, so they are able to hit a little bit more. A lot of it is just confidence. After Elijah got the first double you could see it come off of him a little bit. The second one was huge. He was back to his old self. We hadn't seen that swing in a while.

***Q: What is your assessment of the bullpen?***

CL: I thought we were pretty good all night long. I thought Brandon [Smith] came in and did a good job. He gave up a couple of hits, but they weren't scorched. Riley [Self], it was nice to get him back out there and have some good innings. Jack [Eagan] was really good. Then Cole [Gordon] was really good. These last two outings he [Cole] has been great.

***Q: What are you expecting to see from the Ole Miss lineup?***

CL: It is going to be a war. There's a lot at stake. It's a really good team. We're a really good team. It's a rivalry game. It's going to be a lot of fun this weekend. Hopefully we can just stay dry. Their lineup is one of the best in the country so we're going to have to be ready to go.

***Q: Does today feel like a step back when searching for a fourth starter?***

CL: A little bit. We have one more midweek so that is the last time we will need a fourth starter, hopefully. We will have to figure it out next Tuesday, who is going to go out and get us. We have some depth to our pitching staff. Keegan [James] is very talented. He has pitched really well at times for us. He just wasn't good tonight. The game sped up on him there as things went against him. We need them all. We need Keegan. He was part of that big run last year, on their way to Omaha. He is too talented and too invested in our program not to have success.

***Q: What do you like about Luke Hancock right now?***

CL: Well, offensively he gives us a lot of good at bats, not always hits. If you look, he just grinds out four, five, six-pitch at bats. He takes his walks and he's a really good hitter. He has a good swing on him. Defensively, he has just caught well. It's pretty simple back there. I don't know if you noticed but Cole [Gordon] struck out the lead-off in the ninth and it's a nasty breaking ball. [Luke] blocks that ball really nice and lays it out in front.