

**Mississippi State Quotes vs. Cincinnati (Winners Bracket)
NCAA Starkville Regional – May 30, 2026**

Head Coach Brian O'Connor Opening Statement

Great win for us, certainly. Tico was an elite competitor tonight. The guy always wants the ball in the most important times and he delivers again for his time tonight. Offensively, we struggled a little bit early on against their starter. Certainly, we had opportunities and just couldn't cash in and sometimes that's the game. Just really proud of our guys, they hung in there and didn't get frustrated. I think that's a sign of a mature team. They weren't pressing, just continued to play the game. That's what you have to do this time of the year. You can't try to do more than the game allows you to. I know everybody in the stadium wants hits all the time with runners in scoring position, but fortunately in the middle of the game and later in the game, we were able to get those and Reed Stallman was a really big part of that. I think he hit a ground ball to first and struck out in his first two at bats and his last three at bats were the best. I say to these guys all the time, it's not how the game starts or your game starts, it's how you finish. Reed is a great example, as were a number of other guys offensively tonight. Proud that we are 2-0 and the opportunity that we have in front of us to play another baseball game tomorrow night.

Tomas Valincius

On what was working well to attack the strike zone

I feel like that is a big part of who I am as a pitcher, applying pressure, and that was the whole game plan going in. Cincinnati has a great offense; we knew that. It was going to be a battle, and that's what it was. Go to war with them and just apply the pressure with everything you got. Let your defense work, all the guys behind me just working back there was great all around.