



# 2019 NCAA SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

OXFORD REGIONAL • MAY 18, 2019 • GAME 5  
OLE MISS 10, SOUTHEAST MISSOURI 0 (5 INNINGS)

**MIKE SMITH • OLE MISS HEAD COACH**

## OPENING STATEMENT

"Excited that we are going to have another opportunity to play Louisiana. I know it was a tough loss earlier this afternoon, but we're excited about being in Italy Blue tomorrow and getting another opportunity. We got to win two, it's not like we haven't played a doubleheader on a Sunday, it's just nothing new for us. So we're excited about having that opportunity. The team played well today."

## ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS PITCHING THIS REGIONAL

"You said it, outstanding. I mean it really has. The pitchers really gave us an opportunity to win every ballgame. To the first one on opening night, you put up those kind of runs pitching will help out. (In the early game) I thought Molly (Jacobsen) pitched a great ballgame. We just didn't help her out at the plate and defensively. This afternoon I challenged (the team) to throw the first punch and keep going at (Southeast Missouri). We put up an eight-spot and that really helped settle some nerves. It's nice to take that opening inning, especially being a little bit different and hitting first instead of being on the field at your own place. It was good."

**#15 KYLAN BECKER • OLE MISS CENTER FIELDER**

## ON WHAT SHE LEARNED ABOUT LOUISIANA PITCHER SUMMER ELLYSON IN THE FIRST GAME

"Yeah we will definitely go back and watch film. I like to slow-mo it and just see how I missed it and what-not. I definitely think everyone is going to go back and watch (the tape) and make adjustments for tomorrow because we're definitely facing her again."

**#30 ABBEY LATHAM • OLE MISS FIRST BASEMAN**

## ON HER FIRST INNING HOME RUN THAT BROKE OPEN THE GAME

"I was down in the count and kind of fouling balls off, so I knew she probably wanted to come into the zone once she was biting around it a little bit. Even though I had two strikes I wanted to put a good swing on the ball. I knew I hit it pretty good, so I just kind of got into my jog."

## ON WHAT SHE LEARNED ABOUT LOUISIANA PITCHER SUMMER ELLYSON IN THE FIRST GAME

"Yeah I like to go back and watch the sequences. I look at my swing a little bit, but I like to see the sequence that she pitched me and what she threw in what count, what did she use to get ahead, and stuff like that. Obviously she was successful so I expect her to go back to the same sequences. We have to be prepared for it and hopefully she won't beat us with the same sequence."



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**MARK REDBURN • SOUTHEAST MISSOURI HEAD COACH**

## OPENING STATEMENT

"We just took the same approach and wanted to come in and obviously win game one and give ourselves a chance to continue on with the day, and we had to kick and scratch there a little bit and fight in that first game. But we got the job done and gave ourselves a chance and that was really kind of the goal on the day, so that's what we wanted to do."

## ON GETTING DOWN EARLY VS. OLE MISS

"We knew it was gonna be tough, and sometimes you try some things that can get you a couple innings. We knew our backs were against the wall. I told our players we've been in situations, even last week. And we're playing the home team on their field, so to speak, and still go out there and do the same things we always do and take it one pitch at a time. We tried some things that maybe were a little bit different that they weren't prepared for. Kaylee [Anderson] hasn't pitched a lot for us this year, but we thought maybe keeping the ball down in the zone and some changeups a little bit there for a couple innings maybe would give us a little bit of a chance. We were gonna throw everything at them, including the kitchen sink, and that was our attempt."

## ON WHAT THIS SEASON HAS MEANT

"I don't know if I've had a better team, all around, on and off the field, and how great of teammates they are with each other. We told our returning players, we're not gonna be one hit wonders. And they've got a lot of responsibility in trying to continue on with what they've learned and what they've observed with our seniors in what we're trying to develop. They've lifted this program so high."

**#2 RACHEL ANDERSON • SOUTHEAST MISSOURI CENTER FIELDER**

## ON THE FIRST GAME TODAY BEING THE FIRST WIN FOR SOUTHEAST MISSOURI IN THE TOURNAMENT IN SOME TIME

"It's always been a goal of ours not to get swept, and by far we did not get swept all OVC play, so we came in today like we're not gonna go 2-0. We're gonna compete every pitch and that's exactly what we did. Our pitching, our hitting, all around defense. We played 110 percent and I couldn't ask for more."

## ON BEING PART OF ONE OF THE GREATEST TEAMS IN SCHOOL HISTORY

"Last year, Team 42 is what we called it, I thought, 'how can I beat this record?' But coming in to this season, to see all the records broken, to come into the circle after games, taking every moment in, this was phenomenal, and I could not ask for a better group of seniors. They've done a phenomenal job of carrying this from their freshman year to their senior year. We now have a target on our back, but I think we're ready for OVC play next year."

## ON PLAYING ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

"Yeah, it was a bigger stage, but yesterday just felt like another game. That's how we took it. At the end of the day, it's just another game of softball."

**#15 HALEY THOGMARTIN • SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PITCHER**

## ON TODAY BEING THE END OF HER CAREER

"It's huge just because it's our last game, but it didn't matter if it was yesterday or two weeks ago. We play anyone, anytime, anywhere. So it was just another regular game to me."

## ON BEING PART OF ONE OF THE GREATEST TEAMS IN SCHOOL HISTORY

"Well, freshman year was rough. It was crazy coming in freshman year, being young, but we had one goal. On my visit coach said we're gonna win a ring when you're here. So it was really exciting taking it all in. I just wish the best for the team next year. They've got a lot to live up to, but they got it. This is one of the best teams I've ever been around."