

## **Louisiana Head Coach Matt Deggs**

### ***Opening Statement***

**MD:** “Yeah, we’re very proud to be here. It was a long journey for us to get to this point, and it’s always part of our expectation, to win the league and win the tournament, find yourself in a regional, have a chance to get into a super regional and have a chance to get to Omaha. That’s stuff that we’ve done in the past and are capable of doing. Based on our season and the way it played out, all of those things were a long shot for us at certain times in the season. I’m just super proud that we’re here and have an opportunity to keep playing at such a great venue and have a chance to stay together as a team and see how long we can keep playing. It’s just a credit to these kids and their toughness and resiliency. With the path that we took, a lot of common people would’ve shut it down and started looking for Plan B. These guys never did; they just kept working. They got better, they got badder, their expectations kept building, they kept leading each other. And sooner or later, they took off, and it’s been fun to watch. So, we’re proud to be here, it’s an honor, and I don’t ever take these things lightly because they’re hard to come by, and they’re getting harder. College baseball’s as good as it’s ever been. So this is a great honor for us to be here, now it’s up to us to make the most of it.”

### ***Did you learn anything about your team with all of the adversity you faced in your conference tournament?***

**MD:** “I did, yes, but I didn’t. If you would’ve told me that we were going to have to play seven games, once we got two out of three games off Coastal in the last series of the year, going into the tournament, I pay attention, not to a lot of stuff, but I’ll pay attention to Kendall Rogers, because he’s usually pretty close. And so, he’s saying we’re starting to gain some traction. I’m thinking, well, we’ve got to get the play-in game, then we’ve got Coastal again. So, if we get that one, we might be right there. I didn’t think we were built to handle seven games, just because of our pitching depth. And we’re banged up too, one of our best players is out. They proved me wrong. We can mix and match well enough if we swing the bat, that’s the big caveat. We can mix and match well enough to handle several games in a short amount of time at that level. But these kids just want to stay together. They have to understand, and they do understand, it’s like climbing Everest. When you start to make that final ascent, it doesn’t get easier, it gets harder. At some stops it’s taking one step and 10 breaths. We’ll see if that holds this weekend. The key is, you’ve got to score runs and you have to get some depth out of your starter. We were able to do that just about every game that we played in that tournament. I’ve been doing this 31 years, that was remarkable. I

thought we were going to win that game. We mounted a comeback in the last inning. But we had stranded bases loaded like two or three times and I think we were just low on fumes. We'll see how we respond this weekend, if we have enough time to catch our breath. You know, some teams expend a lot of energy just to get to this point. What they do after that is always the great unknown, so we just have to come out and play good baseball."

***How do you plan to handle your pitching rotation this weekend?***

**MD:** "We're going to start Cody Brash tomorrow, who I think is one of the better arms in the country. I think he's a relative unknown when you start stacking really good arms, but he's going to pitch for a long time. I'll kind of go from there. Ty Roman's one of the hottest pitchers we've got right now. Herrmann has thrown a lot, to say the least, and so we'll see. It could be Roman in that next game; we'll see who it is and where we're at after tomorrow."

**Louisiana Pitcher Andrew Herrmann and Infielder Lee Amedee**

***Andrew, not a lot of pitchers have a lot of innings, what do you attribute that to over the course of the season?***

**AH:** “I attribute that to John 15:13, ‘No greater honor than the sacrifice for a brother’. I’d do anything for this team and anything for each of these guys. Once again, I’m willing to lay my life down for them and I’m sure they would do the same for this team.”

***Lee, what did you learn about your team in Montgomery at the Sun Belt Tournament?***

**LA:** “Just our toughness. It was a lot about our toughness. We also just don’t care who we play or where we play. We had to go back and forth with Troy three times, like an hour drive, off of three or four hours of sleep. We just love to play, we don’t care who, we don’t care where or when, we just like to compete, play baseball and have fun.”

***Can you discuss what it was like seeing the ballpark here in Starkville and anticipating what it will be like when all your fans come in tomorrow?***

**LA:** “Yeah, I mean, obviously it’s one of the nicest ballparks in the country. It’s pretty sweet to see all the stands out in the outfield. It’s really unique. I’m excited to get to play here in a new environment. I haven’t played here yet in my college career. I mean, like I said earlier, we’re not going to look too far into it. We’re just going to go out there and play our brand of baseball and have fun.”

**AH:** “Yeah, new scenery as well, but I’m excited for all of Cajun Nation to come out and support us. I think them having our backs will really help propel us through this regional.”