

2017 NCAA Baton Rouge Super Regional – Post-Practice Quotes LSU – June 9, 2017

LSU Head Coach Paul Mainieri

On facing Mississippi State after closing out the regular season in Starkville...

“Obviously, we are more familiar with their entire team after playing three ballgames with them. They have some really good players up and down their lineup. (Konnor) Pilkington is as good as there is, left-handed pitcher. He’s going to be playing for Team USA this summer. I think that tells you of the caliber of his ability. He’s a real competitor. He played with Beau and Bryce Jordan this summer. I know that and they think the world of him. I just see that they have a really good team. Obviously, (Brent) Rooker is all-world. He’s having as good of a season as I have seen a college baseball player have. I love their shortstop, (Ryan) Gridley. He’s a gritty little player that just—he’s a pest, a tough out. He makes all of the plays. Their second baseman (Hunter Stovall) is good. (Jake) Mangum is like a gnat that you just can’t knock away. He just keeps coming back for more. He puts the bat on the ball and he can fly. He catches everything in centerfield. They have a really good team. They’ve done a really magnificent job with their staff, with their bullpen. Gary Henderson, their pitching coach, is a very experienced guy, and he’s done a tremendous job pushing the right buttons with their guys.

“Even though we were fortunate to win all three games there I came away very impressed with their team. Our guys played really well, and that’s why we won the games. I can’t emphasize enough that what happened there three weeks ago has no bearing on what will happen here. Obviously, I hope we win the games, but the fact that we beat them already is not going to impact the outcome of these games. One of you asked me earlier this week, ‘Is it hard to beat a team five times in one year?’ I said, well we are not looking at it that way. We are looking at it as having to beat them twice. The three games that we played earlier this year are ancient history. We don’t think about them. We don’t talk about them. All we are focusing on is this weekend.”

On Mississippi State losing the first game of the regional and winning the regional title ...

“I think what they did with losing the first game of the regional and winning four straight in two days—four games in two days—would give them a lot of confidence. I don’t know about chips on shoulders. I don’t know what that means. I know our team is very confident. I’m sure that their team is very confident. When you get down to the point where you only have 16 teams playing college baseball, believe me, all of them are good. All of them have good players. All of them have really good arms. They’re playing with a lot of confidence. Even going into the regional, like I told our team, every team that is in the regional is here because they won a conference championship and won an automatic bid, or they had a great season in their total body of work. Now, when you reduce that number from 64 down to 16, you can imagine the confidence level of every team that’s in the tournament. We are no different. We have a very confident group. We have won some big games. We have already won four championships this year. I like the experience that our guys have had, but once again, it doesn’t carry into this weekend. The team that’s going to win the game is the team that’s going to go out there and play better tomorrow night—pitch better, make the plays, get on base, get the big hits. Mississippi State is as capable as we are of winning the ball game.”

**2017 NCAA Baton Rouge Super Regional – Post-Practice Quotes
LSU – June 9, 2017**

LHP Jared Poche

On facing a hitter like (Mississippi State's) Brent Rooker and having to limit the batters in the order that come before him to limit the damage he's able to do...

“He’s had a great year. He’s a great hitter. I’ve been facing him for a long time. He’s doing things this year that he’s never done before. He’s been a great hitter for three years now. That was the approach when he played him in the regular season and that’s the approach we’re taking this year. He’s definitely an advanced thinker at the plate. He has a good swing and approach. You can kind of feel him thinking along with you during the at bat and you don’t really see much of that in college hitters.”

On playing at The Box (Alex Box Stadium) for the final time...

“This weekend will definitely be the last start at The Box for me, win or lose. I’m going to take that in and just go with it. I hope it’s not my last start in college. We’re trying to keep our sights where they belong. Obviously, we have to win this weekend. We’re playing for Omaha and they’re playing for Omaha.”

RHP Alex Lange

On the importance of keeping guys in front of Brent Rooker off base to limit his damage...

“Baseball is a pretty simple game and I think that’s the easiest way of putting it. If you get guys out in front of guys who do damage, then they can’t do as much damage. Baseball is really an easy game if you just don’t think about it. You just need to go out there and try to get as many guys out as you can before you give them any runs. If you keep the guys off base in front of Rooker, solo homers aren’t going to beat you. A three-run homer will. That’s the key.”

On his impression of the Mississippi State lineup when he faced them three weeks ago...

“They’re scrappy. Rooker is a much better hitter as a hitter, not just as a power hitter. He’s balanced, I think he’s thinking with me through an at bat. It will be a fun battle between him and I. I see him moving in the box. I see him thinking. I see him swinging through a pitch and just checking himself. He’s a really good hitter so it will be a lot of fun.”

SS Kramer Robertson

On facing (Mississippi State's LHP) Konnor Pilkington...

“We did a really good job last time of not striking out against him. He only struck us out one time as a team. When you get later into the game especially in an environment like this with a lot of heat and humidity you hope you can tire him out and get to their bullpen. Fight him off, do whatever you can to try to make him throw pitches and get into their bullpen. That will be our approach tomorrow.”

On playing in another Super Regional...

“It seems longer than a year. It seems like I’ve been waiting forever and I wasn’t sure if this day would ever come. This has been the longest week of the year. Every day has gone by so slow and I’m sure tomorrow will drag along up until game time, but we’ll be ready to go as soon as 8 p.m. hits.”

RF Greg Deichmann

On having swept Mississippi State three weeks ago...

“We just are feeding off of what we know about them from last time. We know what kind of opponent they are. They know what they’re going to get from us. We just have to go out and play our game like we did when we were there. The score is 0-0. It’s a new series. We have to get out on the right foot tomorrow and get after it from the first pitch.”

On being familiar with MSU Head Coach Andy Cannizaro...

“We know what kind of coach he is. We know the kind of energy he brings to the table. He gets his guys fired up and ready to play. We have to come out and match that energy and then take it to another level. That’s the biggest thing he brings all the time, a lot of positive energy, even if the scores 20-0, he’s still going to have them up ready to fight back. Matching the energy level and then taking it a step further will be key for us.