Southern Miss head coach Scott Berry

*Opening statement*

“Really proud of our club and how we came out and competed today. I thought it started from the first inning on. We had some big at bats there early to take a 1-0 lead over a very good South Alabama club. I really it started with Taylor Braley on the mound, how we was able to adjust. They took some good swings off of him there in the bottom half of the first, but from that point on he really adjusted his game, got his changeup going and, obviously, at the plate he had a big home run that he had that put us up 4-2. Later he had a big double to lead off the inning, so a lot of big moments in that game, but very proud of our guys. We now advanced to tomorrow and stay in that winner’s bracket and basically we played a solid game all the way around.

*On the team’s situational pitching to finish the game*

They did a great job navigating through that lineup. South Alabama, they hit over .300 as a team and have six left-handers. Stevie Powers, when he came in to inherit those lefties, I could tell he was worn down a little bit, but for him to get that change-up, I’d say that was the key with those lefties. He was able to speed them up and slow them down. Hayden Roberts and Nick Sandlin at the end, I felt they could hold it down and they pitched very well.

Southern Miss starting pitcher Taylor Braley

*On how he was able to find success after a slow start*

Really just mixing it up, not throwing a whole lot of fastballs after the first few innings. They were all sitting there for the fastball. Early on, I was leaving the ball up in the zone and they were getting to it. I couldn’t really find the zone in the beginning, but just mixing it up and adding the change-up helped me last as long as I did.

Southern Miss outfielder Matt Wallner

*On his reaction to the rare homer by Tracy Hadley*

“I was on second, so I just started running. Never expect anything less out of Tracy Hadley."

Southern Miss third baseman Tracy Hadley

*On his homer and how it felt off the bat*

“I went to the plate and the guy had been painting fastballs all game. I backed off the plate a little bit because my weakness is in and I just stuck with the approach. He gave me one over the plate and I got a good swing on it. I mean, could you tell by my smile? It felt good. I’ve been up and down this whole season and I haven’t really been hitting very many barrels and that one felt good."

South Alabama Head Coach Mark Calvi

Opening Statement
First of all congratulations to a very talented southern miss team, probably the most complete team that we’ve played all year long, and to play at a very high level, so congratulations to them. We had a few too many walks in there, we had some hits by pitches. We out hit them and we hit some balls hard and we left 15 on base, now their pitchers had a hand in that, like I said they have a lot of pieces over there in the southern miss dugout, so they had a hand in that You know we’ve done a great job of getting that big hit and getting men on and getting that big hit, but we just didn’t. We were in position we just didn’t get that big hit today. We have a lot of faith in Tyler Carr running them up here. I just didn’t think he had his best stuff, he wasn’t awkward by any stretch in the imagination. But against a very good hitting team, one of the best hitting teams we’ve faced all year long if not the best. You just can’t get behind on the count, you can’t give free passes, you can’t get predictable in counts. I thought Southern Miss did a very nice job offensively. Like I said, we outhit them, but they hit a three-run home run, they had two home runs in there, we had one early on; a couple times we got into one. But you just can’t give them much, and you know they’re going to earn some things on you if you give them too much you’re in trouble. We gave a little too much today and what they earned they just opened the gap up. You know we scored 2 runs early and we only pushed 1 across after that and our guys fought and scratched and clawed and competed like crazy we just couldn’t get that big hit that we’ve been used to getting for pretty much the last 30 games or so. But credit to Southern Miss, outstanding job by them. Hopefully we get a chance to play them tomorrow.

On Southern Miss starter Taylor Braley’s pitching
Well looking at his line, he only went 5 2/3rds, he gave up a few hits, we hit some balls hard. He went to the change up, the change up was very effective for him. He pitched a little more backwards than he was trying to early. He was up to 94 and you have to respect that and he was using that fast ball early and we got to a few of them. It was kind of the same story as when we played them last time. We scored early on them and then he settled in and switch gears and if you’re not talented and you’re not good you can’t switch gears. And that’s what he did, he threw change up a little more, pitched a little backwards. He’s not 87-88, he’s 90-94, so when you have a good change up in there. You have to honor 90-94, It’s not like you can sit and look for off-speed because you’ll have no chance. He did a really nice job making those pitches and that’s what he did, he three pitches for strike then he moved it back and forth. He was unpredictable and he’s got some velocity, that kid’s been around the block. He’s a great player for them, a two-way guy. He hit a home run today and I thought he was fantastic on the mound for them. He had a great start.

On Tracy Hadley’s homer
I think that was the third baseman, He hit a breaking ball, if he took it if he would’ve been looking. Hadley did a nice job whether he was sitting on it or not. I thought it was a decent pitch, was it a great pitch in that count. It was a 1-2 count, nahl, you know I would’ve like to see it down a little bit more, but credit to Tracy Hadley for the job he did in hitting that ball out.

On Dylan Hardy’s successes
“Hardy, he’s worked extremely hard, he’s helped me. He’s getting older, he’s not a freshman anymore, He’s not a young kid anymore, played every single game for us just about. He went off and played summer ball last summer and he’s gotten bigger and stronger. His work ethics, he’s got a great work ethic. He’s got a lot of athletic ability. He’s one of the fastest kids I’ve ever coached in 24 years. He can really, really run. He’s a converted infielder. He used to be a second baseman and last year was the first
time he’s ever played in the outfield, so it was new to him. But he’s worked extremely hard, countless hours in the weight room, countless hours in the cages, countless hours shagging fly balls. On his own, during DT. He never let his guard down. He’s self-made, he understands the work that it takes to be good and he’s put in the time.”

*On the challenge of facing Southern Miss*
No outs, No easy outs in the lineup, They don’t give away a lot of at bats. They’re a bunch of kids in that lineup, been around the block several times with this program, they’re experienced. They don’t fall for the open end and the tail pipe trick. You can’t fool them as much, you can’t make many mistakes... They take advantage of mistakes. They can run a little bit, that’s not their game. They have power. They just keep coming at you. They have a good mix of right and left and experience and power and hit for average. Like I said, You can’t let your guard down it’s not like you get to seven, eight, nine, and you think you can concentrate on them. No, they can flip that lineup over and you’re in trouble. You’ve got to make pitches for them and you have to make it for 27 outs. That’s why they’re so successful, they played very very good defense. All their units complement each other.

**USA reliever Joey Jones**

*On approaching Southern Miss*
“We know they can hit, so getting the first pitch strike, getting ahead early, you know those guys, if you fall behind on them, they’re sitting on the fastball and that’s when you get in trouble... So I got out there and worked ahead and things started going in my favor. You’ve got to limit the damage that they can do. I gave up a couple hits but you minimize, when you’ve got 3 pitches working you can get out of things.”

*On what’s next*
We’re gonna play fine, we played 27 outs today. We played hard, things didn’t go our way at certain times we had runners in scoring position But I have all the faith in the world that we’re going to come back. We’ll be all right.