2017 Hattiesburg Regional – Game 7
Postgame Quotes – Mississippi State 8, Southern Miss 6

Mississippi State head coach Andy Cannizaro

Opening statement
“What an incredible win for our players tonight and just everything about this day, and everything about this night, it just summarizes who we are as a team; the fight, the grit, the grind. These guys never quit. There is never a game they don’t think they’re going to win. I can’t even begin to tell everyone out there how proud I am of these players, just the effort they’ve given our entire staff all year. Nobody thought we would still be playing right now. I just think people thought it was the 2016 Mississippi State Bulldogs that won the league and lost so many players, what are they going to do? And here we are, alive and in the NCAA Tournament going to the Super Regionals. It’s been an incredible season, each and every one of these guys had had a gigantic impact on our team. I’m almost at a loss for words in terms of just how proud of the fight that these guys have had this year. This has been a special run and a special season.”

Mississippi State first baseman Brent Rooker

On how he was able to find success after a slow start...
“I’ve had success throughout the year and I’ve hit a few lulls along the way like every hitter does but I just talking to coach to stay with my approach and not try to do too much, not pressing, just allow myself to go to the plate and be comfortable and trust my ability to hit. I just have to grind through the tougher times and just trust that I’m a good enough hitter to come out of it.”

Mississippi State third baseman Cody Brown

On how it feels to be named Most Outstanding Player of the Regional and playing at this level...
“It’s awesome. Anytime you get to play in the post season it’s pretty special, especially getting to play in the home state with all the fans out there. Playing on the road it tough but the atmosphere was great and a great championship Monday to be able to play in front of those fans like that and in an atmosphere like that, I really enjoyed it.”

Southern Miss head coach Scott Berry

Opening statement
“Well, it’s never easy to end it like we did today. Obviously, I wanna congratulate Mississippi State for the way they went in and competed, having to win two games. What I don’t want to lose in this whole thing, is yes, our season ended today, but what a season it was for these young men that are sitting next to me and all their teammates. It’s a very special group that I’ll always be thankful for, and the Southern Miss fan base should too for all the excitement and good times they gave us. Not only did they represent us on the field, but off it as well and how we run our program. Right now, the game is sometimes
unforgiving and we are feeling it right now, but it gives us many things that we are grateful for, especially with the relationships we have.”

On Kirk McCarty’s performance and how the Bulldogs responded
“Kirk pitched on Friday and came back to give us innings that we needed in that start that we had to have with our backs against the wall. The other guys really grinded it out. State competed, and they put the pressure on and we didn’t make some plays that we needed to make. They forced the issue with it and all in all, I thought our guys, and especially our pitchers, really stepped it up when we needed it most.”

Southern Miss first baseman Dylan Burdeaux

On his final on-field meeting with the team
“I wouldn’t say any lasting words, this ride has been unbelievable...it’s definitely one I’m never gonna forget with these guys here and what this coaching staff did for me. These coaches gave me an opportunity to play Division I baseball, and those were the four most fun years of my life. We are all gonna be life-long friends for sure.”

On his leadoff homer in the bottom half of the first
“It was big. Obviously Brent Rooker did a great job in the first inning to go opposite field and give them some momentum, but we wanted to get it back on our side. I got to a 2-2 count and he left an off-speed pitch up. Obviously it was big to get our crowd up and swing some momentum our way. It definitely got us rolling, but those guys behind me did what they did all year and got some runs for a big inning early.

Southern Miss left fielder Hunter Slater

On the game and season
Definitely not the way we wanted to go out, it was pretty heart-wrenching. We had a great season and it’s something we will have for our lifetime. I want to thank a few great guys who did everything for our program, Tracy Hadley, Dylan Burdeaux, Hunter Stevens, for all the support they gave us this year. I wish them the best of luck in the next step forward.