



MSU CONTINUES TO ROLL FORCING ‘IF NECESSARY’ GAME MONDAY

Mississippi State wins its third elimination game to move closer to Super Regionals.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The comeback kids are still alive. After being one strike away from seeing their season come to a close on two occasions, Mississippi State (34-26) won its second game on Sunday to force a winner take all game versus Oklahoma (38-24) Monday. The Bulldogs continued their postseason homerun barrage, hitting two more Sunday night, downing Oklahoma 13-5 to force an ‘if necessary’ game at 1:00 p.m. The game was played on Mike Martin Field at Dick Howser Stadium.

After allowing 20 runs to the Sooners in the opening game of the regional, MSU’s Denver McQuary (2-2) and Cole Gordon limited the Sooners to just five runs Sunday night and the Bulldog bats handled the rest. Mississippi State used a monster eight-run third and a four-run seventh to cruise to victory in a game it controlled after surviving two OU threats in the first and second innings.

In the bottom of the second Oklahoma loaded the bases versus MSU starter McQuary, who stayed in the game after taking a hard shot on his pitching hand on a ball lined up the middle in the opening frame. The sophomore, who got out of a runners on first and second jam in the first, got out of the bases loaded jam in the second. The sophomore’s clutch pitching set the stage for the top of the third, which provided all the runs the Bulldogs would need.

The Bulldogs exploded for eight runs to put the game out of reach in that big third inning. Jake Mangum singled up the middle to lead off the inning and on the next pitch Rowdey Jordan sent a shot over the fence in right putting MSU up 3-0. Justin Foscue added another run with an RBI single as did Luke Alexander as MSU recorded its fourth straight hit and chased OU starter Devon Perez from the game. After a HBP, Jordan Westburg drove in another run on a sacrifice to left. Mangum added an RBI pushing the MSU lead to 7-0. Things continued to get worse for the Sooners as an outfield error led to two more runs scoring as the third ended with the Bulldogs leading 9-0.

Mississippi State added four in the seventh to make sure OU didn’t get any ideas of a comeback. Once again it was the long ball that did the damage. The Bulldogs, who came into the regional with 32 homeruns, added their ninth of the weekend off the bat of Tanner Allen.

Monday’s regional finale will be streamed on ESPN3 with a determination of television to be made at the end of Sunday’s games.