

2014 NCAA Div. I Men's Swimming and Diving Championships – Day 3 Quotes

Connor Jaeger (Michigan), 1,650 freestyle champion

On winning his last college race: My mentality going into this meet was so different than any before just because of how incredibly sentimental it is to do your last college meet. Maybe I'm going to be lucky enough to continue swimming beyond this but it's never going to be the same and it will never compare to the years I spent swimming for Michigan.

On defending his title: Coming into the meet I was thinking a lot about defending the title. Then tonight thinking about the team scores I just wanted to get as many points as I could.

Ryan Murphy (California), 200 backstroke champion

On being freshman and a two-time NCAA champion: It's awesome. It's been one of the best meets of my life and it's sad that it's starting to come to an end. But I think this is great for the team, most importantly. Hopefully we can keep the momentum rolling.

On how this meet differs from others he's been in: This meet is so physically taxing. I've never been an emotional swimmer, but this meet, in order to be successful, you have to swim with a lot of emotion. So it's been a bit of an adjustment, but it's so much fun.

Joao De Lucca (Louisville), 100 freestyle champion

On if the meet exceeded his expectations: I didn't expect to win the 100 free at all. To be honest I really thought (Auburn's) Marcelo [Chierighini] was going to get this one. He's done a really really good job this season. I knew he was going to come for me so I changed my strategy. I went out faster.

On his mindset going into the race: I was kind of scared. Definitely winning and beating Marcelo, we're (national) teammates. We have a big rivalry. He started swimming when he was 15 or so and he's really good... We have this big rivalry. We're good friends but the rivalry has always been there and definitely winning this race means a lot to me. I didn't expect to win at all. I'm shocked. It's kind of like winning the first time.

Kevin Cordes (Arizona), 100 breaststroke champion

On finishing the meet with a win: It's really satisfying to end the meet out like this. We had a little rough patch and some bad breaks but I finished it off strong. I couldn't be happier.

On defending both of his NCAA titles from last year: I definitely wanted to defend my titles and improve on my times and, fortunately, I was able to do that.

Dylan Bosch (Michigan), 200 butterfly champion

On his first NCAA individual title: It feels great. I was a first-seed last year at my first NAAs. That was a great experience being next to (California's) Tom (Shields, in 2013). But I kind of wanted to win that one. I was just a freshman so I was pretty young. A year

later and it's an amazing feeling. It's a really fast meet, it's probably one of the fastest meets in the world. So, to be on the top of that podium is an awesome feeling and just a testament to how great the guys are at Michigan and how well we all train. I couldn't have done it without them.

On his race strategy: It's changed over the two years I've been here. I had never really swam yards before since before I came to America. It was a little different experience but my strategy was always just, the first 50, just easy speed, pretty light, and build into the second 50. I had some trouble with that the last couple of races. Then you get tired towards the end but just before the race Mike (Bottom) told me to build into the second 50 from the first one. I tried that and it worked well and that's the strategy.

Nick McCrory (Duke), platform diving

On his winning dive: It had been an interesting contest from the start but that last dive is one of my favorites. I've been doing it for like six years now and I'm really comfortable with it. But going into it, I was up there doing the math in my head of what I needed to score to win. To be honest I didn't think I got it when I hit the water. I was surprised by the scoreboard. I saw my dive and I guess it was better than I thought.

On being an NCAA champion: I'm just really proud for my school. They've done so much to support me and get me here and keep me going. I'm really happy to be representing Duke.

Marcelo Chierighini (Auburn), 400 freestyle relay champion

On finishing his senior year with a relay win: It couldn't come at a better time. I didn't have my best times individually. I wasn't really happy individually but it was the last race and the last relay. I love swimming the relay with my boys and it came at the perfect time. It was super special.

On winning the final race of the meet: It's really fun. Before the relay we were just messing around and just enjoying the moment. It's my last time swimming with these guys. It's awesome.

Texas head coach Eddie Reese

On the final day of the meet: Cal came in and swam tonight and this morning. It was their best day. They made it their best day. It was a program built for today to be their best day. They did a super job when they had to. In the purest sense I enjoyed it, but otherwise I didn't like it very much.

On why the meet slipped away from Texas: It was more than us. We got a couple nines (ninth-place finishes in prelims) tonight and that never helps. Ninth place is called the death seat. Usually all you can do is move lower. Eighth place is safe city. We got a couple nines and we got a ninth the first day. We lived and died by our nines. It can be a lot of different points.

On which swimmers stood out to him: John Murray, who last year made the meet only as a relay swimmer...he came in here this year and made the top eight in two individual events. That just doesn't happen. That's not (because) of me. That's because of his commitment and his changes and his work ethic. Those are kind of things you like to see. Will Licon, who is a freshman that comes in and scores in three events the first year. Jack Conger, who makes three top-eights his first year. There are not many freshmen that do that.

On whether the team exceeded his expectations: We're from The University of Texas so we expect to be battling for top three year in and year out and have a legitimate shot for first and we did. Most of the stuff I read, and I try to read one or two every year, said that we would be fourth to eighth (place at this meet). I'd tell the guys, whatever you read, cut it in half. We'll never be what they predict. We always want to exceed what anybody says about us.

Michael Hixon (Texas), Diver of the Meet

On whether he will focus on platform more going forward in his career: Springboard is my focus. It's sort of where I can go internationally. Definitely for platform for NCAAs I can get it going. We were diving hurt for part of the year with my wrist. It was hard to do arm stands and stuff like that. If we're healthy next year I think we'll have a better shot.

On being diver of the meet as a freshman: It's great. I feel really good about the way I performed. It was a team meet though and we didn't come out the way we wanted to.