

No. 23 UC San Diego vs. No. 20 Colorado Mesa Quotes, Feb. 2, 2013

UC San Diego Head Coach Eric Newman

General comments on the game:

“Not a lot of good things from us today. We didn’t play very well. I’m not saying that because we lost. We didn’t play well. We weren’t ready from the first pitch of the game. I’m not sure why. I thought we were ready. We talked about being ready for the first pitch. That’s my job and I have to figure out why we weren’t ready to play today, but we weren’t. It was very clear. We made a ton of mistakes. Too many.

“I don’t know that it was really anything they (Colorado Mesa) did. I really think it was us. We played really badly. We played with a lot of anxiety. We played with either a lack of execution or a lack of poise, and both of those will get you beat. It doesn’t really matter who you play.”

On bright spots in Dan Kolodin and Justin Rahn’s performances:

“There were two guys who really showed up for us today, and they kept us in the game. That was Justin Rahn and Dan Kolodin. Kolodin kept us in the game for the first four innings when we really couldn’t make a lot of plays behind him. He gave up a couple of hard-luck hits. We didn’t play great defense behind him. Not just the error (in the first), but in a lot of ways, not reacting and anticipating well. He’s a groundball pitcher. They (the Mavericks) must have had a couple of balls they chopped into the ground. I don’t know if we didn’t expect it, or weren’t ready to play on it, but our infielders just didn’t do a great job with it.

“(Dan) battled. He battled his way out of a lot of jams that we created for him, so I was really proud of that. I was pretty excited to see that from him.

“Justin Rahn on the mound was really good, and he came up with a couple of great at-bats for us, with the home run that put him ahead, and then the at-bat in the eighth (single up the middle). Those two guys really showed up, so that was good.”

Junior OF/LHP Justin Rahn

On his first collegiate home run:

“Their starter (Matt Williams) had a cutter that he was working pretty well. It took us a while to adjust. (Hitting) Coach (Jonathan) Johnston gave me a plan up there. He said wait for that specific pitch, I got it, and just put a good swing on it.”

On whether he is aiming for the new scoreboard after hitting it twice already:

“That’s my spot. I like hearing that ding when it (the ball) hits it.”

On his college pitching debut:

“It was awesome. I pitched a lot in high school. It’s great to get the opportunity to do both (pitch and play in the field). I just got up there and tried to fill up the zone, tried to throw as many strikes as I could. It happened to go well. It felt awesome.”

On what it will take to win the series rubber match on Sunday:

“We have to come out mentally (ready). We prepared all year for this, for our games. Today we just came out kind of flat. We were a little too loose. Tomorrow, we have to come out ready to play, from the first pitch to the last pitch.”

Sophomore RHP Dan Kolodin

On his first collegiate start on the mound:

“I felt good. I was just sticking to our game plan, which is attacking the hitters down in the zone. I didn’t let things like that (the error on the first pitch of the game) bother me. It happened a couple of times, the leadoff guy getting on (base) on either a weak hit or an error, but I didn’t let that get to me. I tried to stick to the game plan.”

On the change in mindset from being a seldom-used reliever in 2012 to starting now:

“It’s definitely a big difference from last year. I didn’t have a big role last season, but I’m just trying to make the most of it now. I had a big summer in New England (with the North Adams SteepleCats). I got a lot of innings and I thought that was a big key in gaining confidence to come back and pitch for UCSD this year.”