

No. 18 UC San Diego vs. No. 9 Chico State Quotes
2014 CCAA Championship - May 10, 2014

UC San Diego Head Coach Eric Newman

Postgame comments can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/9tXfHs>

Senior Catcher/Designated Hitter Nick La Face

Postgame comments can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/hDm1r7>

Junior Catcher Brett Levy

Postgame comments can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/hDm1r7>

Senior Outfielder Justin Rahn

On going out with a conference banner as a senior:

"I love this team. I love these guys. It just feels awesome to end up on top again. We let it go last year, but we brought it back this year, senior year. It just means a lot to me. It's been an awesome year."

On the mood in the dugout following the seven-run Chico State sixth:

"That's what's special about this team. We give up some runs, and we may lose a lead, but there's no sense of freaking out. No one is pressing. Everyone remains calm. There's always a sense that we're going to do it. Everyone remains confident."

On Justin Donatella's performance:

"It's pretty awesome having your ace close out the conference championship for you. Not many teams get to do that. It's pretty cool. Donny looked like an ace."

Sophomore Pitcher Justin Donatella

On what was going through his mind as he came on in relief in the sixth inning:

"There were some nerves going. I was a little nervous going out there, but then I just had to get back to focusing on winning pitches again, which is our team motto, winning the game one pitch at a time. Once we got back to that, I feel like we started to take control of the game again."

On back-to-back strikeouts with the bases loaded to get out of the seventh:

"It was exciting. I felt the momentum start to shift in our favor, and we took advantage of it. We ended up scoring (three) more after that and never gave it back."

On his first conference banner:

"It feels amazing. It's great. It keeps you hungry, that success. We're hoping to go into regionals and continue it."

On being on the mound for the final out:

"Everybody wants to be that guy. It feels great to be out there. I just love going to battle with these guys every day."

Freshman Shortstop Tyler Howsley

On his two key at-bats early in the game:

"I felt good coming in. I had a good (batting practice). I knew that in the inning that I walked (second) and the inning that I got the hard single (third), that I needed to be disciplined. (Chico State starting pitcher Derek Sesma) was having a little bit of a rough time with his control. I kept telling myself that there were good people coming up behind me, with the top of the order, and I just wanted to do what I could to get on base and have quality at-bats."

On having his first postseason start end with a conference banner:

"It means a lot. All season long, this was the goal we had been working toward. To see how all that work and preparation comes into play, and for us to get a good conference tournament win, it really means a lot. We're just looking forward to keeping it going and taking that hard work and preparation into regionals."

On whether he expected to play such a large role as a true freshman this season:

"Coming in, I knew I would have to compete for a spot. I felt like I had a pretty good chance to play. I've just been working hard, and Coach (Eric Newman) has given me an opportunity to play a lot. I feel like I've been able to make the most of my opportunities. I felt like I've grown up a lot this year, just with all of the guys around me giving me confidence and letting me know that they are right beside me and are going to pick me up when I fail and encourage me when I do well. It gives me a lot of confidence knowing that either way, they are going to be there for me."