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Southern California Renegades capture Connie Mack World Series title

Five-run third inning propels team to championship, Wyatt Madison wins MVP

By Steven Bortstein Tri-City Record Sports Editor

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Southern California Renegades celebrate their Connie Mack World Series championship win after defeating Midland Baseball 6-0 on Friday at Ricketts Park. (Curtis Ray Benally/Special to the Tri-City Record)

Curtis Ray Benally



FARMINGTON – The Southern California Renegades, behind a dominant pitching performance from Ryan Halamicek, rolled past the Midland Redskins 6-0 in the [2024 Connie Mack World Series championship game](#) on Friday night at Ricketts Park. Halamicek tossed a complete game three-hitter in the title game, striking out five Redskins hitters in a virtuoso performance on the tournament’s biggest stage.

That effort was all too common for the SoCal’s pitching staff during the tournament, which allowed a total of six runs to be scored against them in five games against bracket competition.

The Renegades captured their second Connie Mack title and first since 2012. The Redskins, in search of their 18th CMWS championship, came up short in the championship game for the second consecutive year, having lost to the Dallas Tigers last year.



“This one is really special,” said Renegades coach Si Pettrow. “This is the best team I’ve ever brought here, and to see the way this team came together at the right time really means a lot.”

The Midland task of winning Friday’s game and extending the World Series to a winner-take-all game on Saturday became more difficult early in the contest when catcher Owen Jenkins was injured behind the plate in the top of the first inning.

After walking off the injury to his left knee and returning to finish the frame, Jenkins came to bat in the bottom of the first inning but was noticeably limping as he ran up the line on a one-out single.

Jenkins, who had been one of the team’s top offensive weapons for much of the series, was replaced in the lineup by Lawson Ward, who went 0-for-2 at the plate during the title contest.

The game was scoreless entering the top of the third inning when the Renegades scored five times to set the tone for the night.

Jake Amundsen got the scoring going with a two-out RBI single which scored Dylan Mares. That was followed by a trio of consecutive RBI base hits off the bats of Taylor Kirk, Wyatt Madison and Ryder Young. When the frame was

Southern California Renegades pitcher Ryan Halamicek pitches a fastball to Midland's Owen Jenkins in the bottom of the first inning of the Connie Mack World Series championship game on Friday at Ricketts Park. (Curtis Ray Benally/Special to the Tri-City Record)

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completed, the Renegades had a commanding 5-0 lead and complete control of the contest.

Halamicek, who made three appearances on the mound during the CMWS, dominated from the start Friday night.

After getting out of a first inning jam with a pair of runners on base before Maddox Riske bounced into a fielder's choice, Halamicek recorded back-to-back perfect innings before returning to the mound with a five-run cushion entering the fourth.

Halamicek got out of another jam in the bottom of the sixth inning when Brody Ballinger and Brenton Clark tagged a pair of two-out base hits for Midland. The threat was averted when Riske again grounded out to end the inning.

Halamicek ended the game by striking out Drew Kaplan in the bottom of the seventh before the celebration began on the field.



The Southern California Renegades' Ryder Young hits a solo home run against Midland in the top of the sixth inning during the Connie Mack World Series championship game on Friday at Ricketts Park. (Curtis Ray Benally/Special to the Tri-City Record)

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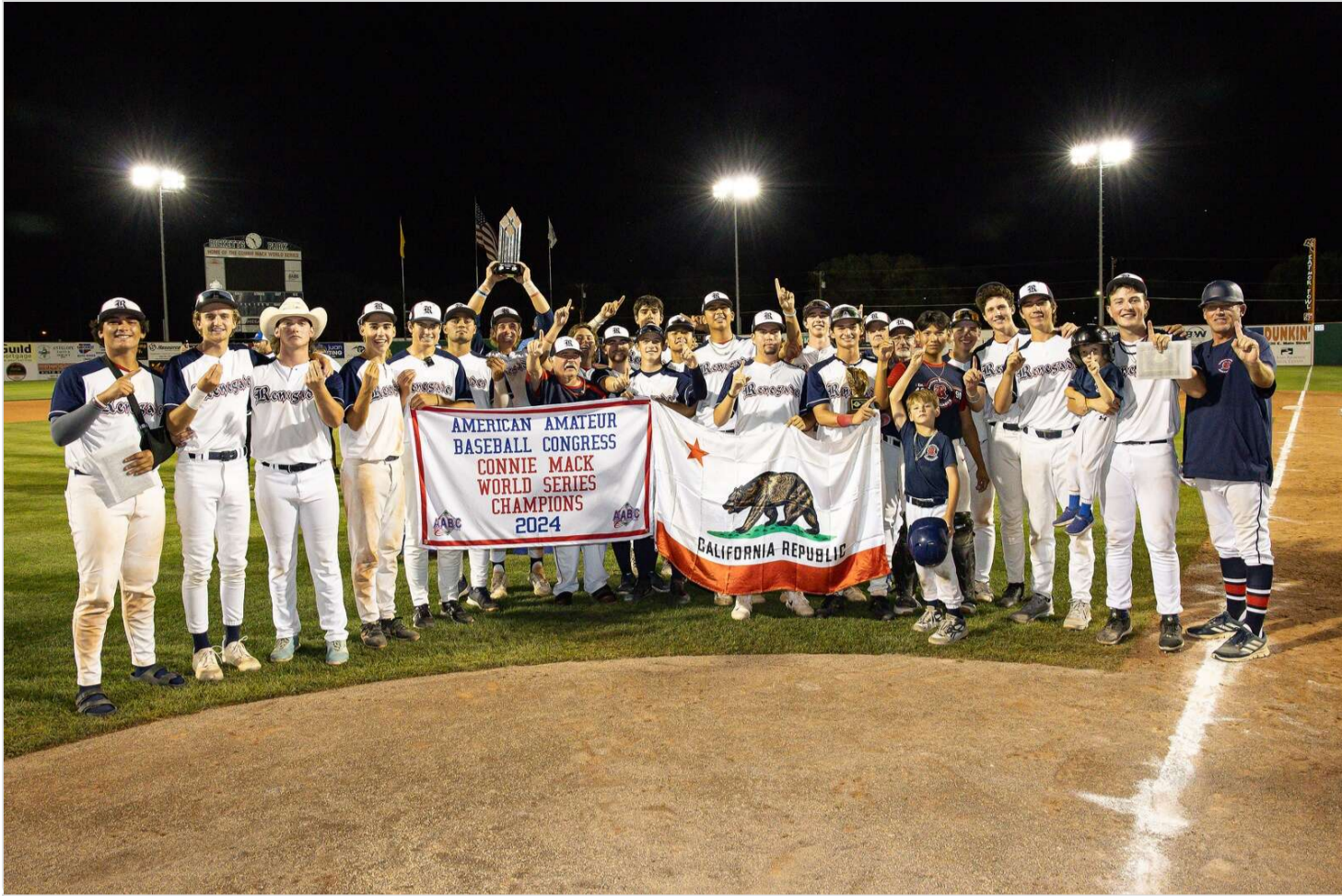


"After that third inning when we put up the runs, I was able to find and locate my fastball and I just remember having a lot of fun and I was glad I could bring it home for these guys," Halamicek said.

Halamicek, along with Wyatt Madison and Michael Yousef, were instrumental in the Renegades' success at the tournament. Madison's performance on Thursday night in a battle with Midland, as well as his .375 batting average which included six RBIs and seven runs scored, landed him the tournament's Most Valuable Player Award.

"This was an impressive week for him," Pettrow said of Madison. "He played for us last year but missed the World Series but this year he got the championship and he was such a force for us at the plate and on the mound."

Yousef lifted the Renegades into the title game with a win Friday afternoon against the North Texas Longhorns. Yousef threw 5½ innings as the starting pitcher, allowing only three hits and a walk while throwing only 72 pitches.



Southern California Renegades players and coaches pose with the Connie Mack World Series championship trophy and banner on Friday at Ricketts Park. (Curtis Ray Benally/Special to the Tri-City Record)

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“Our staff was incredible this week,” Pettrow said. “We really gave these guys very little to hit at the plate this week and I’m so proud of those guys.”

Ryder Young put the finishing touches on the game with a solo home run to lead off the top of the sixth inning. The Renegades outscored their five opponents during bracket play by a combined margin of 31-6.

The Redskins’ only losses in the tournament came against the Renegades. Midland dominated for much of the tournament, winning their first three games in bracket play by a combined margin of 23-3.

Tyler Heflin, who started the Friday night game for Midland, pitched into the sixth inning and struck out five, but also surrendered all six runs before being replaced on the mound by Jacob Boland after Young’s home run.

The Renegades, who reached the CMWS this summer after winning the West regional qualifier in California last month, have been a mainstay at the event for nearly two decades. Before the Renegades’ first CMWS title in 2012, the last team from California to win the event was the Long Beach Cardinals in 2002.

Pettrow, 66, who’s been dealing with a number of health issues for the past several years, gave little indication that he’s ready to step down. By winning the CMWS title, the Renegades are assured of an automatic bid into next year’s tournament.

Pettrow has been involved with national baseball organizations for more than a half-century, as a coach and founder of the Renegades in 1990.

Pettrow is a longtime board member for the American Amateur Baseball Congress, as well as the Continental Amateur Baseball Association and National Amateur Baseball Federation. He was also the head coach of the USA Baseball Pony Division’s national team.

“Absolutely I’ll be back next year,” Pettrow confirmed. “I’ll be back and we get a free pass next year. I’ll be walking and I want to be back here to defend this title.”

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