

## Big fifth inning propels Santa Barbara to its ninth NBCWS title

WICHITA, Kan. – The Santa Barbara (Calif.) Foresters used a 10-run fifth inning to break open a close game and defeat the Austin Lonestar (Texas) Foresters 14-2 in the championship game of the 87th National Baseball Congress World Series, extending its record of NBC titles to nine.

It's the second time that the Foresters won back-to-back titles; the previous time was in 2011 and 2012. Santa Barbara went undefeated in its last two titles to give it nine consecutive wins in 2020 (four wins) and 2021 (five).

The Foresters got contributions throughout the lineup, with five players driving in two runs each. Winning pitcher Ben Abram (1-0) struck out seven in five innings, allowing only a third-inning run that tied the game.

Tanner O'Tremba's infield out in the third gave Santa Barbara the lead for good, while Nate Rombach (single), Dylan Leach (homer) and Kendall Pettis (double) each drove in two runs in the fifth as the winners were aided by four Lonestar errors.

Seth Stephenson and Andrew Kachel hit the other home runs for the Foresters

Four relievers combined to allow two hits and one unearned run.

Davis Luikhart (0-1) worked 4½ innings, allowing six runs on seven hits, four earned, and struck out six.

Justin Dunlap scored both runs for Lonestar (4-2), which gained its highest finish in four NBCWS appearances.

Pitching helped Lonestar reach the championship game for the first time, as leading pitcher of the tournament Nathan Medrano won two games and saved a third, and threw a 7-inning complete-game no-hitter against Cheney (Kan.) on Aug. 9.

Most Valuable player of the tournament Justin Eckhardt threw a seven-inning 8-0 shutout of Lonestar in the quarterfinals Aug. 12. He threw two complete-game shutouts, allowing four hits and struck out 13 in 12 innings.

Santa Barbara finished first among clubs that played four games in team batting (.356), team pitching (1.38) and was second in team fielding (.969).

Eight players each hit two home runs; 45 in total were hit in the tournament's 30 games. Hays (Kan.) hit eight, while Santa Barbara hit seven.

O'Tremba stole seven bases of the 21 the Foresters amassed without getting caught once.

Derrick Winn of Derby (Kan.) batted .647 (11-of-17) to lead all hitters, while Medrano allowed one unearned run over 15 innings and Eckhardt no runs over 12.

Jarrett Seaton of Great Bend (Kan.) struck out a tournament-high 14 batters in eight innings.

In addition to Medrano's no-hitter, three Seattle pitchers (Christian Peters, Jared Billen and Anthony Brady) combined on a five-inning no-hitter of the Wichita 316 Elite 19u team 14-0 on Aug. 4.

Hays turned a triple play against Santa Barbara in the sixth Aug. 9, but the Foresters scored the go-ahead run in rallying from a 3-1 deficit to win 7-5.

Jaxson Syring tied a Modern Wood Era record by getting hit by a pitch seven times, done previously in 2013.

Championship box score follows.

Mike Dean, NBCWS scorer/staistician

87th NBC World Series -- Wichita, Kan.  
 Santa Barbara CA 14 (5-0), Lonestar TX 2 (4-2)  
 Aug 14, 2021 at Wichita, Kan. (Riverfront Stadium)

Lonestar TX	AB	R	H	BI	Santa Barbara CA	AB	R	H	BI
Justin Dunlap cf	4	2	2	0	Seth Stephenson ss	5	2	2	2
Andre Jackson 3b/rf	4	0	1	1	Dylan Campbell 3b	3	2	1	0
Max Puls 1b	4	0	1	1	Blayne Jones 3b	1	0	0	0
Reed Beverly rf	2	0	0	0	Steven Zobac rf	2	0	0	0
Johnny Hoyle 3b	1	0	0	0	Kendall Pettis ph/lf	2	1	2	2
Brendan Ryan ss	3	0	1	0	Tanner O'Tremba dh	3	2	1	1
Kyle Cronk dh	4	0	2	0	Jared Thomas ph	1	0	0	0
Rudy Reyna lf	4	0	0	0	Ryan Wroblewski lf/rf	4	1	1	1
Justin Taylor c	3	0	0	0	Andrew Kachel 2b	4	2	1	2
Jamie League ph	1	0	0	0	Nate Rombach 1b	4	2	2	2
Travis Chestnut 2b	4	0	0	0	Max McGwire 1b	1	0	1	0
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	Dylan Leach c	5	1	3	2
					Josh Stinson cf	5	1	1	1
					<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>

Lonestar TX	001	00 0	010	-	2	7	4
Santa Barbara CA	101	2(10)0	00x	-	14	15	2

E - AJackson(1); Ryan(1); Reyna(1); Drake(1); Zobac(1); Starks(1). DP - Lonestar 1. LOB - Lonestar 7; SB Foresters 7. 2B - Puls(3); Cronk(1); Campbell(2); Pettis(2); O'Tremba(1); Wroblewski(2). HR - Stephenson(2); Kachel(2); Leach(1). HBP - Ryan; Campbell; Zobac; O'Tremba. SB - Dunlap(3); O'Tremba(7); Stinson(5).

Lonestar TX	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	WP	BK	HP	IBB	AB	BF	FO	GO	NP
Davis Luikart L,0-1	4.1	7	6	4	1	6	0	0	1	0	21	23	4	3	91
Colten Drake	0.0	3	5	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	17
Sebastian Mejia	0.2	2	3	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	4	6	0	1	24
Braden Shields	2.0	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	8	8	2	0	29
Brycen Lee	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	1	7

Santa Barbara CA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	WP	BK	HP	IBB	AB	BF	FO	GO	NP
Ben Abram W,1-0	5.0	5	1	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	19	20	4	4	58
Brandon Beckel	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	4	1	1	12
Chase Webster	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	1	10
Gabriel Starks	1.0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	2	17
Nick Proctor	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	0	16

Drake faced 5 batters in the 5th.

WP - Drake(4); Shields(1). HBP - by Luikart (Zobac); by Mejia (Campbell); by Mejia (O'Tremba); by Beckel (Ryan). Inherited runners/scored: Drake 1/1; Mejia 1/1.

Pitches/strikes: Luikart 91/68; Drake 17/7; Mejia 24/13; Shields 29/21; Lee 7/6;

Abram 58/45; Beckel 12/7; Webster 10/7; Starks 17/12; Proctor 16/11.

Strikeouts - AJackson 2; Beverly; Hoyle; Ryan; Reyna; JTaylor 3; League; Chestnut 3; Stephenson 3; Campbell 2; BJones; O'Tremba; JThomas; Kachel 2; Rombach; Leach. Walks - Beverly; Wroblewski; Kachel.

Umpires - HP: Mark Wagers 1B: Connan Strobel 2B: Ben Harlow 3B: Josh Schepis

Start: 6:06 pm Time: 2:50

Weather: 86/partly cloudy/wd 11 in from RF

Game notes:

87th World Series, game 30, championship game.

Santa Barbara wins its 9th title; Lonestar finishes 2nd.

Game: WS8730