

CMWS: Si Pettrow's leadership guides Southern California to Title

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After speaking with Si Pettrow before the Connie Mack World Series, it was clear his Southern California Renegades were coming to Farmington with only one goal — win. Pettrow's team did just that Friday playing his brand of baseball.

"We've always been built on bringing the next guy up, moving the runners and hopefully getting a big hit somewhere," he said. "Basically bunting, hit and running and stealing bases. Don't count on the home run to win the baseball game."

Every player bought into Pettrow's philosophy, and it wasn't more evident than in the title game when clean-up hitter Tim Robinson, Minnesota Twins draft pick and winner of every batting award at the CMWS, laid down a sacrifice bunt in the first inning to advance runners to second and third.



When an unfamiliar team, like SoCal, plays at Ricketts, it can be difficult to tell who the head coach is. Multiple coaches will be talking to individual players, but no one seems to have command over the ball club as a whole.

That was never the case with the Renegades.

Pettrow was easily identified as the SoCal leader. Whether it was barking orders down the third base line to the hitters, being the first one out of the dugout to greet the defense as they left the field or getting tossed by the second base umpire after a few disagreements in the team's only loss, he knows that leadership comes from the top of the organization.

"I have always wanted the guys to count on me first," Pettrow said. "I demand a lot from them, but praise all of them. I think that comes from the top. Everybody on the staff and the coaches, including me, are here for these kids."

Pettrow also shows a lighter side with his players, which includes jokes about his trademark mustache that he's well aware, is getting mixed reviews.

"My envy for that mustache is ridiculous," said pitcher Sam Moore. "He's the freaking man."

Moore's teammate Kyle Davis didn't share the same enthusiasm for Pettrow's mustache.

"That porn stache is horrible and it needs to go," Davis said. "But he's a great coach and I'm glad we won it for him."

Davis and his teammates were indeed playing this series for Pettrow, and their first act upon receiving the trophy was to give him the celebratory Gatorade bath.



"It's been a long time waiting and it's probably the ultimate dream I had in baseball was to win the Connie Mack World Series," Pettrow said. "These kids got it done for us."