



**“Bases full, two outs, the A-S-U chant going up in Tempe. The 1-1, Newman swings, lines it into left, Susdorf coming on, Steve makes the sliding catch, and the Bulldogs have done it! Gloves flying in the air all over this diamond. Ray O’Canto’s gonna fall off the roof of this press box! Seventeen years of waiting have come to an end, the Fresno State Diamond Dogs are headed to the College World Series!”**

O’Canto, thankfully, did not fall off the roof, if only for the headset cable holding him back. “Wow, Paul, it doesn’t get any better than this,” he shouted, still jumping up and down. “Wow, what a great, great ballgame. Unbelievable!” He couldn’t hide his alumni pride, and the Bulldogs on the bottom of the dogpile couldn’t find their breath.

Down on the field, we could see Batesole sharing a bear hug with Athletics Director Thomas Boeh. Matt Curtis had blonde curls bouncing back and forth in front of his eyes, courtesy of his daughter Lauren, now taking a victory lap on daddy’s shoulders while little brother Jacob chased alongside. The Bulldog baseball family celebrated the unprecedented upset. Fresno State was the first #4 regional seed to win a super regional and go to Omaha, and up in the booth, Ray and I were busy opining.

“They weren’t happy just to be here, they won’t be happy just to be in Omaha,” I told our listeners. “There is something magical about this team right now, much like Oregon State last



Steve Susdorf makes the sliding catch to send Fresno State to the College World Series. Paul Connors/AP



The Diamond Dogs celebrate Fresno State’s first trip to the College World Series since 1991. Paul Connors/AP