



Postgame Quotes

Wednesday, November 12, 2014



Semifinal Game

(S3) Cal State Fullerton 3, (S1) UC Riverside 0

Cal State Fullerton Head Coach George Kuntz

(Opening statement): "This was a statement win. We had two games with these guys, and they're a very good team. I thought both games we dominated, but we had two ties with this team, so the guys were very hungry to getting back to playing Riverside. I think Riverside is a quality team, they're very well coached, and they did a great job, but we just wanted to prove that we should be in the mix. I think the guys have gotten stronger each game. I'm very proud of these guys. They've come a long way this year."

(On playing UC Irvine in the final): "It couldn't be a better scenario. It's funny because, when I took this job, I told Coach (Chris) Volk 'I want to see your team and our team in the final.' I didn't know it would happen this quick, but I'm excited about going back to Irvine and us having a chance to play these guys. I think both of these teams should represent the conference well in the final. It's a well deserved final."

(On Fullerton now compared to earlier in the season): "I think we've gotten a lot stronger, we're a deep team and I think we've got a lot of weapons. It's going to be really hard to handle our team right now."

(On Jeff Salt's PK save on Otis Earle): "I got to give credit to our staff. We study a lot, and we knew where he was going. Jeff has saved four out of six PK's this year. He's been the PK killer this year. We feel if we get to that spot, anytime we get to PK's, we've got a great chance. We were very happy with that PK. That's a game changer right there."

(On playing with composure with a two goal lead): "The biggest thing for me is they played with a lot of composure with a two-goal lead. One of the worst things is having a two-goal lead. It's kind of a false sense of security. For us to be able to keep that lead, keep the shutout, maintain possession, be resilient, make the game-changing save...it was definitely a different level of maturity from our team tonight."

Cal State Fullerton Junior Goalkeeper Jeff Salt

(On increased level of focus being up a man): "I think if anything we made sure that we really have to focus at that point because it's easy to kind of check out. You think 'Okay, we're up a man, we have all of this.' But easily we knew that if they got a goal back, that they would have all the momentum, and they had a great crowd here. We really wanted to dictate the momentum of the game at that point."

(On how far the team has come): "We've been working toward this all year. We know what we have, and coach has been saying all year long that we have that game in us where it's going to come together, and I think that was this game. We just really had a great team effort, and played hard all 90 minutes."

Cal State Fullerton Senior Forward Marc Fenelus

(On the UC Irvine match): "We've played against them twice already and they beat us, so it's got to be revenge for us. But it's going to be hard to beat Irvine at Irvine."



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UC Riverside Head Coach Tim Cupello

(Opening statement): "Tough game to play when you're down a man as long as we were. I give our guys a lot of credit. I think even being down a man we took it to them quite a bit. I think we still created a lot of quality chances especially in the first half. I think at the end of the half we still had more shots and more corner kicks than them, which means we were a bit more of an attacking threat. Obviously, they scored on the two chances they did have, but it's tough when there's a call that early that drastically changes the landscape of the game, it's a tough thing to do."

(On being down one man): "It's a huge change because now there's an extra player you have to deal with, there's more space you have to deal with. To protect space defensively, you lose a player offensively. Eighty-five minutes we have to play down a man, it just drastically changes the landscape of the game."

(On the level of play in the conference): "I think the conference is fantastic overall. The entire conference – North and South – top to bottom the Big West is one of, if not the best soccer conferences in the country. I'd put my team up against anyone in the country."

UC Riverside Senior Defender Otis Earle

(On battling back from being a man down): "It's kind of something we've dealt with all season. It's kind of in our DNA as a team to fight through those kinds of things."

(On his missed PK opportunity): "I put it decently in the bottom left, but he's (Jeff Salt) a big kid. I should have hit it higher to be honest."

(On what he will remember from this season): "How we turned around. How preseason we had won only two games before conference, but we pulled together as a team and at the end of the day we showed we could win the Big West South championship. This program is going to be moving forward."