



Postgame Quotes

Saturday, November 14, 2015

Championship Game



(S1) CS Fullerton 1, (N1) UC Santa Barbara 0

Cal State Fullerton Head Coach George Kuntz

(Opening Statement): "I just want to congratulate my team. This was a very difficult game. Let me preface that, I want to thank the guys but I think it was a really, really crazy fought game by UCSB. They played a great game. They deserve a lot of credit. They changed a lot from the last game. Last time we earned that win, this one they came at us differently, we knew that would be the challenge, knew it would be a defensive battle, it's been like that for us all year. These types of things balance themselves out in our sport. I give both teams a lot of credit. I also think our guys deserve a lot of credit. Very young group out there. These two guys [David Rodriguez Elias and Mitchell Bell], you have a defender scoring a goal to win the game and a keeper who's taking bullets, playing like superman this game. Very hard fought college game. Ball bounced our way a couple times and I've had years where it doesn't bounce our way."

(On Number of Tournament Championships): "I've been blessed."

(On MVP David Rodriguez Elias): "He had an injury last year, and where he is now, those coaches push him to the limits. These guys are tremendous together. A volunteer coach puts out hours and hours into these players. I think you've got to give the goalkeeping team, we call them the goalkeeping union, a lot of credit. We had to be a good team defensively this year. You can bend but you can't break, and I thought we did very well."

(On red card): "It's a tactical foul and Ricky [Ricardo Covarrubias] is a very smart player. He took one for the team. If he does let that go three more yards it turns into a PK or a shot. It was probably the right time for him to do it if he was going to do it."

(On Bell's game-winner): "Following every shot, I felt that was this type of game. We've been practicing PKs like there's no tomorrow. We thought this might go into PKs. You just look at the shot chart. We took a lot of shots tonight, I thought it was the right time, right place, he followed the shot. That alertness changes everything. It's interesting we had to put in some bigger guys. We had to change the way we played. We needed more guys winning balls in the air. Some normal starters didn't play very much in this game because they play very direct. With (Nick) DePuy and others that are quick I think they were looking for that type of situation. We were able to be resilient."

Cal State Fullerton Junior Goalkeeper David Rodriguez Elias

(On Covarrubias red card): "I thought it was [the right decision], I thought Ricky knew the situation. I've got his back, he has my back. I think he made the right decision."

Cal State Fullerton Junior Defender Mitchell Bell

(On first goal of the season): "It just bounced off the post. I was in the right place in the right time."



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UC Santa Barbara Head Coach Tim Vom Steeg

(Opening Statement): "Of course a disappointed locker room. I thought it was our best game of the season. I thought we controlled the game. I thought we had a little 15 minute lull at the start of the second half, but out of that came their only shot on frame. He (Mitchell Bell) hit it well and they got their goal. I didn't that them getting one goal was going to be the key to the game because I thought we were firing on all cylinders."

(On goal scoring opportunities): "We play a sport that can be cruel. It's the nature of the sport. The reality is sometimes you need a little luck. I thought our team was well prepared and focused. Did I think a goal was going to happen tonight? Absolutely."

(On Justin Vom Steeg being subbed out at half): "We've been dealing with a shoulder issue for about two to three weeks now. He warmed up today before the game started and he dove, and he said 'I can't dive to my right.' He just came in at halftime and said 'I don't want to be the reason why we lose tonight because I can't go to my right.' It's the wrong position to not be able to go to your right. (Brandon) Berke played for us all last year. Nothing he could have done on that shot. It's tough to switch out goalies in the middle of the game, but he's been training well."

(On NCAA Tournament): "I'll take this group anywhere. I like where we are right now. I like how we're playing. I like how we've developed over the season. This is a team that's built to win right now."

UC Santa Barbara Sophomore Defender Fuad Adeniyi

(On the defense): "It's been a long road. The coaches have done a good job in transitioning myself and others how they want us to play. I thought the whole back four did a really good job tonight."