

2012 NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Championship
West Regional – Second Round
No. 5 UC San Diego vs. Seattle Pacific Quotes, Nov. 10, 2012

UC San Diego Head Coach Brian McManus

General comments on the game:

“Just a normal game for us. It’s been that way all season. We keep playing. We keep trying to do the right things. We just need that little bit of luck in and around the goal. We create enough chances, but give them credit. They were a good team. They kept fighting. The longer they kept in the game, their heads got up a little bit, and that’s what happens. We sometimes tended to panic a little bit, but then we started getting a bit of composure. We did a great job tonight on the corners. We hadn’t scored on them for a while, and we end up popping two tonight off the corners.”

On whether he was surprised the game went into overtime after the first half:

“Not really, because they (SPU) made it through to halftime, and their coaching staff has told them hey, they’ve (UCSD) done everything but score. Now it’s your turn. Go at them, and they came at us, but we weathered that storm, and we still had chances to pinch (the win), but we’re just not finishing at the moment.”

On his team’s overall flow tonight:

“I thought we started the game great tonight. When the other team’s played on Thursday, they’ve got that game under their belt, and they come in relaxed. We were a little bit up-tight tonight, but the first half we came out playing really well, and I thought there’s only one way this game was going to go.”

On what he thought of this side’s potential this season:

“I thought this team’s been like this from their sophomore year, from when we went to Kentucky (in 2010). There’s been that desire in them. Last year, I thought we were a bit unlucky. This year, who knows? You’re never going to win without a bit of luck. If we can keep doing what we’re doing, pushing it, and make our own luck, anything can happen.

“This team is very similar to the team when they were in their sophomore year (2010). It’s very similar in make-up. It’s very similar in everything else. The desire’s the same. This is as good a UCSD team as we’ve had in quite a few years. If they got to the Final Four, it certainly wouldn’t surprise me.”

On moving on to the NCAA Championship Third Round:

“It’s nice to be back (in the final 16). It’s been (two) years, so we go back again. A big group of these players went (there) before. They’ll be looking to try and go a step further this year. You need a bit of luck (in this tournament). We’ll try to make our own luck, and hopefully it will just go our way.”

UC San Diego Senior Midfielder Jessica Wi

On what happened on her game-winner:

“Well, we had like (three) corners (in the second overtime), and the ball just kept coming out to me. The one right before it, I hit it into (the SPU player’s) stomach and it came back out. We got another corner, and the same thing happened, but this time I just got lucky and it hit the post and went in.”

On where they think they are going next, or would like to go:

“I don’t know. Everyone says Texas, but at this point, it’s wherever, and wherever we go, we’re excited to go.”

On how good she felt this team would be this year:

“Coming into the season, we didn’t really know, because we had lost a bunch of seniors (9 from 2011). But everybody that’s started, and everybody coming off the bench, has played a huge role for us, and that’s been really, really awesome.”

On whether the team feels they are building from last week’s CCAA championship:

“Definitely. It gives us a lot of confidence to break that CCAA curse, finally get something (a conference title) and (gain) momentum coming into postseason.”

UC San Diego Senior Forward Laura Gordon

On advancing to the next round:

“To be completely honest, it’s the most alive I think our team has ever felt tonight. Walking out to a crowd that was (so vocal), and (getting) a standing ovation after the game, it was a euphoric feeling. We really needed it, and we’re pumped up now moving on. There were times in the game where we definitely had our lulls, but I think we consistently came out with more effort, more power and more desire behind the ball.”

On whether four shots off the post made them think it wasn’t meant to be tonight:

“No, definitely not. In soccer, when a ball hits off the post, you definitely just think that it’s because you need to try harder, or that you’re supposed to end on a better goal. Tonight, we had a number of players who were getting (the ball) in. Britnee Chesney hit it off the post. (It was a) brilliant ball, but we just needed to push harder, try harder and we’d get that better goal.”

Seattle Pacific Head Coach Chuck Sekyra

General comments on the game:

“It was a great game. San Diego’s a great team. I love how they play. Obviously, it looked like a pretty seasoned, veteran team with some smart players out there. I hope they win it all. I love how they played. They were on us quite a bit. I like how my kids battled. We didn’t start a senior tonight. I loved how my team battled out there. I’m just really proud of my team as well.

“I thought it was a fun night. It was a clean soccer game. Both teams played really hard. Both programs really respect each other, and I think that was very evident tonight. We’re back here for our first game next year. We’ll see you next year, but I’m proud of (how we played), and I do hope San Diego wins it all. I like how they play. Great coach, classy people.”

Seattle Pacific Senior Forward Megan Lindsay

On the game and scoring the tying goal in the first half:

“The game, it was hard-fought. UCSD gave us a good run for our money, but I feel like we responded well, especially in the second half. It’s just one of those games that doesn’t go your way. My goal was actually a great shot from one of my players, Annie Thomas, and I just took (the rebound) and shot it.”

On seeing five shots combined go off the posts on the night:

“Like anything, I think the score does not reveal what truly was on the field. I think, yes, there were a lot of shots, a lot of crosses that could have gone in, should have gone in, but in the end, it just didn’t go our way.”

On what she sees ahead for the SPU program:

“There are three seniors on our team, (with) Brittany Langdon, me and Kendall Thoreson. Being a young team, I think that we have a lot to prove next year and we’ll come out with the same fire. I know the girls are going to be great. I can’t wait to watch the team next year.”