

2012 NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Championship
National Quarterfinal
No. 5 UC San Diego vs. No. 15 Colorado Mines Quotes, Nov. 18, 2012

UC San Diego Head Coach Brian McManus

Please click on Postgame Interviews from the game story for postgame comments.

UC San Diego Senior Forward Gabi Hernandez

On making it back to the NCAA Semifinals:

"(It's) unreal. I didn't think we would get here. I think a lot of people were scared at the beginning of the season, knowing we had lost so many strong seniors (nine from 2011), and as the season went on, we just started believing in ourselves more and more, and now I not only think we deserve to be there, but that we can do it, and that we're going to go all the way, hopefully."

On how gratifying it feels to know they've made it to the final weekend:

"(It's) amazing. It's something we've been working toward and saying. 'We're going to Georgia. We're going to Georgia.' It's been in the back of our minds since they announced that (the Final Four) was in Georgia last postseason. It's something that motivated us through everything, all the hard running, all of the nights that we stayed in for soccer, or any sacrifices we made, that's what was motivating us, so it's definitely been worth it."

On freshman goalkeeper Kelcie Brodsky's performance:

"Kelcie had huge shoes to fill, and she's been filling them very well. (Former All-American goalkeeper) Kristin Armstrong is said to be the best goalie that UCSD has ever seen by many people, not just our coaches, also teammates, and Kelcie has been absolutely amazing. She loves (penalty kicks), which I feel like I've never heard a goalie say before in my life, but she's so good at them, and she definitely saved our butts in that game."

UC San Diego Senior Left Back Hayley Johnson

On making it back to the NCAA Semifinals:

"I'm just really excited. It's something that we've talked about all season. It's just kind of surreal to actually be going back again. It's a dream come true."

On walking up to take her penalty kick, knowing they were out if she missed it:

"I wasn't thinking that (laughing). I mean, I knew (the situation), but I just tried to put everything out of my mind and just focus on the goal, and focus on positive thoughts. I don't know. Just being calm."

On freshman goalkeeper Kelcie Brodsky's performance:

"Wow. Kelcie Brodsky. Yeah, she really stepped up to the plate. Not only because (of the shootout). She had a great game, too. She had a couple of really great saves that kept us in it (in regulation), but man, her (penalty-kick)-saving ability is just unreal. I've never seen anything like it, and I'm really glad that she's on our team. It's funny,

because she was saying that she wasn't even nervous for herself. She really likes (penalty kicks). She was nervous for us, which is really cute, but no, we toasted her after the game. I'm stoked for her and for us."

UC San Diego Senior Center Back Ellen Wilson

On making it all the way to the end of her final NCAA Championship:

"I don't consider this the end yet. I still think we have a lot of work to do, and the games are just getting harder each round. We have our work cut out for us. We obviously have two really good teams ahead of us that we've come across the last time we made it to the Final Four, so I don't think that we're satisfied yet and we still have a lot of work to do."

On the Colorado Mines match:

"You could definitely tell that we were feeling Friday's game. I was trying to help everybody through it, and I was struggling, too, with my body. It could have been the altitude. I don't know, but ultimately, we made it through the game, and I knew we had it in penalty kicks. That's all that matters."

On freshman goalkeeper Kelcie Brodsky's performance:

"I'm so proud of her. She definitely deserves this. (Playing with) goalkeeper Kristin Armstrong last year, I didn't think that I would ever feel as comfortable in front of another goalkeeper. Having Kelcie behind me now, it's just as comfortable. I'm really proud of her for stepping up, and also of us for winning the game for her, for all her efforts."

UC San Diego Senior Midfielder Danielle Dixon

On making it back to the NCAA Semifinals:

"I'm very excited. I'm most excited because we are playing Grand Valley (State) first. In my sophomore year, they kind of embarrassed us in the final. We weren't ourselves (that day). We didn't play like we normally play. It was just a bad game for us, so I'm really looking forward to playing them again. This is also my last year to possibly achieve a national championship, and that's something I really want."

UC San Diego Senior Midfielder Alexa Enlow

On walking up to take her kick, knowing a conversion would send her side to Georgia:

"Honestly, I think that once I realized that I was in the position to do that, I was excited. My nerves instantly went away. I remember running up to the ball, taking a few deep breaths, and just knowing with (full) confidence, that I had to make it, and there wasn't any other option. I think that's what got me through the kick and settled down my nerves. I knew I could not miss. That wasn't allowed, basically."

"I almost felt like I had nothing to lose. Both teams had missed a couple (penalty kicks), and so that gave me more confidence, too. 'You know what, I'm just going to go and hit (the ball) as best as I can and as best as I know how to hit it.'"

On what was going through her mind in the early stages of the tiebreaker, as the eighth UCSD kicker:

“I was really nervous watching everyone else, and as it got closer to me, like right around Casey’s (Parisi) kick, I started thinking like, OK, I need to get my head right, think about my spot (of where to shoot), and exactly what I need to do when I go up there, so it became more realistic. But I was ready for it. I was excited. I wish I would have gone sooner. I think next time, if it ever happens (again), I’m going to try and go sooner. I raised my hand too late.”

On whether she was feeling the foot injury at all that she suffered late in regulation:

“No. Honestly, I think that I had so much adrenaline going (back) into the game, when I came back in in overtime. It completely took over. I didn’t have that much pain. I was limping around a little, but it didn’t hurt until after the game.”

UC San Diego Senior Midfielder Jessica Wi

On making it back to the NCAA Semifinals:

“It feels amazing. It’s been our goal since, pretty much getting there before (in 2010), to get there again, and so it feels really great that we made it back.”

On the Colorado Mines match:

“It was definitely a challenging game. They were a good team. I felt that I was open a lot and had space to run at my defender throughout the game, but I think heavy legs and fatigue kind of got to us a little bit, and we had trouble getting forward at times. We still did a good job keeping our composure, kept defending and kept trying to attack.”

UC San Diego Sophomore Forward Izzy Pozurama

On going to her first NCAA Semifinals:

“It’s really exciting, because freshman year (in 2010), I was a redshirt, and so I didn’t get the opportunity to go to Kentucky, but now I actually have the chance to go to Georgia and experience what a lot of my teammates did a couple of years back.”

UC San Diego Freshman Goalkeeper Kelcie Brodsky

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UC San Diego Goalkeeper Coach Trent Painter

On goalkeeper Kelcie Brodsky’s performance in the penalty-kick tiebreaker:

“I thought she did a great job. Going into penalty kicks is not an easy thing to do. We all have confidence in her with that. She loves it and that’s a big part of it. We trust her, and we’re sure that she will make a save or two, guaranteed.”

Colorado Mines Head Coach Kevin Fickes

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