

## No. 13 UC San Diego vs. No. 25 Cal State Stanislaus Quotes, Nov. 2, 2012

### **UC San Diego Head Coach Brian McManus**

*General comments on the game:*

"I thought we paid them way too much respect early on. They're a very good team, but we sat off. We tried to defend around their 18-yard box, and when they've got a player like Karenee Demery, that's difficult to do. You're going to give her a chance.

"We were lucky to still be in the game at halftime, but we stood up to the test, and in the second half, I thought we played well. We started to go at them. We made the field small. We pushed up from the back, started to get balls in and around their box, and we started looking dangerous.

"The big thing for us, was after going 1-0 up, and then Karenee Demery does what she's good at, she just gets those couple yards of space in the box, got the goal, and we stood the test there, because we could have easily folded. We came back strong, and Gabi (Hernandez), great goal, because a lot of players would have taken a first-time thrash at that, but she took it on her chest, and just lofted it back and under the crossbar. Tremendous goal."

*On facing Sonoma State in the final on Sunday:*

"Sonoma's going to be the exact same as Stanislaus. They've got Cara Curtin up top, who has tremendous pace. She's going to be the exact same as what Karenee Demery plays for Stanislaus, but we have to play a much better game for the 90 minutes. We can't wait until the second half to keep getting back into games. We have to do it from the beginning."

### **Senior forward and tri-captain Gabi Hernandez**

*On scoring the decider:*

"It's probably the best feeling in the world, when you're a senior and you're on this team. We haven't gotten past this first round in the CCAA (Championship) since I've been here. We lost twice on penalty kicks, and against Stanislaus last year. It's one of the best feelings in the world. I was due for a goal, and this team is awesome. I'm just so happy."

*On her game-winning goal:*

"Luckily, our team is pretty good about telling you if you have a man on, so nobody was screaming at me to hurry. I've been waiting at the top of the defense for so long for something to pop out this whole season. It hasn't come, and today was the perfect timing. It popped out. I just took it on my chest because nobody was telling to hurry up and I just placed it where I could."

### **Senior left back and tri-captain Hayley Johnson**

*On the seniors' first win at a CCAA Championship:*

"It's just really exciting. We went three years just getting stuck in this same spot, the same game, twice going out on penalty kicks. This was a big game for us, because we

knew going into it, that we had to win, with everything else that's going on in the region. If we didn't win today, we may not have gotten into (NCAA) regionals, and that's still up in the air, so we have to come out on Sunday and still play really hard."

*On the winning goal by four-year teammate Gabi Hernandez:*

"(I was) in the back, as usual, in my spot. I saw that happen, and it was really a pretty goal. It's funny because in warm-ups, we were all taking our volleys and we were hitting them really well. Volleys are not an easy thing to do, so I thought it was very fitting that she got it off a volley today."

*On Sunday's final with Sonoma State and how badly they want the title:*

"I mean, you can't even really put it into words. I've been waiting my whole career here, for an opportunity to win the CCAA Championship. We've won league before (regular season), but we've never won the tournament. Like I said earlier, it's still a must-win for us. I'm excited for the opportunity, and just ready to play."

### **Senior center back and tri-captain Ellen Wilson**

*On the seniors' first win at a CCAA Championship:*

"It was definitely a battle. We had a lot of weight on our shoulders, having not won a game (here at the CCAA Championship) coming into this tournament. Being able to get past that first game, at least, takes a big load off our shoulders, and now I feel like since we got that out of the way, we're just going to keep going forward from here, and nothing can stop us."

*On defending two-time CCAA Most Valuable Offensive Player Karenee Demery:*

"We had our hands full (on defense). Britnee (Chesney) did a good job of man-marking her, and we were able to contain her most of the game when she had the ball. Surprisingly, the goal came when I had the ball. She just high-pressured me, and my clearance went off her and she got a goal off that. She's going to be a handful every game, so I'm glad that we contained her to just one goal. She's a really good player and I give her a lot of respect."

### **Sophomore midfielder Cassie Callahan**

*On aiding in her senior class' first win at a CCAA Championship:*

"It's really great. I have more years, but this is their last chance. This is such a close team and the 10 seniors really make a difference. I feel honored to help out."

*On her success in the air in the match:*

"I've scored most of my goals on headers this year. It's mostly just about the timing. I know that Alexa (Enlow) and (Jessica) Wi are really good at getting down the line, taking players on and crossing it, so I just try to put myself in good positions to bury the ball in the back of the net if I can."