

## No. 13 UC San Diego vs. No. 7 Sonoma State Quotes, Nov. 4, 2012

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

*On winning a first CCAA title since 2008:*

"It's been a while. It's nice to get back there (atop the conference), and this one was special because that Sonoma State team today was as good a team as we've played in any of the finals we've played in. To beat them, penalties or not, that says a lot about our team."

*On bouncing back from allowing a tying goal with under a minute to play:*

"Give them credit. They never gave up. The girl swung a ball in the box, a whole host of people go up, and the ball lands in the back of the net. It's one of those things, but I thought, right then, our team showed their character. Any other team might have just folded in the overtime, because they (Sonoma State) had the all momentum, scoring a goal like that, right at the death. Our kids were tremendous today."

*On UCSD's play in Sunday's final versus Friday's semifinal:*

"We played much better than we did Friday. First half was much better. We weren't looking to go at them. They've got a lot of pace, so we were looking to try and get a hold of the ball, control the ball, and play our game, and not give in to theirs."

*On what he was thinking going into penalty kicks:*

"The girls stepped up. I thought our penalties were very good, and their (Sonoma's) penalties were good, apart from the one that hit the crossbar, and obviously Kelcie (Brotsky) came up with a massive save. The penalties were all excellent."

*On what his seniors showed him on the day:*

"They showed me they've got that desire. The same seniors went as (sophomores) to Kentucky (for the NCAA Semifinals in 2010), and they're looking to try and do it again. It's not going to be easy, but if there's ever a team that wanted it, this team wants it. They are going to give it everything."

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

*On being a CCAA champion:*

"It feels amazing. The only thing I can say is, finally. I feel like we had such a wall built up for that first game (semifinals) these past three years. This is the best feeling in the world. We've worked for it for four years. We finally got it, and it's awesome."

*On her goal 24 seconds into the second half:*

"That was the best worst cross that I've ever done in my entire life. It was a cross that went where it wasn't supposed (meant) to, but technically where it was. I pressured the defender and got around my player. I pushed off a little bit to get enough space where I could cross it, and it went in the goal. Whatever works."

*On her mindset going into penalty kicks after previous disappointments:*

“The first two (shootouts) that we lost in the first game (CCAA semifinals in 2009 and 2010) were against San Francisco (State) and (Cal State) Dominguez (Hills). I’ll never forget it. We were terrible at (penalty kicks). They saved a bunch. We missed a bunch. We weren’t confident at all. Our coaches took the initiative, and we’ve been practicing a lot, so everyone went into this (one) knowing we were going to win. There was no doubt in our mind.”

*On what the goal is now:*

“(NCAA championship.) It’s a six-game season. We’re waiting to get to the Final Four so we can bring it home. We’re just taking it one game at a time and we’re ready for the next one.”

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

*On stepping up to take the decisive penalty kick:*

“Actually, I wasn’t actually thinking that (it was over if I made it), because I turned around (after the kick), saw my team sprinting at me, and was like, ‘uhhh, they (Sonoma State) still have to kick another one.’ Ignorance is bliss, I guess. There wasn’t as much pressure, I guess then, on me. It was weird because the kick before, I thought, ‘OK, if they miss this, we win, but if they make it, I have to take one.’ So, I don’t know why (I didn’t realize the game was over). I just wasn’t thinking, which is good.”

*On being able to pick her team back up after allowing the late equalizer:*

“Brian (McManus) always says, a good team is going to come back (from) something like that. Any other team probably would have folded, would have just barely made it through the overtimes, if that, even. We went into the overtimes looking for a goal, and I think our play showed that. I mean, obviously we were tired, but we were still pushing for a goal. So, that was our mindset, to win, still.”

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

*On winning a conference title in her final chance:*

“I’m really proud of our team. I knew we could do it the whole time. I’m really proud of us for coming back after giving up the (tying goal) in the last minute and not being defeated right then. To come back and (still) win it was the best feeling in the world. We’re not done yet. We’re going to bring this energy over into the (NCAA) playoffs, so I’m excited for that.”

### **Senior midfielder Britnee Chesney**

*On winning the conference title as a senior:*

“It feels amazing. We’ve waited a long time for this. It’s great for all the girls who have been here for all four years, and good for us, too, who transferred in.”

*On marking the conference’s top two scorers during the tournament:*

“They’re (Stanislaus’ Karenee Demery and Sonoma State’s Cara Curtin) really good players, but I had to take this one for our team (this weekend in marking them). I

know that if they get a good shot off, it will go in, and Demery got one on me (in Friday's semifinal), but after that, we got it back, and we were able to pull it out."

*On just how much the senior class had talked about winning this CCAA title:*

"We wanted it so bad. Brian's (McManus) been telling us this is the year it needs to happen, and everyone knew it was, too. Everyone just wanted it so bad."

### **Senior midfielder Alexa Enlow**

*On being a CCAA champion:*

"It's awesome. We've been waiting so long to get this. We basically thought we were cursed, my class, that is. It feels good, and we definitely deserved it today. We outplayed them. We fought to the very end. I'm really, really glad that we won."

*On the game's opening goal, for which she provided the assist:*

"I saw Gabi (Hernandez) down the line. I have complete faith in her taking her player on. I saw her open, and I just hit her quickly (with a pass). She was able to turn her player like no other, and she came out strong."

*On being named to the All-Tournament Team:*

"I feel really honored and I am extremely, extremely surprised. I'm happy, and just really proud of my team today."

### **Senior midfielder Jessica Wi**

*On winning the conference tournament:*

"It's just awesome, because we've never even gotten past the first (semifinal) round, so being able to come here and get a win (in that first game), and not only that but win the whole thing, it just feels awesome."

*On her performance on the right wing this weekend:*

"It's definitely my role on the team, to get those crosses in and beat players. I just try to do that as much as I can and contribute as much as I can."

### **Junior forward Casey Parisi**

*On making her penalty kick to begin the tiebreaker:*

"I look at penalties as a free goal, so any time that anyone can take it, I feel like you should have the most confidence in stepping up and being a leader on this team. Me, honestly, that wasn't my best penalty kick. I kind of hit the ground when I went to go kick the ball, and stumbled, but if you practice enough and if you have enough confidence in yourself, obviously, you're going to keep hitting your spot. You're going to do well. Just being able to help contribute to the game in that way, was more than I could ask for."

*On aiding in the 10 Triton seniors' first conference crown:*

"My motto since I was little was always do it for the people who I love, for the people who doubt us, for the people who we play with, for the seniors. Everything that we do from here on out is for the seniors, because they've helped our team be the

cohesive unit that it is. Honestly, they're my best friends. This whole team, they're my best friends. Everything we do is for them. It's just amazing to have them on the team and to experience this with them."