

No. 18 UC San Diego vs. Cal State Monterey Bay Quotes, Oct. 27, 2013

UC San Diego Head Coach Jon Pascale

Postgame comments can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/m3on16>

Senior Center Back Alec Arsht

On clinching a postseason berth in his final year as a Triton:

"It's a big sigh of relief. We've always known we were good enough to be there, and now we are there. It's nice to finally be there, especially being my senior year. It's awesome to go out this way."

On coming so close to the postseason the last three years and being denied:

"That had a lot to do with this year. This game was like a closeout game for us in the sense that we knew that if we won, we were going the playoffs. We went down a goal early, and I don't think we missed a beat. I think that has a lot to do with the experience of missing it the last couple of years and just getting it done when we needed to get it done. You have to go through the tough times. It's a lot sweeter when you go through the tough times."

On the relentless offensive pressure in the second half:

"We were pressing them like crazy in the second half. You had to have the feeling it (a goal) was coming. Their keeper came up with some big saves. Alessandro Canale made a huge difference out there. He was just dominating, really, and Andisheh Bagheri is Andisheh Bagheri. He finishes. He's the coolest, calmest guy. Two great finishes from him. Two huge goals. He's having a great season, and we're so happy he came back (for his final year). I couldn't be happier for him or for us."

More postgame comments can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/Qqvyxa>

Senior Midfielder Andisheh Bagheri

On clinching a postseason berth in his final year as a Triton:

"It's awesome. I think it all starts from just the whole team going into halftime (down 1-0) not giving up. We kept pushing for the next goal. Both teams played well. The first half, we were disappointed to give up the goal. They're a really good side. It was just the whole mentality, and the whole second half we played amazing. The ball was in their half the whole time. We were really attacking and putting pressure on them. I think that's what led to the two goals that came after that."

On his first goal:

"It's a blur. They both happened so fast. The first one, it came from one of our defenders, Gavin (Lamming). He hit a long ball. Sandro (Canale), like he's been doing very well all season, held up the guy on his back. He turned a little bit. I kept running through the play because I knew Sandro was going to hold it up. I just ran up and was yelling for it, to just lay it off, and obviously, he did."

On his winner:

"For the second one, (I was looking for the top corner). Both of them (goals), I was trying to put them back post across my body. I thought that was the easier finish, and it worked well."

On his decision to come back for a fourth and final year:

"It's a great feeling. Soccer has been following me. It's been a part of me my whole life. It's kind of hard to give it up. It was one of the best decisions I ever made. I'm hoping to continue, and take next weekend, and take one game at a time and keep it rolling."

More postgame comments can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/eG9dkp>

Senior Goalkeeper Josh Cohen

On clinching a postseason berth in his final year as a Triton:

"It feels great. Never had this experience before. We've been really close the last three years, finishing third, and usually less than a game out of the playoff picture. This year, we clinched it and we still have one weekend to go. It feels amazing. I know the team is super stoked, and (head coach) Jon (Pascale)'s really happy. Right now, it's just all about celebrating and having fun knowing that we made it this far, but we have a lot left to do and we have a lot further that we can go."

On UCSD's defensive cohesion this season:

"Our defensive back four has been phenomenal all year. In the center with Alec (Arsht) and Gavin (Lamming), there is a ton of experience between those two guys. Those guys win a ton of balls in the air. They win it off the foot. They're very skilled players. Then outside, we have Matt McClure and Brett Sampiere, both of them, they fully understand the system. We've got good unity. We work together really well, and those guys always stay on the same page, so I'm just trying to direct them and get them to the point where we can have a solid back line for the entire 90 minutes, every game."

On Andisheh Bagheri's winner:

"It was beautiful. I had a nice, clean view from right behind him. I saw it come off his foot. I didn't even wait for it to go in the goal. I saw it come off his foot and I knew it was going into the upper corner, so I started celebrating."

Senior Center Back Gavin Lamming

On clinching a postseason berth in his final year as a Triton:

"It was a big day. We were a little nervous going into it, with high emotions, knowing there was a lot at stake. For the first time in my four years, we could make playoffs. The team was up for it. From the bench to the starters, everyone was ready to go. It was a big game, and the result was there. It was fun."

On UCSD's defensive cohesion this season:

"We take a lot of pride in that. We have good relationships with all four of us (on the back line). Before the game, we talk a lot and let each other know that it's really important that we try to get that shutout. We've had some success in that throughout the season, and we hope to continue to do that. Today, we got a little unlucky and gave up a goal early, but the team bounced back, we got some momentum, and the back line held it together for the remainder of the game."

On the equalizer that he helped set up:

"Matty (McClure) had the ball at his feet. The left back came flying in. Ref called the fall, and rightly so. The play was on. Alessandro (Canale) was running from the right side across the back line. I hit it in behind. He brought it down really well. He's a good player at holding the ball, and he slotted it across for Andi to finish the goal."

On Andisheh Bagheri's winner:

"That was incredible. I was right behind him. Ball went in to Alessandro, he laid it off, and it honestly went in slow motion for me. He was approaching the ball and he just blasted it into the upper corner. It was a great goal. He was very emotional after. I've never seen Andisheh so excited, and same with the team as well, so it was really good to get that."

On Andisheh Bagheri returning for his final season:

"We couldn't be more thankful that he's come back. He's a great player. Always has been for us ever since I've been here. We weren't sure if he was going to come back. He's kind of a guy that keeps to himself. He finally told the team that he'll be back, and we were super stoked. Obviously, we had no idea that this was going to be the result of it. It's what we hoped for, and it's the way it's turned out, but we can't be more thankful for him."

Senior Midfielder Will Pleskow

On clinching a postseason berth in his final year as a Triton:

"It's great. It's the first time UCSD's been there in a while. For me, personally, I'm coming back from a pretty serious injury, so to know that I'm extending my college career a couple more games and hopefully beyond that, is fantastic. Obviously, to do it with nine seniors is really something special. Today was a great stepping stone."

On how much this senior class talked about making it to the postseason:

"Every year you're in college and you're playing with a team, you want to make the postseason. Obviously, this year, we really looked at ourselves and we thought we were good. It was more of an attainable goal. The transfers that we got and the help we get from the new guys, really has made a big difference from the team last year. In terms of something that we totally felt was attainable, it's a great feeling that it finally has happened."

On helping set up Andisheh Bagheri's winner:

"We had the ball through the middle. I think it kind of got whipped in, rebounded out and landed right at my foot. I was facing up with the left back, kind of gave a little fake to the left and took him to the (goal) line. Luckily, I beat him and I crossed it in to Sandro (Canale). Sandro had a great touch. He turned and spun it back to (Andisheh), who finished it at the top of the 18. He was just money from there."

On what he was thinking about as Bagheri's winning shot was in the air:

"It was one of those plays where I played the ball and just watched as I hoped it would go in the back of the net. It happened a little earlier when we had like four shots inside the six deflected, so I kind of just stood there paralyzed, and then tackled (Andisheh), which was awesome."

Senior Forward/Midfielder Cory Wolfrom

On clinching a postseason berth in his final year as a Triton:

"It definitely feels good. We've been waiting a while for this. You have no idea. It's been a long three years. At the beginning of this year, we knew this was the team, and it feels good to get some results. We proved ourselves, and we're ready for the next step."

On the relentless offensive pressure in the second half:

"There was a part of the game where we just were grooving, our passes were combining, and we were pressuring them very hard. We knew it (a goal) was coming. It was just a matter of time. You can kind of feel moments in the game where you're dominating, and that was one of those moments. Everything just seems to work out, and it was a matter of staying patient and waiting for the right things to happen. Andi was the perfect person to have the ball, and he did his job."

On Andisheh Bagheri's winner:

"That was pretty perfect. Andi couldn't have hit it better. I mean, he does that all the time, so I wasn't surprised at all."