



Postgame Quotes
Saturday, November 3, 2018
Semifinal Game
(5) UC Davis 0, (1) UC Irvine 0 (2OT)
Aggies win in PK's, 6-5

UC DAVIS

UC Davis Head Coach Dwayne Shaffer

(Opening Statement): "Extremely excited. Happy for my student-athletes. They played a great game and both teams had some incredible chances. I thought it was a 50-50 game all the way through. We obviously advance on penalty kicks. To go on the road and to play at Northridge and Irvine is extremely difficult. My team stepped up and played hard and played well, and got two results on the road, so I'm extremely happy for them."

(On penalty kicks): "We've been in them enough. The thing is, out of our penalty kick takers out there, I know for a fact that four of them were freshmen. We worked on them, but it was more that we got a result."

(On returning to the finals and playing at UC Riverside): "The biggest thing for us is playing on the turf. We'll have to adapt quickly. I know Tim (Cupello) has got a really good team kind of rolling right now, but so do I and we're pretty excited about the group. We'll have to go back home and rest and recover. We're excited for it."

Sophomore Defender Jake Haupt

(On what he thought as he took his penalty kick): "I'm not done playing with Roy (Boateng) yet. I'm not ready to let him go yet. I want to play at least one more game with him because he's my partner in the back right there. That's what I was thinking of the entire time. I don't think I've ever hit a better PK in my life. I felt confident."

Senior Defender Roy Boateng

(On watching the PK shootout unfold): "It's a collective effort. Defense wins championships. We've been kind of keeping that same mentality. Getting the guys that were feeling good about it step up, that's what a leader does, is support the team. I trust my guys, and they delivered. Super proud of them."

(On preventing a UC Irvine goal): "They don't really like to go behind us because we have a lot of pace in the back. Making sure we stepped to them and making sure they didn't feel comfortable turning at us. We were able to create a lot of chances going forward."

UC Irvine Head Coach Yossi Raz

(Opening Statement): "We need to remember that the UC Irvine players and staff had a fantastic season. The body of work that everyone accomplished – 18th in the RPI, top 15 offense in the country, Big West champions – I'm very proud."

(On how UC Davis handled Ivan Canales): "People don't understand how difficult the Big West is and the quality of coaches and players, and how everyone makes adjustments. Davis got a bit healthier and got their defensive midfielder back (Nabi Kibunguchy), but besides that, they reduced the spaces so Ivan didn't have a lot of freedom. Credit to them...I would have done the same. Ivan is a very special player and if you give him a little bit of room, he can make the game different. We had a lot of opportunities tonight to impact the game offensively. We came up a bit short. We produced quality moments, maybe not as much as we usually do because of the Davis defense. Ultimately the result was 0-0. We went to a PK shootout. PK shootout is a little bit of luck, a little bit of skill. We were a little bit short on both."

(On being in penalty kicks): "We were prepared to the best of our ability, but you cannot duplicate the moments. No matter how well we thought we prepared, we knew that the moment is different. There's a lot of pressure on the person taking the shot, and on the goalkeeper to make the save. I give them credit – those who scored and those who missed – because to have the nerves to take the responsibility to lead a program, and try and do it for the benefit of everybody is not easy."

(On the team's resume for NCAA postseason): "Hopefully the people on the committee see the body of work that UC Irvine did. I think if somebody watched us throughout the year, I think they would vote for us. We're fun, we're attractive futbol. Hopefully that's going to pay some kind of dividend. The reality is that, because of our result tonight, now we're at the mercy of other people choosing for us. We'll live with whatever they decide."