



Conference USA
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Conference USA Men's Soccer Championship

Semifinals – Nov. 14, 2014

(7) South Carolina def. (3) UAB, 1-0

South Carolina Head Coach Mark Berson

Q: What are your thoughts on tonight's game?

A: "I am proud of our guys. I thought they battled hard. You know our games with UAB are always great games. We had a close game at our place this year in the regular season. They beat us and last year we beat them at their place 4-3, so I really expected that same type of competitive game tonight. They have such a big team. They are very tall team, so it's kind of strange that we ended up on a corner. It was very bizarre, very unlikely, but our guys played well tonight defensively and attacking wise. Statistics are even on shots and pretty even on corners. I thought it was just a typical South Carolina-UAB game. We are very happy to get the result."

Q: Why does your team play well in Norfolk and how will you prepare for Sunday's match?

A: "We are going to play our home games here next year. It is going to be announced pretty soon that we are going to be playing our home games here because we didn't win a conference game at home this year, which is strange also, but this is our new home field so you can look for us. There will be triple-headers; the women's team, the men's team here and then we're going to play so we have pretty much made up our minds on that. Right now for us, we lost Jeff Addai tonight in the game, he is hurt. Eli [Dent] hurt his shoulder, so we are getting very, very thin in terms of the number of players that we have available at this point. The biggest challenge for our team right now is just to try to get healed up and see who we can put out on the field on Sunday. Right now, we'll enjoy this. The guys are probably feeling pretty good right now and hopefully we can use tomorrow to recuperate a little bit, get ready to go against a good opponent on Sunday."

[We need to] regenerate. We just have to take stock of the injuries and the guys that are beat up. You know going three games in this tournament is a difficult task. It's a very difficult task. All of these games are one-goal games, every single game is a one-goal game. Every single game is a dogfight. Every single game in the regular season to get here is a dogfight, so we are just going to have to get some rest and get ready to line up again on Sunday"

Q: Can you replay Marco Velez's penalty kick save as well as Mikkel Knudsen's goal from your perspective?

A: "On the PK, Marco saw a read; he read something and was able to take off and do that. We do work on that with our guys and sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. That's all Marco. It is 100% his ability to read and react and make a great play. On the goal, I didn't get a great look at it because it was down at the other end. The ball came in and pinged and then Mikkel got his head on it and it went into the roof of the net. I wasn't sure if it hit the top of the net coming down or the bottom of the net coming up, so I was relieve to see it was in there. I give our guys credit, we battled all night. UAB is a very good team and I thought we played well. We really wanted this game because of the way we lost in the regular season. We wanted to get this game back, and obviously, it's at the key point of the season for us. We need to keep winning, so big win for our team. Couldn't be more proud of our guys. They dug really deep tonight and I am really proud of them."



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South Carolina freshman forward Mikkel Knudsen

Q: Can you replay the game-winning goal?

A: "The game was incredible. It was a very good night for us and our hard work paid off all the way through the game. [The goal] came off a corner kick by Kurtis Turner and Ryan Freiburger got on top of it, flicked it to our goal and I was able to flick it back over the keeper and luckily into the goal."

South Carolina sophomore goalkeeper Marco Velez

Q: How does it feel to beat the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds in the tournament?

A: "It feels great. We've had a great team competing with these top teams all season long. We've just been inconsistent, but we've always been fine with them. We just saw how good we are now, and we hope to keep it up."

Q: Can you replay your save on the penalty kick?

A: "It was hard. On that penalty, the way he lined up to the ball, just straight onto the ball, I just guessed right. The rest of the game I was focused."