

Duke Post-Match Press Conference / College Cup Final / Dec. 4, 2011

Stanford: 1

Duke: 0

Head Coach Robbie Church – 11th Season

Laura Weinberg – So. – F – Boca Raton, Fla.

Tara Campbell – Jr. – GK – Cincinnati, Ohio

Head Coach Robbie Church

Opening Remarks

RC: I would like to first of all congratulate Stanford University. They're a fantastic team to go through the season like they have, run the table. As you can see, there are no weaknesses. So Paul, congratulations. Their staff does a fantastic job so congratulations to them. I would like to thank our team, program and administration. We all walk out of here and we're disappointed, but we'll walk out with our head held high. I thought we played hard and battled for the whole 90 minutes. We knew they were a serve-and-finish team and I thought we did a good job of locking them into one path. But even when they scored, typically like all year we had a good push and I thought we had some good looks and services ourselves. We were close a couple of times. Emily Oliver played fantastic. She made two big-time saves. We're very proud to be here and I thank Kennesaw State. It was an awesome event that they put on.

On the players returning next season and the future of the program...

RC: That's something we will deal with as we move forward. We haven't been in that situation. I know the character and the hard work they put in. They enjoyed this journey. This was a very hungry team. They really enjoyed this journey and I know that's going to motivate them. We'll take a little time off and start work in the spring. There's no question in my mind that we're more than capable of getting back here. There's more factors, staying injury free and a little luck but I'm confident we'll be back.

On the play of his team in the final 20 minutes...

RC: We did a tactical change. We went with a 4-3-3 then went with three in the back. Again I think the girls were correct, at this time and this level if you're going to score late they will try and go with a 4-4-2. We had to play with more of a sense of urgency and I think we did. With about 10 minutes left we made another change we basically went to a 2-4-4 and tried to get Pathman to serve fantastic balls from the left side. In such a tight game we knew one goal was going to change it.

On how the team reacted to the pressure of the championship match...

RC: I think we did a pretty good job with that. It's their fourth-straight year here. We haven't started great, I thought we started better. We had to pick and choose how we wanted to defend them. We wanted their center backs to force play. We think they're very dangerous wide and when they serve it from the wide side. We wanted the center backs to serve the ball and set play more. We tried to lock them in on one side of the field and I thought we were fairly successful with that. I wish we would've held the ball more. I thought we were to panicky to go forward when we got the ball. I thought we panicked a bit once we got the ball early in the match and tried to play a lot of longer balls. I thought we played better in the second half and played more like we have played.

Can you comment on the event itself?

RC: It was fantastic. This is our first time and it's everything you dream about. The people here at Kennesaw State were absolutely great. The hotel and the venue, it's an unbelievable venue. Hopefully it will come back and they want to have it come back. I thought it was a great showcase for women's soccer. The game was an exciting game to showcase that. We tried to attack and Stanford was just a little bit better than us tonight so we have to go back and get better and we will.

On what it means for Duke to advance this far...

RC: We've missed a couple recruiting visits while being on the field, but the coverage of our team has been good. This is where we want to be. We want to play in front of everyone for a national championship. We'll continue to work hard because everybody else in the ACC has this goal. I think it's going to be a big boostg.

How much do you think Stanford's goalkeeper dictated play?

RC: She's very mobile. She's one of the best at controlling the top part of the box. If you play any straight balls at all, she's going to come up. She supports her back four really well. The ball that Kaitlyn Kerr hit, that was a big-time save. I thought that was in the corner and she pushed it over. I was very impressed. I saw some of the Florida State game and I thought she was very good and she has a really bright future.

On if the team had any first half nerves...

RC: I didn't feel like we had the nerves. We just had to settle in to our tactics a bit. We wanted the center backs to control it. We really felt like their outside players were really good servers and we wanted to look at how the center backs and their entry balls ended up forward. For the most part I thought it worked out really well. I thought the kids were very excited to be here and very loose and that's how their personalities are. I'm happy, I would like to have a goal or two goals, but I thought we played well. Overall I'm happy in how we played in our first national championship game.

Laura Weinberg

On how the team played the final 20 minutes...

LW: I think the last 20 minutes, the way we played was the way we needed to play the entire game. We did have an amazing game, but I think we were pushing those last 20 minutes. We knew we needed to get that equalizer. We were doing everything we could to get that one goal. That didn't happen, but we played great and battled for the whole 90 minutes.

On her chance in the 72nd minute...

LW: [Stanford's] Rachel Quon did a great job on that deflection. I had good contact on the ball and I think it probably would've gone in. Unfortunately she got that deflection and we got a corner. Definitely was on goal.

On the Stanford defense...

LW: The way they played, we haven't played a team that played their style all year. Their center backs get forward and their outside backs are great players. Their two center backs are also great players. I think we did get some good looks, but props to their defense they played a great game.

On how exciting it is to have all of the starting lineup from the game back next season ...

LW: We're not losing anyone so we're just going to come back and work really hard in the offseason, do as much as we can, to get back to this place next year. It wasn't our year but we'll be back next year for sure.

Tara Campbell

On Stanford's goal...

TC: A little unlucky I think. I think we had two players on the ball wide. The ball popped out right to her feet so she had a second look at a service. It was perfectly placed back side. I got across my goal and I think I covered up as much of it as I could and Nuoma put it in the corner.

On advancing this far in the NCAA Tournament...

TC: It's great. Especially since it's my third year so to come significantly further than we have in the past is exciting. The bad part is we lost. I'm hoping next year to do the same thing we did this year and get back here and have another shot at it.

How do you think your defense played in front of you?

TC: I thought they played well. I thought today, the defenses on both sides shined a little bit. There weren't a lot of great chances for either team. I thought we did really well. They didn't

have many great goal-scoring opportunities. I think I pushed one over the crossbar that was an attempt to them and then the goal. Other than that I thought we shut them down.

On if she was surprised Stanford played more defensively at the end of the game...

TC: I think on a stage this big, when you go up in a game especially in the second half, your first instinct is to maintain the lead and bunker in a bit. They did a little but they continued to get out some. They kept us honest in the back. But, I think they did a good job of maintaining their defensive unit and dropping players in but still being able to get players forward every now and then.