

NCAA Women's Soccer Second Round: Duke vs UCF – Nov. 20, 2025

UCF Head Coach: Tiffany Roberts Sahaydak and redshirt sophomore goalkeeper Genesis Perez Watson

Coach Roberts Sahaydak Opening Statement:

"I'm really proud of our team. For me, what I told them after the match was that it's not just about one game, we really need to look at the whole season. If we look at the whole season, it's something to be really proud of, and we're a team that stayed together and believed in one another and fought to the end today. I thought the first half, wasn't our best. I think we were still trying to get our footing, and we have a lot of respect for Duke, so we may have been overwhelmed, I think, in that first half, but we had a good halftime talk, and they were excited to get back out on the field. I thought we did a much better job in the second half overall. And then this superstar woman right here, obviously, she kept us in the game. She's at the top of her game, and we're extremely proud of her performance tonight, but not just tonight, it's all the work that she's been putting in since she's been with us at UCF. So, she deserves to have a game like that, and I'm really proud of Genesis."

Coach Roberts Sahaydak on tonight's approach:

"We're used to having the ball too, but Duke is an amazing team, and we were prepared not to have the ball for periods of time but obviously, as a coach, my message to the team is that we want to have the ball. I didn't want to tell the team to sit back. I didn't want the team just to sit back and then counter. I told the team our goal was to have possession. I think we struggled with that, obviously. But I also said when we do have possession, the first thing we should look for is countering without giving the ball away so quickly and secure it if it's not on. We have fast forwards, and we thought that that was an area that we can take advantage. Duke plays with a high line, so we want to take advantage of the space behind them."

Coach Roberts Sahaydak on the season:

"We were a team that had a lot of transfers. So, starting in January, we brought in a lot of new faces and brought in talented players that are competitive and want to grow and you know the character is there, but at the end of the day you don't know how everyone's going to mesh. I thought everyone did such a good job, starting from day one in January. The new players in the program embraced their new environment and their new teammates, and I thought the teammates that were returners did a great job of embracing all the new players. I'm proud of what we accomplished on the field, but I'm also really proud of how we came together and in the manner that we came together."

Perez Watson (#0) on her experience with the Costa Rican national team:

“It’s definitely elevated my game. It’s a different perspective and a different intensity, so when I first got there, it took a while getting used to. I think it just made me quicker, and just made me realize that at the end of the day, after you make one mistake or make one save, there’s always another one coming, so you don’t have time to dwell. You just have to figure it out.”

Perez Watson (#0) on defending against Duke’s 14 corner kicks:

“Well, I think it was a team effort, definitely. Me claiming my space and my center backs, full backs, just everybody doing their job. It’s something we rehearse a lot, defending in the box, so I think that definitely pushed us over the edge and helped us not concede from corner kicks.”