

2015 NCAA Men's Water Polo Championship

Dec. 5, 2015 – Dirks Pool at Spieker Aquatics Center – Semifinal #1

No. 1 UCLA 17, No. 5 UC San Diego 4

UCLA Quotes

Head Coach Adam Wright opening statement:

"I think it's important to understand what UC San Diego has done as a team and as a program over the last five years. They won their conference and then they had to play two days ago. They're a good team, and I can tell you this--we made sure the only thing we were focused on was UC San Diego because we know how dangerous of a team they can be. With that said, I think there were moments in the beginning of the game that we weren't playing our game--it's normal for these guys at this age, butterflies and being nervous. But I thought once we settled in, they did a good job for the most part. We're a defensive oriented team and I thought overall it was pretty good and it helps to have [Garrett] Danner in the goal."

On if he said anything to the team after a tight 2-1 opening quarter:

"I asked them--it's our choice how we want to play. We were coming free on the counter-attack, but we weren't committing on our structure. And you know the one time we did, if you remember, we had Gordon Marshall coming out the backcourt and he set up Ryder Roberts really nice because we had good structure. But after that point, we really didn't have our structure, so the nerves are coming into play, but that's all I said, it's our choice. How do we want to play this? They responded for the most part, nicely."

Alex Roelse on his thoughts on the game and if he is excited for tomorrow:

"Yeah, I am at least, very excited. I'm sure our whole team is. Definitely something we've been working for all year, so it's good to be that one step closer to the spot that we want to finish. And I think for a game like this, it's a good opening. We have time to work out some fixes that we need to change and we get into a good flow of how we want to play and I think that's a good start for our final game for tomorrow."

Alex Wolf on if he has a preference of opponent for tomorrow:

"I have no preference. I know our team doesn't have a preference. I know Adam [Wright] doesn't have a preference. But I think a lot of fans like a good rivalry match against USC, but our opponent doesn't matter."

UCSD Quotes

Head Coach Denny Harper opening statement ...

"UCLA is an incredible team this year and I wish them good luck."

On keeping it close in the first half and did that give your team any confidence going into the second...

"I think we are a program that can generally hang for maybe a half against these powerful dominant schools that are generally in the top four or five. We just finally get worn out and I think we started to get kind of pooped."

Chase Cockerill on whether or not he is happy about the season ...

"I am thrilled. I think all season a lot of people counted us out. We graduated a bunch of incredible athletes last year. That whole senior class was just phenomenal. I don't think a lot of people expected us to be here. I think we were picked third going into it and we ended up winning and upsetting UC Davis. We destroyed Princeton in the play-in game. I think the whole year we have been building up to this point and I couldn't be more proud of our guys. Obviously, it would have been great if we could have beat UCLA tonight or even kept it a little closer, but in my four years of water polo that is the best NCAA team I have gone up against. They are so fast, so big, so physical and Garrett Danner is a force to be reckoned with in the cage. I'm happy, even with that loss."