



**2016 NCAA Men's College Cup
No. 9 North Carolina vs. No. 5 Stanford
Dec. 9, 2016 – BBVA Compass Stadium**

Stanford Post Game Quotes

Stanford Head Coach Jeremy Gunn

(Opening remarks)

"I am tired. No, thank you guys. I thought it was a really exciting game. I know the fans and everybody, I think it might have been said in the pre-game conference about it being a chess game and it was exactly that. I just think that at Chapel Hill they get so many people behind the ball, it's tough to break them down, really tough. I felt throughout the game, I thought we passed the ball really well, I think we out-possessed them. We were really trying to take chances, trying to trust people forward; that being said, I think they had just as many good chances as us and it could have been a 1-0 either way. Great game of soccer, two very, very good teams. I know you guys would have liked a high scoring game and finish in regulation, so you could get home; that being said we managed to hold our nerve in the penalty shootout. I think the one thing I can say is that we were trying to take risks at the game to win the game, so if you look at soccer karma maybe we deserved to win tonight."

(On the risks they took to win)

"If you count the number of players trying to go towards that goal, it was more what they were doing to us. You know, our fullbacks overlapping again into the final third, center midfielders again for wide midfielders going forward. They managed to counter us a couple of times from those risks, from throw-ins and couple of things they sent in trying to get into the box. We are definitely trying to put bigger numbers, but it is tough to break them down. I think we built the ball beautifully tonight, but part of it is they don't have as many players pressing on us quite as quickly. They'd press with three and then there will be that little bit of a gap. So, when we broke the initial pressure our center midfielders got on the ball, our wide mids got on the ball, and we were just trying to move forward. But again, they got some great players. When we didn't finish attacks they got after us and had some great chances."

(On their experience from last year's final)

"Uh, I don't know. It helps the players because they've been there, seen it, done it, they know that it's a super quick turnaround, I'm not sure what time it is now but it's pretty late. One o'clock Sunday comes

pretty quickly. So, we're used to that, we've done that, and I think one of the great strengths of that team is their mental attitude, that we just love the challenge. It's the same for both teams, we'll get ready and start regrouping tonight, we'll be ready to play Sunday and so, I think it'll give us a bit of confidence. All of those peripheral things are helpful but once it's on the day you'll have two great teams, so I don't know if the experience will change the game, it's whether you pass it, control it, and finish your chances."

(On the game tonight, without its impact on the final)

"If you talk to any coach in any sport, there's no use in playing for Sunday. We were in an incredible fight tonight where with the click of a finger it's all over, you know, but with our guys we just take each challenge as it comes, and every challenge we have is an opportunity. Games like tonight, in the first half it's an opportunity to do well, second half – opportunity, overtime – opportunity, and then penalties – opportunity, and so we know that you can never look ahead, you just concentrate on the moment, and I think every coach would tell you that."

(On the significance of a second consecutive final appearance)

"It's incredible. You've always got to be optimistic, no point in being anything else really, but we started the year so well in January, the attitude was immense, I looked at the players and thought, 'These guys are still hungry,' and it was awesome. We have a wonderful man, Mr. (John) Arrillaga that's entertained us, he's an extremely successful guy, he's an alum of the school, and I'm not quite sure how old he is but he doesn't need to work, and yet every day he gets up, he loves the journey, he loves the challenge, and when people are saying 'Hey what do you do now after winning a championship,' we talk to the players about him and we go, 'Look, this guy doesn't need to do anything, but he loves what he does and he loves the journey,' and so the guys really bought into that. They enjoy every moment, they enjoy every challenge, so who knows where it takes us, because whatever's happened last year, it's not going to help us now, in fact it made it a lot harder for us on the year because teams really raised their game against us the whole year but, our guys are excited still, just like everybody whether you've played here before or not, and as a coach obviously whether you're here for the first time or the tenth time you're proud to be in this and you're thankful because soccer's a wonderful game that you can be brilliant and lose or you can be really bad and win, and so we're fortunate to still be standing, we've come through some incredible battles, and we get to fight again."

(On his goalkeeper, Andrew Epstein)

"Andy's been exceptional, I think again we talked about it going into it, when people ask me about him, sometimes you see the shiny player that's really spectacular, but Andy's never really attracted much attention, but when you're his coach you appreciate him so much, he shows up day in and day out, and you can depend on him, but I think when you look at the different types of personalities, maybe strikers and wingers can get away with being flashy and hot or cold, as a goalkeeper it gives us immense faith when you know what you're going to get out of him. He's been incredible, and like I said I thought we played so well but there were some chances for them and he came up big as always, so hopefully he can do that one more time."

Junior goalkeeper Andrew Epstein

(On having penalties define a game again)

“A little bit of déjà vu, yeah. The way the whole game went, really. Back and forth a little bit, 0-0 all the way through. Is nice to be familiar with the scenario going into it and it is just like any other day taking pk’s. It was nice.”

(On his thoughts throughout the penalty shootout)

“You always hope they miss. When you get in scenarios like that, you can’t let your mind start wondering in that way. I think, you just always look at the next kick. Whether is nine or two, you are always trying to do what you can on the play. I think (when) you get into scenarios like that and I have complete faith in our guys to keep on putting them away, so I think that it is just on me to make one save, or on their guy to miss one time and its ours. I think you approach it round like that. It’s intense to go your way.”

Senior defender Brian Nana-Sinkam

(On having experience playing in this stage)

“The fact that we have been at that situation before it is very helpful, but we play a lot of overtime games. Pretty staunch defensively as a team, so not a lot of goals against and sometimes the games end up 0-0 or 1-1; we are used to play those overtime games and we love the close games. Yes, last year that experience really helped us and we learned from that, used it tonight. Just throughout the season alone you can see those overtime games we played against good teams, Indiana, Notre Dame, teams alike. Not just last year, but this year as well. UNC played great, but that’s just how this things go when you go to pk’s.”