



November 27, 2011
MPSF Men's Water Polo Tournament

NO. 3-SEED UCLA CAPTURE MPSF CHAMPIONSHIP, DOWNS NO. 1-SEED USC, 10-9
Cristiano Mirarchi scores game-winning goal for UCLA in sudden-victory overtime

LOS ANGELES – Cristiano Mirarchi scored the game-winning goal in sudden-victory overtime, sending No. 3-seed UCLA past No. 1-seed USC, 10-9, the MPSF Tournament's championship match Sunday evening at Spieker Aquatics Center. Mirarchi's shot came 54 seconds into the game's third overtime session.

The game-winning goal set off a wild celebration from the UCLA bench, as the Bruins (23-4) clinched their second MPSF Tournament title in the last three seasons.

UCLA never trailed in Sunday's match against USC (22-3), advancing to the four-team NCAA Tournament that will be played Dec. 3-4 at California in Berkeley, Calif.

In a thrilling contest played at UCLA's home pool, USC overcame an early 5-1 deficit, tying the contest 5-5 midway through the third quarter. The Trojans rallied from a 7-5 hole in the fourth period, forcing overtime.

UCLA's Paul Reynolds scored on a lob shot with 1:59 to play in the first of two three-minute overtime periods, putting the Bruins ahead, 8-7. USC answered 18 seconds later, as Jeremy Davie scored from two meters on a power-play goal.

UCLA's Aimone Barabino scored on a 6-on-5 opportunity with 56 seconds left in the first overtime, giving the Bruins a 9-8 cushion. With 1:42 to play in the second three-minute overtime session, USC's Peter Kurzeka tied the contest, 9-9.

After each team failed to score in its first possession of sudden victory overtime, Mirarchi notched the game-winning goal, his second such goal in sudden victory overtime this season. Mirarchi duplicated a feat he accomplished in a 13-12 MPSF win over Pacific at Spieker Aquatics Center on Nov. 4, 2011.

The 2011 NCAA Tournament bracket will be revealed Sunday evening online at www.ncaa.com

UCLA will be making its 28th appearance at the NCAA Tournament, its first since advancing to the championship match in Dec. 2009. Two years ago, UCLA dropped a 6-5 decision to USC in the title contest at Princeton University. UCLA last won the NCAA Championship in 2004 with a 10-9 overtime victory at Stanford.

UCLA 10, USC 9 (SV-OT)

	1	2	3	4	OT	OT	OT	F
UCLA	4	1	2	0	2	0	1	10
USC	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	9

UCLA Goals: Aimone Barabino, Brett Hays, Cullen Hennessy, Daniel Lenhart, Cristiano Mirarchi, Lucas Reynolds, Paul Reynolds, Josh Samuels, Alex Wherry, Griffin White

UCLA Saves: Matt Rapacz 11

USC Goals: Kostas Genidounias 2, Nikola Vavic 2, Jeremy Davie, Peter Kurzeka, Forest Monroe, Michael Rosenthal, Stephen Siri

USC Saves: Joel Dennerley 9

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