



November 25, 2011
MPSF Men's Water Polo Tournament

NO. 1-SEED USC ADVANCES TO SEMIFINAL WITH 11-7 VICTORY OVER NO. 8-SEED PACIFIC

Nikola Vavic scores four goals to lead USC past Pacific in first-round contest

LOS ANGELES – No. 1-seed USC allowed just one goal in the second half en route to an 11-7 win over No. 8-seed Pacific in a first-round MPSF Tournament match on Friday morning at UCLA's Spieker Aquatics Center.

USC (21-2) was led by Nikola Vavic's game-leading four goals. The Trojans also received one pair of goals from Peter Kurzeka.

Pacific (12-12) received two goals each from Balazs Erdelyi and Tom Koning.

USC outscored Pacific, 5-0, in the second half after the two school were deadlocked, 6-6, at halftime.

Pacific responded from a 4-2 deficit after the first quarter by taking a 6-5 lead over USC with 1:43 to play before halftime. Pacific's Daniel Lungu nailed the shot to hand the Tigers their first and only lead of the afternoon. The Trojans knotted the contest, 6-6, on a goal from Vavic with 1:18 remaining in the second quarter.

USC used an impressive 4-0 scoring run through the third quarter to claim a 10-6 advantage heading into the game's final period. The Trojans received goals from Kurzeka (6:33 and 2:23), Connor Virjee (4:13) and Stephen Siri (0:46) to build their four-goal cushion.

Each team added one goal in the final quarter. USC extended its margin to 11-6 on a goal from Vavic with 5:11 left in regulation. Pacific's Joey Doyle scored on a five-meter penalty shot with 1:25 remaining.

Pacific goalkeeper Alex Malkis netted seven saves. USC's Joel Dennerley was credited with eight stops.

USC will play in a semifinal against either No. 4-seed Stanford or No. 5-seed UC Santa Barbara on Saturday afternoon. Game time at UCLA's Spieker Aquatics Center is 1:30 p.m.

USC 11, PACIFIC 7

	1	2	3	4	F
Pacific	2	4	0	1	7
USC	4	2	4	1	11

Pacific Goals: Balazs Erdelyi 2, Tom Koning 2, Joey Doyle, Daniel Lungu, Balazs Szabo

Pacific Saves: Alex Malkis 7

USC Goals: Nikola Vavic 4, Peter Kurzeka 2, Jeremy Davie, Kostas Genidounias, Stephen Siri, Michael Rosenthal, Connor Virjee

USC Saves: Joel Dennerley 8

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