



November 26, 2011
MPSF Men's Water Polo Tournament

NO. 7-SEED UC IRVINE OUTLASTS NO. 6-SEED PEPPERDINE, 5-4
UC Irvine clinches victory after scoreless fourth quarter in defensive battle

LOS ANGELES – No. 7-seed UC Irvine earned a 5-4 victory over No. 6-seed Pepperdine in a consolation match of the MPSF Tournament at UCLA's Spieker Aquatics Center on Saturday afternoon.

In a game highlighted by strong performances from each goalkeeper, UC Irvine held Pepperdine scoreless through the final 11 minutes, 17 seconds. Jimmy Friedrich of UC Irvine and Bence Valics of Pepperdine each recorded 12 saves.

UC Irvine's Winston Newland snapped a 4-4 tie with 2:45 left in the third quarter to help send the Anteaters (16-12) past Pepperdine (12-13). UC Irvine received two goals from Trent Baxter, while Pepperdine had a team-leading two goals from Matthew DeTrane.

Neither team ever led by more than two goals in a match that featured four ties.

Pepperdine took a 1-0 lead with 5:16 to play in the opening frame on a 6-on-5 goal from Danny White. UC Irvine tied the game, 1-1, with a goal from Mitch Wise at the 1:49 mark in the first quarter.

UC Irvine outscored the Waves, 2-1, in the second period to lead by a 3-2 margin at halftime. In the second frame, UC Irvine received a goal from Baxter at the 6:07 mark to lead, 2-1. Pepperdine tied the contest, 2-2, with a 6-on-5 goal coming from DeTrane (5:34). UC Irvine regained the lead, pushing ahead 3-2 with a goal from Nick Pfeil with 55 seconds to play before intermission.

In the third quarter, Pepperdine tied the game, 3-3, on an extra-man goal from DeTrane, his second power-play goal of the afternoon. UC Irvine regained a one-goal cushion with a goal from Baxter on a 6-on-5 opportunity with 3:47 left in the third quarter.

Pepperdine caught up, tying the game at 4-4, with a strike from Nick Cooper at the 3:17 mark.

UC Irvine claimed the lead for good on a goal from Newland with 2:45 left in the third quarter.

While neither team scored in the fourth quarter, both squads had ample chances. Pepperdine goalkeeper Bence Valics blocked consecutive penalty shots by UC Irvine with 7:40 to play in regulation, providing one of the game's most memorable moments.

Pepperdine had the ball in the game's final 20 seconds and a shot from inside five meters sailed wide to the left of the cage. UC Irvine obtained possession and held on for the 5-4 victory.

UC Irvine will play Pacific in the fifth-place match on Sunday. Game time at UCLA's Spieker Aquatics Center is slated for 11:30 p.m. Pepperdine will face UC Santa Barbara at 10 a.m. in the seventh-place game.

UC Irvine 5, Pepperdine 4

	1	2	3	4	F
UC Irvine	1	2	2	0	5
Pepperdine	1	1	2	0	4

UC Irvine Goals: Trent Baxter 2, Winston Newland, Nick Pfeil, Mitch Wise
UC Irvine Saves: Jimmy Friedrich 12

Pepperdine Goals: Matthew DeTrane 2, Nick Cooper, Danny White
Pepperdine Saves: Bence Valics 12

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