

California Community College Athletic Association Soccer State Championships

Fresno City College v Mt. San Antonio College

The Mt. San Antonio College men get past a tough and physical competitor in Fresno City with a score of 1-0. The Mounties advance to face.... On Sunday, December 6 at 2PM in the CCCAA Men's State Championship Match. In this very physical game Mt. SAC came out quickly, scoring just 8 minutes into the contest. Christian Alvizar of Mt. SAC had a lead pass to Aaron Salazar, leaving Salazar one on one with the goalie. The keeper did a slide tackle into Salazar, taking out at the legs and resulting in a penalty kick which Salazar took and made. A quick goal turned out to be the sole one of the game.

In the second half Fresno City came out as the aggressor, threatening to tie on many instances. Trae Garton of FCC had three good shots on goal, all of which the Mt. SAC keeper, Chris Lara, made plays on. With just 2:05 left on the clock Garton received a lead header from Rory Agu leaving him with just the keeper to beat. Lara made a great slide to the ball, deflecting it and then gathered it up in a scramble saving the potential tying goal. Solid play by the Mounties defense and keeper preserved their 1-0 lead throughout the game.

Stats

Goals

SAC- Aaron Salazar, 8th minute

Saves

SAC- Chris Lara, 90 minutes, 0 GA, 4 saves

FCC- Fabian Rangel, 90 minutes, 1 GA, 4 saves

Cards

SAC- Jairo Aquino, red

FCC- Cody Ellison, yellow and red

Taft College v Santa Ana College

The Taft College men's soccer team advanced to the California Community College Athletic Association Men's Soccer State Championships for the second time in three years with its 3-1 win over Santa Ana College (SAC) in the semifinals.

Taft scored first in the 33rd minute when Noel Lopez' cross through the box found Sergio Cedano who scored putting Taft up 1-0.

SAC fell down a man in the 45th minute when Julian Cardenas picked up his second yellow card of the match. Despite being down, SAC came back just four minutes into the second half to tie the game at 1-1 when Cesar Silva connected with Adrian Negrete for the equalizer.

The game remained at a 1-1 tie until late in the second half. The first opportunity to take the lead belonged to SAC when Daniel Ruiz drew a foul just outside of the box. Ruiz took the ensuing direct kick but his shot glanced off the crossbar keeping the game deadlocked at 1-1.

Just three minutes after Ruiz' attempt, Taft quickly reversed the field and Lopez beat SAC's defense before setting up Christian Hernandez for the go-ahead goal in the 80th minute.

With SAC pressing for the equalizer in stoppage time, Alex Caceres was able to run past SAC's defense and beat Felipe Miranda one-on-one for Taft's third goal.

Taft will play Mt. San Antonio College in the championship game on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m. Mt. San Antonio College advanced with its 1-0 win over Fresno City College in the other semifinal match.

"We've played the three other teams that made it to the Final Four and playing these different teams have prepared us for these kinds of games," said Angelo Cutrona, Taft College Head Coach. "SAC has a quality program full of tradition and this was a big win."

The last time Taft advanced to the finals was in 2007 when they defeated Santa Rosa College in the finals. That year, they also defeated Mt. San Antonio in the semifinals.

“In 2007, we had a lot of battle and a lot of fight because it was our first time winning it,” Cutrona said. “The guys [this year] hear a lot about 2007 and have felt a lot of pressure but they stepped up to it.

“They [Mt. San Antonio] hold a standard of quality in the south and now we need to hold a standard of quality for the north.”

Cosumnes River College v Ventura College

Cosumnes River College wins the first match of the CCCAA Women's Soccer State Championship to upset the #2 South seed in Ventura College 3-0. In a closer game than the score would indicate, Cosumnes came out aggressive, controlling the ball on offense and not allowing any shots on goal in the first half. Dani Arellano scored the first goal of the game with a great pair of moves to beat the defender and keeper with 7:05 left in the first half. After the half CRC led 1-0 and Ventura came out firing. They put the pressure on the Hawks but CRC's defense stepped up to the challenge with a number of deflected shots and saves from the keeper. Ventura put themselves in great position to tie the game with well placed corner kicks but more often than not the defense wouldn't even allow a shot to get to the keeper.

Later in the half Arellano made some moves towards the goal passing defenders and leaving one on the ground. A handball was called in the box resulting in a penalty kick. Madelyn Roberts was elected to take the kick and put it in the bottom left hand side of the goal giving the Hawks a 2-0 lead with 17:35 to go. Later Arrianna Fragoso scored, assisted by Nydia Ramos, to seal the win for CRC. The Hawks will advance to the championship game against the #1 South seeded Santiago Canyon College on Sunday, December 6 at 10am. SCC beat American River College 3-2.

Stats

Goals

CRC- Dani Arellano, 38th minute

CRC- Madelyn Roberts, 73rd minute

CRC- Arrianna Fragoso, 86th minute

Santiago Canyon College v American River College

Santiago Canyon College (SCC) defeated American River College (ARC) 3-2 in the semifinals of the California Community College Athletic Association Women's Soccer State Championships on the strength of two goals by Michelle Carels.

American River struck first on one of its few scoring opportunities of the first half when SCC's Leslie Bryant was given a yellow card just outside of the box. On the ensuing indirect kick, Christina Michelini made a quick touch pass to Tiffany Martin who buried a shot in the far corner past the outstretched arms of Cassie Becker putting ARC up 1-0 in the 30th minute.

ARC held the 1-0 lead going into the half but SCC struck quickly in the second half.

Briana Lopez carried the ball into the corner of the box and sent a cross to the near post that found Carels for the equalizing goal in the 48th minute.

"I wasn't telling them a great deal after we went down," said Ian Woodhead, Santiago Canyon College Head Coach. "That's the true beauty of our game. It's not about the coaches, it's about the players."

SCC continued to control the action and took its first lead of the game in the 65th minute when Lopez fired a shot from just inside the box that arced over the head of ARC's Summer Ikeda.

Just three minutes later ARC drew a corner kick against SCC's defense. Koryn Najera's corner kick was not played by anyone from either team and found its way into the back of the net to tie the game at 2-2.

SCC retook the lead at 3-2 in the 74th minute when Carels fired a shot from 25-yards out and buried it into the back of the net on a pass from Stacy Cervantes.

The SCC defense would be tested late as Monique Silva received a red card forcing SCC to play a player down for the remaining 12 minutes.

"I didn't see it [the red card], but it's always a shame to lose a player," said Woodhead.

"But we've used our bench all year."

ARC managed only one shot late that was saved by Becker, her only save of the game, as SCC advanced to the championship game where it will face host Cosumnes River

College on Sunday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m. Cosumnes River advanced with its 3-0 win over Ventura College in the other semifinal.

“[Cosumnes River] deserves a huge amount of credit and they have the home field advantage which will be another challenge for us,” said Woodhead. “But this group likes those challenges.

“To get to this point of the season, you have to be ready for anything. That is the true mark of a championship caliber team.”

Stats

Goals

ARC - Tiffany Martin, 30th minute (Christina Michelini assist)

SCC – Michelle Carels, 48th minute (Briana Lopez assist)

SCC – Briana Lopez, 65th minute (Stacy Cervantes assist)

ARC – Koryn Najera, 68th minute (Corner kick)

SCC – Michelle Carels, 74th minute (Stacy Cervantes assist)

Saves

ARC – Summer Ikeda, 90 minutes, 3 GA, 4 saves

SCC – Cassie Becker, 90 minutes, 2 GA, 1 save

Cards

ARC – Jessica Saulter, yellow, 23rd minute

SCC – Leslie Bryant, yellow, 29th minute

SCC – Monique Silva, red, 78th minute