

Saturday Press Conferences
Maryland Quotes

Head Coach Sasho Cirovski

Opening statement

“We are honored and delighted to have the opportunity to play on Sunday. It is a goal that we set up at the beginning of the year, to have a chance to play on the biggest stage in college soccer. We know North Carolina well and we have a great deal of respect for their coaches and their players. We have had a couple of highly competitive games with them already and we expect Sunday to be another great, tough battle against a team that is playing its best soccer of the year. We’re looking forward to that challenge, and we’re ready.”

On a loss at Clemson...

“We had two heart-to-heart, rather lengthy chats after that game - one in the locker room and one on the bus ride home. It was a humbling experience, and I think we brought the humility back to the way that we played. The relationships between the players on the field needed to be clarified and strengthened and they have. We needed to remind ourselves what we wanted to accomplish this year. The words after the game were, ‘If we can make this game the final lesson, then this game will serve its purpose,’ and it has.”

A.J. Delagarza

On a loss at Clemson...

“We were scored on five times - the most we’ve ever been scored on since in four years. Psychologically, the seniors took a step up after that game, and took more of a leadership role. We had a leadership role, but we took more of a step forward to make sure something like that doesn’t happen again. Since then, we haven’t let up more than one goal in a game. Collectively we’ve all done a better job defensively, and I think that’s what has helped us.”

Graham Zusi

On UNC...

“Once you get to this stage, every team you play is a great team. Carolina is a great team, and they’ve proved it in this tournament. We just want to go out and play our game, and I think that if we do that we have a good chance of being successful.”