

## UNC Head Coach - **Anson Dorrance** – Post-game Quotes

“We’re absolutely thrilled to be sitting here as 2008 national champions. I’m especially proud of a team that never gave up. They were behind against Texas A&M in the quarters and fought our way back, we were behind today and fought our way back, and I’m just incredibly proud of this group. They’re just a really enjoyable bunch of young women to be with, its been one of those dream seasons for us.”

### *On Casey*

“Casey Nogueira has remarkable soccer tools, her first touch is exquisite, she has every trick in the book. If you don’t believe this just jump on YouTube and you’d be hard pressed to figure out which one is Casey and which one is Ronaldinho. She has every conceivable soccer skill. But that doesn’t necessarily make a great player, you could be a great juggler and still be totally ineffective on the field. So her evolution as a player is to take all these remarkable tools she has and figure out how and when to use it. Her strike is also extraordinary.

“The two goals she struck today were world class finishes. If both of those goals were scored in a premiership game, you would be seeing both of those goals on a highlight reel at the end of the week. On the greatest platform we have, which is the National Chamiponship final, she scored two of the most phenomenal goals I’ve ever seen. Our game doesn’t get much exposure, and certainly for the young girls that are watching, it gets almost none. As far as these young girls think, the only people that can hit that kind of strike are the men that play in the premiership.”

“In the National Championship final, people who Tivo’d that game can show their kids this is how woman can play. I think Casey has the potential if she puts all the pieces together to be one of the greatest players in the world. And I think what you’re seeing right now is this evolution. So I am absolutely ecstatic watching her evolve. She is evolving right before our eyes. In my opinion the sky is the limit for her.”

“This team has so much fun together. I would go to practices, and this is not an exaggeration, we couldn’t start practice because it was like attending sorority rush. Everyone was chatting, they hadn’t seen each other in 24 hours but it seemed like they hadn’t seen each other in years. Everyone was catching up on all the years when they were separated. The only way I could get them to shut up in the pregame is if I threatened to throw people out of the pregame. This team has a wonderful kind of joyous anarchy. I’m certainly not in control of it, but it was one of the most joyful seasons ever.”

“What are attitude coming into this one was our route to a championship was to beat two undefeated teams. So the attitude in practice is we were the spoiler. Do you know how rare it is for us to come in to an environment as a spoiler? We were celebrating the fact that we were finally the underdogs. What a joyful place to compete from, where there was no pressure on us, no expectation, the old everyone thinks we suck thing. And all of a sudden now we were playing from a platform of totalfreedom. It is the most wonderful position to play from. And we came into this weekend with that attitude, and we kept it the whole time. This is one of the most enjoyable falls I have ever had in my whole life.”

UNC Players  
Post-game Quotes

**Casey Nogueira**

“We always like to play Notre Dame because they are a really good team and they beat us the last two times before this game and I think we remembered that and brought that as part of our motivation.”

“I owe all of it to my team and Anson who has been a great coach. When I came in here as a freshman there was a lot I had to learn and he taught me so much. Just being here at North Carolina has taught me so much, and I am just so honored to be a part of this program.”

“It means a lot to be a National Champion, I remember my freshman year it was really special. The team is always just like a family. It is so special to be a part of this program and be National Champions.”

On first goal:

“I just hit it as hard as I could, and thank goodness it went in.”

On second goal:

“I think that they were waiting for me to cut inside like I always do, and then I saw a couple players there so I just cut outside and I was trying to get to the end line then I realized that she was going to catch up to me so I just hit it across and it hit somebody and went in.”

On being from North Carolina

“This field is always special to come play at because it is close to home, and I played a high school championship here. So just to come here and play for the Tar Heels is an amazing experience.”

On beating Notre Dame

“It means a lot, Notre Dame is an amazing team and it was the best competition I could hope for in a National Championship. I think our team came in really hyped up for the game because Notre Dame has beaten us before, so that was motivation for us.”

**Ashlyn Harris**

“I think one thing we remember from playing them is how physical they are. They battle, they battle the whole 90 minutes and I think it was a bit of a shock the last two times we played them. We were getting thrown around and it kind of affected the way we played. I think throughout the season people thought we were soft, and if we got hit we would stop playing. I think today was a testament to that, I think we battled the whole entire game, the whole 90 minutes. I’m so proud of our squad I think they stepped up huge today against a really good team. But if anything we took from playing against them it was their physicality.”

“Right after they scored, we just went at them. It’s probably the hardest I have ever seen our team play the entire year. And some might not have thought we could do it. We were sacrificing our body left and right, we were playing so hard. We left nothing, we gave it all we could, and I think we played great.”

On first goal:

“Looking back on the goal, obviously sometimes weather conditions can go against you. The first half I was looking into a really brutal sun, it was difficult to see the ball. We had the wind and the balls were dieing on the back line so its difficult to read and judge the ball when you need to come when you need to stay. I think we were a little cold, and we were caught flat footed and I think they took advantage of it. We didn’t quit, and that’s what I respect most about this squad. A lot of teams would have just curled up and died. We got scored on in the first minute of the game, that shows how strong we are, we didn’t stop.”

“I think it was a missed clearance, and the ball got played over our back line and with the wind it just died right on her foot. And Kerri Hanks is a great player, there’s no way I’m going to come flying out for that ball, she’ll tap it right past me or dribble me. I have way to much respect for her. I had to come out and make myself as big as I could, she just had so much time she just tapped it right past me in the corner.”

**Courtney Jones**

“When I first committed here it was one of the best days of my life. Getting here and having a preseason like we did, to feel so welcomed into a college environment for our freshman was incredible. “