

**NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE CUP
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008
NORTH CAROLINA COACH AND PLAYER QUOTES**

Head coach Anson Dorrance

Opening statement

“Well obviously, we’re absolutely jacked to be here. The final four is the annual collegiate women’s soccer dance, and it’s just nice to be at the dance. We come into these environments with absolutely no pressure because we just love playing in it. We are absolutely thrilled to be here. I’m very proud of my team and the season they’ve had.”

On losing two players to the World Cup

“Losing two remarkable personalities in Nikki Washington and Meghan Klingenberg, what was really neat about both of them was that we asked them to sacrifice a bit of their egos by coming off the bench. And they did, and they just did a great job for us. They helped us get to this position. They helped us come in as a number one seed with their performances throughout the year, and they did it in the most humble way. We asked that they sacrifice their starting roles and come off the bench so that we could get accustomed to playing without them as starters and gel up a new starting unit. They were wonderfully cooperative, but still worked hard for us as reserve personalities.”

On the strength of the four teams at the College Cup

“These are four explosive teams. My feeling is that this might be the best Notre Dame team ever. My feeling is that this might be the best UCLA team ever. My feeling is that this might be the best Stanford team ever. For all of us to collide here this weekend is just tremendous.”

“I really think the fans also understand the quality of this final four. All number one seeds have come in.”

On the growing success of women's soccer

“I really feel like women’s soccer has the potential to be the national sport for women in this country. I think to some extent we are supplanted by women’s basketball right now, but I really feel like long range if we work hard, have these kinds of events and promote them like this, I think this can be the national sport for women in the United States.”

Senior Yael Averbuch

On the play of Whitney Engen

“I think that Whitney is absolutely extraordinary in the back. There have been so many games this year where she’s stepped up and almost single handily kept us in the game where she’s come up so big for us. I know we’re all really impressed with her play. It’s every game. She’s so consistent. How solid she’s been in the back for us has just made a huge difference for us this year.”

On recovering from last season's disappointing end

“We were disappointed with how last year turned out and I think we learned a lot from it. This year feels completely different to us, and I think we’ve been able to take the lessons from last year and really try to not take any game for granted this year.”

Redshirt Sophomore Ali Hawkins

On recovering from last season's disappointing end

“I know for a lot of us that every time we took the field in the tournament this year we were thinking about last year and how disappointed we were. We played with those girls who lost last year. We think about those seniors all the time, and we didn’t want the same thing to happen to this group of seniors. It’s good to be back.”