

Notre Dame 1, Minnesota 0 (ot)
November 21, 2008 * Alumni Field/Notre Dame, Ind.
NCAA Third Round

Notre Dame Head Coach Randy Waldrum:

On the team's second half play ...

"At half time we were a little frustrated we hadn't put a goal away, and with the weather and everything else. I think the way we came out in the second half we started to dominate in the second half. In the second half we really came out with a purpose, and we battled the elements very well."

On the team's attitude after regulation ...

"In the five-minute interval before the overtime there really wasn't a lot for me to say. We're such a driven team right now, the girls were saying it all – "we'll get there, let's keep plugging away", "it'll happen, the goal will come", "let's keep focus, we've been here before". You need challenges like this and you're going to run into tough games like this at this point. You're down to the final 16 teams."

On the game as a whole ...

"Let's give some credit to UM too, a very good team. Defensively they've had 17 or so shutouts this year and it's been a great run for them this year. They created some problems and the field was a little bit of an equalizer for them maybe as sloppy as it was it was difficult to play with the kind of speed and precision that we do, but considering that the way the conditions were I thought we really played well with our possessing in the game. I never felt like they were going to score one in the run of play, but I felt like these are the kind of games that a mistake could happen."

Notre Dame Senior Forward Kerri Hanks:

On the close game ...

I'm just glad we could come out with the win, especially given the weather. Give all the credit to Minnesota, they played a great game. They were very direct and punished us, and played us to a great game.

On the team's support from the fans ...

"We've been working on this day in and day out and we just hope we can finish it off. Being #1 is such a great honor, and coming away with win after win is unbelievable for any team to do, but the fans were tremendous tonight. They were our 12th man, they brought us out here and encouraged us from the very beginning and stayed all the way through the very end in the cold weather. They were a tremendous help."

On the game winning penalty kick ...

"After practice we stay and hit 10 (PKs) per day because we know how important set pieces are, and it made a difference today. I'm glad my teammates have all the faith in me to step up and take it. I'm glad I put it away."

Minnesota head coach Mikki Denney Wright :

On her team's effort...

"I don't think we could have given any more. I think [our team] just poured their hearts out. I'm so proud of this group, and the only sad thing is that the season had to come to an end."

On Notre Dame...

"I give credit to Notre Dame – they're a great team. It was an awesome game, and we knew it would be just like that. I'm so proud of the effort our kids show, because it was extraordinary."

On the defense...

"Our mentality was that we were coming to play. We never sat back, we played our game the whole way – we played to win from moment one. It's unfortunate how it ended up, but I can't say enough about how this group played."

Minnesota senior goalkeeper Lindsey Dare:

On Minnesota's defensive effort...

"Our defense played like they always do – unbelievable. I've been saying this all year – they're brilliant, they're strong, they're smart – they keep their head about them and they were absolutely stellar tonight."

"Notre Dame is absolutely one of the best offensive teams in the country, and it took a [penalty kick] to score on us. I think that says a lot about our defenders."