

UCSB Women's Club Soccer Team Wins their 6th NIRSA National Championship

By Madison Mead

UCSB women's soccer team brought home the first place trophy from the NIRSA National Soccer Championships in Foley, Alabama this past week. The team hadn't won the national championship since their impressive victory five years in a row from 2007-2011, and hadn't been back since 2012.

The team's defense proved unbreakable during the tournament, giving up not a single goal in all six games. They first advanced with a 2-0 win over Florida State University and a 0-0 draw against Illinois. In the quarterfinals they beat both Gonzaga and Texas A-M, with a final score of 1-0 and 2-0 respectively. There was a 0-0 draw with Michigan State during the semifinals, with UCSB ultimately advancing to the finals with a score of 4-2 in the penalty kick shootout.

During the final game, their defense led them to success. Their opposing team, the University of North Carolina, had scored a staggering 13 goals in the tournament so far, but proved unable to score against UCSB. UCSB's goalkeeper, Lauren Racioppi, blocked an impressive 8 goals.

Lindsey Ringman ensured the team's victory with a goal, earning her the MVP title. The National All Tournament Team also included Clara Goin, Mary Cochran, and Hannah Peck.

The tournament brought together 96 men's and women's soccer teams over the course of 3 days, from November 17th to 19th, attesting to their title of Leaders in Collegiate Recreation.

UCSB women's soccer represented their school admirably at the tournament. UCSB's renowned sport clubs program includes 23 teams and over 950 students. The program allows them to participate as competitive athletes at the national collegiate club level every year. The students play out of pure love for and dedication to the game.

The UCSB Women's Club Soccer made their school proud, demonstrating teamwork and unified passion for the game. Congratulations to the team!