

Headed to the Elite Eight

By Ashley Myers

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In the Cougars' first-ever appearance in the Premier Development League Tournament, BYU (10-6-1) downed Southern California (13-4-0), 2-1, Friday in the second semi-final match at South Stadium.

"This is the biggest win our team has ever had," head coach Chris Watkins said. "Our guys played their guts out for us and it paid off. We started finishing balls tonight. Once that happens, the players start believing in each other. This is a new era for us."

BYU got on the board first in the 37th minute when Drew VanWagenen sent a cross up field to David Clark. Clark gathered the pass, blew past a Seahorse defender and blasted the ball into the net.

Southern California evened the score in the 45th minute after Josh Hansen was fouled inside the goal box. Cougar goalkeeper Mike Lacey got his hand on the penalty kick, but it wasn't enough as Hansen's shot squeaked into the goal.

In the 61st minute, Jake Cavanaugh scored the game-winner for BYU, collecting a loose ball and firing it past Southern California's goalie.

The Seahorses earned several looks in the last few minutes of the game, but Lacey, who was honored at senior night, made several huge saves for BYU to secure the victory.

BYU faces Orange County Saturday in the Western Conference Championship game at 7:30 p.m., at South Stadium.