

# Penalty Kicks End Cougars' Season

By Ashley Myers

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After going into the break down 2-0 and evening the score with two goals in the final minutes of regulation, the Cougars (10-6-2) lost to Southern California, 6-4, in penalty kicks.

"It's never fair to lose on penalty kicks, but obviously one team had to lose," head coach Chris Watkins said. "Everybody has been on both sides. It's just cruel. We played an excellent game tonight and really controlled the game, but we just couldn't finish until those final few minutes."

Despite earning just two shorts during the first half, the Blue Star were able to capitalize on both opportunities and go into the half with a 2-0 advantage. The first goal came in the 26th minute after a scramble for a loose ball right in front of the goal. Patrick Marion finally collected the ball and kicked it just inside the right post.

Fifteen minutes later, Brad Evans made two one-on-one moves to beat the Cougar defense and flick the ball into the top-right corner.

BYU began to take control of the game when Brady Marshall checked into the game in the 70th minute. Marshall scored the Cougars' first goal in the 86th minute. Brock Trejo passed the ball to Marshall about five yards from the goal. Marshall turned around, split two defenders and fired a shot past Orange County's goalkeeper.

The Cougars evened the score in the 94th minute - during the four minutes of stoppage time - when Justin Norton collected a loose ball and snuck it into the net.

Although the Blue Star played a man down during the overtime periods because Gordon Killjersten received a yellow card after regulation ended, BYU was unable to score in the extra periods.

In penalty kicks, Trejo and Morgan Gilliam scored for the Cougars, while Nick Theslof, Scott Larrabee, Shawn Higgins and Ryan Valdez each netted goals for Orange County. The Blue Star will play in the national semi-finals this weekend.