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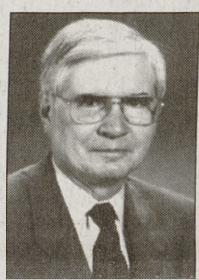
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**Chat & Chew**  
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Vice President for Student Affairs

September 26, 2000  
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# U.S. men's soccer still kicking

## National team defeats Japan, advances to historic semifinal

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Look out Sydney, here they come.

After edging Japan 5-4 in a sudden-death penalty shootout after two periods of overtime in Saturday's quarterfinals, the U.S. men's soccer team is Sydney-bound and hungry for that "Olympic feeling."

The U.S. men, who had never before advanced out of the first round at an Olympic tournament, now go into a semifinal Tuesday against Spain, a 1-0 winner over Italy in another quarterfinal.

Josh Wolff scored the Americans' first goal to tie it 1-1, then earned a last-minute penalty kick, which Pete Vagenas put home, sending the game into overtime.

He then took the critical fourth kick in the shootout after Japan missed its fourth. Wolff gave the United States an edge for the first time, before leading the celebrations as the jubilant bench spilled onto the field when Sasha Victorine nailed the winner.

"We're pumped," said Wolff, who scored a goal, had an assist and earned a penalty kick in the preliminaries as the United States won Group C at 1-0-2. "Me, I'm just excited about going to Sydney to be a part of the Olympics. It's going to be pretty wild. We're going for a medal, and it's going to be exciting."

Victorine, who came on as a substitute in overtime, put the fifth penalty kick just past the desperate dive of goalkeeper Seigo Narazaki. He said minute-for-minute, it was the greatest game of his career after he had not played a minute in the three preliminaries.

"Coming off the bench into a situation like that is amazing," Victorine said. "I don't know, it was just incredible to be able to come in and help the

team like that."

While Wolff described the win as the defining moment in the team's history, Vagenas said the entire game was "surreal."

"I don't think it's sunk in — maybe when we leave to play in the semifinal it might hit me," he said.

After Victorine scored just inside the post to the bloodied Narazaki's left, the entire American squad sprinted onto the field as if it had won the World Cup, tearing off shirts and pumping clenched fists in triumph. Japan, which led twice, stood back bewildered, jaws dropped.

The Americans rallied twice, including Vagenas' penalty kick after a dubious call by Zimbabwean referee Felix Onias Tangawarima. Wolff and Tomoyuki Sakai were vying for the ball when the American striker was barely pushed from behind and appeared to take a dive near the end line as the ball went out of bounds.

His performance convinced Tangawarima that it was a foul.

Wolff defended the referee's decision, saying the penalty was warranted.

"I got myself in front, he clipped my feet and I was forced down," he said. "It was a good PK to give us a tie, and fortunately we won it on penalty kicks."

"I don't think we were dead at any point. We were down twice, but we kept up the spirit ... and deserved what we got," he said.

Philippe Troussier, head coach of the Japanese team, said he did not want to dwell on refereeing decisions.

"Of course we're a little frustrated," he said. "We have to accept the result. The USA won; Japan lost."

"We had a lot of chances to score, it's a pity for us. Today was a very good match for both teams.

Good luck to the USA."

Exhausted, and with the bulk of the crowd at Hindmarsh Stadium cheering for the Japanese, the Americans huddled as Vagenas stepped up for the first U.S. kick in the shootout. The screams of "Nippon, Nippon, Nippon" overwhelmed the "U-S-A, U-S-A" chants as the U.S. fans and flags outnumbered the American fans at least 4-1.

In the shootout, Vagenas, Jeff Agoos and Don Donovan all scored, while Japan's Shun Nakamura, Junichi Inamoto and Ryuzo Mori beat goalie Brad Friedel.

Then Hidetoshi Nakata, who plays in Italy for AS Roma, struck the left post with a right-footed kick as Friedel, flat on the ground, punched in celebration. The United States had the edge it needed.

Wolff did not waste it, lifting his shot into the roof of the net. After Japan scored again, Vagenas ended it — and began the wild exultations.

Friedel, who made a stunning, diving save in overtime, getting his fingertips to Nakata's ball to keep the Americans alive, said it was the highlight of his career.

"This is a big moment for American soccer," said Friedel, one of three over-age players on the under-23 roster. "To make it this far in a tournament of this magnitude, this is just fantastic."

Earlier, Atsushi Yanagisawa scored the only goal at 30 minutes with an angled header.

Wolff tied it at 68 minutes when he fired a footed drive past Narazaki after the Japanese defender deflected a cross from Agoos.

The Americans sprinted to the left corner to celebrate, but Japan struck back almost immediately. Naohiro Takahara took two shots to get at

# Niners and Boys rumble over Texas Stadium

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The artistry of previous meetings between the San Francisco 49ers and Dallas Cowboys was missing. The bitterness was not.

This meeting was ugly and emotional. These teams were playing more for pride, far removed from the NFC titles they played each other for six times in the past.

San Francisco defeated the Cowboys 41-24 Sunday, and receiver Terrell Owens rubbed it in by going to midfield after both of his touchdown catches to celebrate on the Cowboys' star logo.

Emmitt Smith responded to Owens' first outburst with his own midfield celebration after a 1-yard TD just before halftime that closed the Cowboys to 17-10.

When Owens caught a 1-yard TD pass with 4:05 left to make it 41-17, he again took off toward midfield. This time, Dallas safety George Teague followed Owens and leveled him as he went to kneel on the logo. Teague was ejected.

"You don't disrespect someone in front of their home crowd, but I guess that's his style," Smith said of Owens. "This game is played with a lot of emotion, and it shows when you are both winning and losing."

"Teague did not make a good decision by going after Owens, but he did what he had to do, and I liked it."

San Francisco coach Steve Mariucci and Cowboys coach Dave Campo apologized to each other when they met at midfield after the game. Both refused to elaborate on what was said then, or to their players after the game.

"I went to the star the first time because it was the right part of the game and I wanted to get a spark going in my team," Owens said. "It was a spur-of-the-moment thing. I guess I should have picked my time better (on the second one). I wanted to get back at Emmitt."

Just minutes before Teague was thrown out of the game, Dallas cornerback Darren Woodson was also ejected. Woodson, upset that referees did not call a penalty when 49ers center Jeremy Newberry stepped on his chest after the whistle blew, kicked the ball and then threw his helmet.

San Francisco and Dallas, two teams that played each other in six NFC championship games and have combined to play in 13 Super Bowls, are both 1-3 this season.

"We are nowhere where we should be, but it gives us a boost," Mariucci said.

As far as the play on the field, Jerry Rice's two touchdown receptions provided the only resemblance to the memorable games of the past.

Not even Troy Aikman or Smith, who, like Rice, are veterans of the three straight NFC championship games between the teams in the mid-1990s that preceded Super Bowl titles, could turn around Dallas' fortunes.

Aikman returned as the Dallas starter after missing two games because of his ninth concussion. He was 14-of-25 passing for 197 yards with a touchdown, an interception and a fumble.

Smith had just 31 yards rushing on 11 attempts, as the Cowboys were beaten badly at home for the second time. The Cowboys lost their home opener to Philadelphia 41-14.

Jeff Garcia was 16-for-26 passing for 178 yards and four touchdowns, his third straight multi-TD

game, and Charlie Garner ran for a San Francisco record 201 yards, matching what Philadelphia's Steve Staley did against the Cowboys three weeks earlier.

The 49ers scored on their three possessions of the second half, putting the game out of reach with a 17-play, 98-yard drive that took more than 9 1/2 minutes. Rice's 5-yard TD catch in the closing minute of the fourth quarter made it 34-10.


Wade Richey's 38-yard TD catch late in the first quarter gave the 49ers a 3-0 lead. The Cowboys responded on their next drive. Tim Seder's 40-yard field goal gave four plays after linebacker Deon Coakley ran 26 yards on a snap out of punt formation.

Tight end Jackie Harris caught two touchdown passes in the first quarter for Dallas, an 11-play drive from Aikman that made it 34-10 and then a 16-yarder from the string quarterback Clint Stoen with 3:28 left.

Garner and Smith had their runs after pass-interference calls at the end zone.

Garner's TD broke the 3-3 tie and put the 49ers ahead to stay with 7:02 left in the first half. That was two plays after Ryan Mundy grabbed Owens in the end zone on a 32-yard penalty.

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