

Clemson Downs Stanford to Advance to 10th College Cup

Clemson, S.C. – Behind a dominant performance from the offense and in front of an electric crowd, Clemson men's soccer punched their ticket to the 2023 College Cup on Saturday night, downing Stanford 2-0 in front of a sold-out Historic Riggs Field.

The Tigers have now reached the College Cup for the 10th time in school history and second time in three years. The win also marked the first-ever win over future ACC member Stanford, and allowed the Tigers to avenge 2019 heartbreak, when Stanford advanced to the College Cup from Historic Riggs Field, defeating Clemson in PKs.

The Tigers put pressure on Stanford immediately, getting two corners early. On the third corner, Joran Gerbet sent a perfect ball into the box and Gael Gibert got a head on it and flicked it into the far corner to give the Tigers a 1-0 lead in the 7'.

Clemson continued to push the pace of the game, out-shooting Stanford 6-0 in the first half. In the 37', Arthur Duquenne corralled a break, took a shot that was saved by the Stanford keeper, but Tyler Trimnal was there to recover the ricochet and send it in to double Clemson's lead.

The Tigers continued to control the game in the second half, keeping Stanford without a shot until the 54'. Neither team found the back of the net in the second half, but Joseph Andema made two key saves to preserve the shut-out.

Clemson now has outscored opponents 6-0 in three NCAA Tournament games this season.

Up next – Clemson will travel to Louisville, Ky., to face West Virginia in the 2023 College Cup semifinals. The Tigers join fellow ACC member Notre Dame, as well as Oregon State in Louisville.

Men's Soccer to Play for NCAA Title After 1-0 Win over No. 5 West Virginia

LOUISVILLE – Ninth-seeded Clemson advanced to the National Championship match with a 1-0 shutout over No. 5 West Virginia (17-3-4) in the College Cup semifinal at Lynn Family Stadium in Louisville, Ky. Kickoff for the final is scheduled for Monday at 6 p.m. and will be shown on ESPNU against either Notre Dame or Oregon State. Shawn Smart's second goal of the season, an incredible strike in the 37th minute, was all the Tigers would need in picking up the victory.

The Tigers (14-3-5) will advance to play in their sixth National Championship match in school history, the most recent a 2-0 victory over Washington in 2021. Clemson has claimed three titles in its history, including the 1984 and 1987 championships, and has appeared in three title games since 2015.

Clemson put five shots on goal, and surrendered just two all night against the Mountaineers in the teams' first meeting since 1974. Joseph Andema earned the shutout, his fourth of the NCAA Tournament and tenth on the season.

Shawn Smart got the Tigers on the board in the 37th minute with a wicked right foot on a give-and-go with Mohamed Seye. Smart controlled a ball in the middle of the field and played a high ball in to Seye, who headed it back to Smart. Smart got his right foot on it and sent it near-side with pace past WVU keeper Jackson Lee.

West Virginia had a chance for the equalizer in the 58th minute as Marcus Caldeira sent a rocket from long, but the ball sailed just high above Andema's outstretched hand.

Alex Meinhard gave the Tigers a chance to double the lead in the 65th minute as he dribbled to the left side of the box and let a shot go that Lee saved with his left foot. Trimnal had another chance in the 84th that Lee again kept out of net. However, Smart's goal would stand as the Tiger defense was up to the challenge.

2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RUN

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CLEMSON UNITED WINS FOURTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Louisville, Ky. — Behind goals from Brandon Parrish and Ousmane Sylla, Clemson men's soccer won its fourth NCAA Championship on Monday night, downing ACC-foe Notre Dame, 2-1. Clemson's four team championships are the most by any program at Clemson.

Notre Dame was the first to get a good look in the game in the 8', but Joseph Andema made a diving stop to keep the Fighting Irish off the board. The Tigers had back-to-back corner kick opportunities in the 13', but could not find the back of the net.

Clemson had another corner opportunity in the 15', but again couldn't get a good look on goal. Following the Tigers' fifth corner of the first half, Brandon Parrish broke the 0-0 tie with a rocket to the top right corner. The corner was cleared by a Notre Dame defender, who sent it right to Parrish, who fired from outside the top of the box for his fourth goal of the season.

Notre Dame had two close looks following the Clemson goal, but Andema made his second save of the night and another Fighting Irish shot went just wide to keep the Tigers' lead in tact.

In the 38', Mohamed Seye narrowly missed doubling the Tigers' lead on a pass from Alex Meinhard. Notre Dame put pressure on the Tigers for the remaining five minutes of the half, but the Tigers were able to take the 1-0 lead into the locker rooms.

Notre Dame had three good chances to start the second half, as the Fighting Irish ramped up the offensive pressure against the Tigers. In the 56', Notre Dame had its' best look of the night, with a shot by Paddy Burns hitting the crossbar. The Fighting Irish continue to pressure the Tigers, this time getting a shot off in the 58' that Parrish saved from going in the net.

In the 63', Notre Dame's Bryce Boneau managed to get around the Clemson defense and have a good look at the goal, but missed just left. Five minutes later, the Tigers finally got another good look, with Remi Okunlola taking a pass from Ousmane Sylla and sending it to the lower right corner, but it was saved by ND.

Sylla netted his 13th goal of the season in the 70', after sending a pass out wide to Minehard. Minehard crossed it back to Sylla, who fired it past the diving keeper to give the Tigers' the 2-0 lead.

Notre Dame had a chance to cut into the lead in the 83', but KK Baffour's shot was wide right. In the 89', Notre Dame used a penalty kick off of a handball in the box to finally break through and become the first team in the NCAA Tournament to score a goal against the Tigers.

With the win, Clemson joins Maryland, UCLA, and San Francisco as men's soccer programs with four national championships.

Brandon Parrish, Shawn Smart, Alex Meinhard, and Joseph Andema were all named all-tournament team, while Pape Mar Boye was named the most outstanding defensive player and Ousmane Sylla was named the most outstanding offensive player.

