

Men's Soccer Ties UCSD during Homecoming

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In the spirit of homecoming week, and with far more spectators than usual, the men's soccer team played against UCSD during Tuesdays homecoming game, and tied.

"The game was good," said Coach Khalid Al-Shafie. We had more attacks on the front and that's how we scored." The Cougars were down by 2 points in the first half of the game, with a score of 0-2, but they had an excellent comeback. When CSUSM scored its first goal during the last half of the game, the crowd could not hold back its excitement. This excitement increased even more after Manuel Maldonado scored the second goal in the last 15 minutes of the game. The final score was tied, 2-2.

UCSD received a red card after their player committed a fault against Maldonado, who was down on the ground for a few minutes due to a pain in his right leg.

After the game, Maldonado, a sophomore computer science major, said, I am just happy because everybody gave their best. This is how we should always play."

Approximately 30 people cheered on the Cougar soccer

players. Although Tuesdays turnout was greater than usual, player Antonio Zepeda, a junior majoring in Liberal studies said, "We need more people to come and support us."

The team played two more games last week, against USC, and a rematch against UCSD.

The Cougars have won one game, lost two, and, with the homecoming game, tied one game. Two games were cancelled, including a game against Utah State University, when the referee failed to show up. "The referee association just forgot about the game," said Al-shafie. The Cougars also cancelled a game against UC Santa Barbara on Sept. 30, due to the injury of one of their players who had to be hospitalized. The player is fine, however he suffered a broken arm in the game against UCSB. Neither cancelled game has been rescheduled. "UC Santa Barbara soccer players will come down probably on the 21st of this month," said Al-shafie

Players said they are excited about their progress thus far, but Al-shafie said he felt that there are some areas that still need to be improved. "We need to play the ball quicker and keep it moving," he said. Our weakness is that we can't hold a ball too long."