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Men's Soccer UMAC Champions

Summary: Next stop, NCAA Tournament.

(November 6, 2011)-The University of Minnesota, Morris men's soccer team is Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) Tournament Champions, beating rival St. Scholastica in shootout on November 5, 2011. And for the first time in the program's short history, the Cougars are headed to the NCAA Tournament, earning the UMAC's automatic qualifier as the tournament champions.

"It was pretty amazing to watch," head coach Scott Turnbull said. "The comeback was like something out of the movies. It was just our will and determination that got it done for us today. I think we definitely got better as the game went on."

For the second time in as many games, it took a shootout for Morris to prevail, but this one came with a frantic comeback late in the second half just to get to overtime. After scoring twice in the final 20 minutes to tie the match at 2-2, the Cougars and top-seeded St. Scholastica played two scoreless overtimes to force the shootout.

"I felt that if we got one, we would get two," Turnbull said. "After that first goal, the momentum totally shifted in our favor. It was amazing to see the transformation of the team to a dangerous attacking team by the end of the game."

The NCAA announced the 2011 Division III Championship Bracket on Monday, November 7. The Cougars will face off with Loras College in the first round.

The Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) tournament champions and regular season runner-up, Loras will be the first round host with the two teams kicking off first round play on November 11 in Dubuque, Iowa. Carthage and Calvin are also playing in the other half of the pod. Gametimes are still to be determined.

The Duhawks enter with a 16-2-3 record on the season, while the Cougars counter with an 11-4-4 mark. Loras advanced to the third round of the 2010 NCAA tournament, before falling to eventual national semifinalist University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. On the other end of the spectrum, the Cougars are playing in their first NCAA Tournament, in just the sixth year of the program.

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