



**2006 California Community Colleges
Commission on Athletics
Soccer Championships**

**December 8-10, 2006
Fresno Pacific University
Fresno, Calif.**

**Men's Soccer State Championship Final (Dec. 10, 2006)
Game 5: South No. 1 Cerritos vs. North No. 1 Taft**

Cerritos College won its first-ever men's soccer state championship after defeating Taft College 1-0 in the championship final of the 2006 California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Soccer Championships at Fresno Pacific University.

Cerritos freshman midfielder Juan Huerta posted the game's lone goal in the 36th minute. Sophomore midfielder Eric Gonzalez fed Huerta with a breakaway pass down the left side of the field. Huerta's shot deflected off a player near goal and went in past Taft goal keeper Victor Chinchilla for the eventual game-winner.

It was Huerta's second big goal of the postseason off the bench. Huerta's goal in the regional finals gave Cerritos a 1-0 win over El Camino and earned them a trip to Fresno.

"Juan has ice veins," said Cerritos head coach Benny Artiaga. "Whenever we put him in, he performed no matter the time or place."

The Cerritos defense also came up big to post the squad's fourth straight shutout.

"Our defense shutout four of the best teams in the state," said Artiaga. "It goes beyond our three defenders and goal keeper. All 11 of our guys plays defense. That's something we emphasize as a team."

"We didn't think we could lose. Our team was so confident they would win it all," Artiaga added.

Taft (18-4-3) had two big chances to score in the contest.

In the 25th minute, Taft's Octavio Medina's shot hit the crossbar and in the 40th minute, Cerritos goalie Miguel Lopez stopped Luis Astorga on a one-on-one breakaway attempt.

Lopez went on to post 6 saves in goal for Cerritos, while Chinchilla was credited with 3 saves for Taft.

Cerritos freshman defender Eusebio Alvarez was named the state tournament most valuable player. Cerritos closes its state championship season with 20-3-5 overall record.

- Chris Ruiz, CCCSIA