



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

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

**Men's Soccer State Championship Semifinals (Dec. 8, 2006)
Game 3: South No. 2 Los Angeles Mission vs. North No. 1 Taft**

Taft College will make its first ever appearance in the state championship final after holding on for a 4-3 win over L.A. Mission College in Friday night's semifinal game.

This game looked more like a basketball contest with both teams running full court fastbreak offenses on the field.

Taft opened the scoring in the sixth minute on a breakaway goal by Ronald Leiva.

Mission came right back in the eighth minute to tie it up on Jhonathan Bravo's goal and took a 2-1 advantage after Earl Usher's 14th minute strike.

But Taft went on to score three unanswered goals to take a commanding 4-2 lead.

Octavio Medina tied the game up just moments before the halftime whistle in the 45th minute and began the second half with another breakaway goal in the 48th minute.

Christian Perez closed out the Taft scoring with his goal in the 80th minute.

Taft appeared to be cruising to the win before Mission made one last late-game push.

Gerardo Bravo converted a penalty kick for a goal in the 90th minute but it was too little, too late for Mission.

"We were on our heels at the end of the game," said Taft head coach Angelo Cutrono. "But our defense made big plays when it had to. Victor (Chinchilla) played cool and collective in goal for us, which was a big key to us winning."

Chinchilla posted 10 saves in goal for Taft.

Mission's Irvin Rodriguez totaled 3 saves in goal. With the loss, Mission closes its season with a 18-2-3 overall record.

Taft (18-3-3) will face Cerritos College on Sunday (Dec. 10) at 10 AM in the state championship final.

- Chris Ruiz, CCCSIA