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## Tampa Falls In Semifinal 3-2

By JARRETT GUTHRIE Tribune correspondent

The Tampa Tribune  
Published: December 6, 2008

TAMPA - The last two times the [University of Tampa](#) hosted the [NCAA Division II Final Four](#) in 1994 and 2001, the [Spartans](#) finished with national championships. The 2008 [Spartans](#) team went into Friday's semifinal match against [Cal State Dominguez Hills](#) with a 9-0 home record this season, but a [golden goal](#) from [Toros](#) midfielder Scott Mariano stopped both of those streaks and ended the [Spartans'](#) season.

Mariano sent a shot to the left of leaping [Spartans](#) goalkeeper Ryan Thompson, but the ball rolled off of the junior's fingers and into the net for the 3-2 final.

"I don't know that there is a thing you could've done about any of the goals tonight," UT coach Adrian Bush said. "I think maybe with the first one we caught them a little off guard, but they settled in nicely."

The first goal Bush spoke of came as it took little time for the [Spartans](#) to open the scoring as Ryan Maxwell struck 19 seconds into the match. After a slew of action inside the [Toros](#) box led to a scramble on both sides, [Toros](#) goalkeeper Miguel Benitez got two hands on the ball above his hands only to have it slip away and [Spartans](#) midfielder [David Mitchell](#) passed to Maxwell, who sent the ball in on a header.

The [Toros](#) evened the score in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute on a right footer by Greg Piechota assisted by Mariano. Seven minutes later, [Spartans](#) goal and assist leader Pascal Milien caused a few of the Tampa faithful to hold their breath as he spent a few moments on the ground obviously bothered by his left shoulder, which he sprained two weeks ago in the [Spartans'](#) [last game](#) against Tusculum. However, Milien popped up and less than a minute later sent a crisp pass to Lister Warren, who scored.

"I knew we couldn't give up because of anything," Milien said of his injury. "In the back of my head I knew I had to keep focused."

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