



Hempen's Buffs have work to do before season opener

CU sloppy in exhibition win against UNC

By Kyle McDaniel For the Camera
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University of Colorado soccer coach Bill Hempen was honest when evaluating his team's performance in Sunday's exhibition victory over Northern Colorado.

"We have a long, long way to go," Hempen said. "The standard was set pretty high with last year's group. We are not a very good soccer team right now. I'm just hoping that we can make it work. Again, you win, but I'd prefer a little bit better performance."

The Buffs beat the Bears 2-1 at Prentup Field in Colorado's second and final exhibition game, but CU looked a little sloppy on defense and struggled to finish several opportunities.

Colorado was sharp early in the game, however, as senior Kelly Menachof gave the Buffs a 1-0 lead less than three minutes after kickoff. Sophomore Caroline Danneberg played a nice cross to the top of the penalty box, and Menachof trapped the ball and fired it past Northern Colorado keeper Kirstin Salminen.

But the Bears would answer shortly after the Buffs took the lead. Northern Colorado freshman Alexsys Tamayo tied the game on an unassisted goal when she beat Colorado keeper Kara Linder.

Colorado freshman Erin Bricker broke the 1-1 tie in the second half and scored the game-winning goal on a corner kick.

Freshman Shaye Marshall headed the ball towards the goal on the cross, and Bricker was there to finish on the rebound.

"That was mostly all Shaye Marshall," Bricker said. "She got her head on it, and I was there for the rebound."

Throughout the game, the Buffs possessed the ball well but struggled to string together passes in the final third of the field. And CU's defense had a few letdowns, especially on Northern Colorado's goal.

But Menachof said she believes the team has good chemistry and it will eventually figure out how to play well together.

"It feels good so far. We certainly have chemistry," she said.

"We just don't have that 'it' factor yet. But we're working on it. It's a feeling that hopefully will come as

we play together more."

The Buffs will officially kick off their season on Saturday at Prentup Field when they host No. 11-ranked Oklahoma State.

Hempen said it will be an early test and challenge for the Buffs.

"At least we've had the chance to play a couple of games and we know what are weaknesses are," Hempen said. "I just hope that there's enough time to get it all together before next Saturday."



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