



Buff booters open with tough win

By Ryan Thorburn

Saturday, August 22, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — Nikki Marshall didn't score a goal or finish the game.

And Colorado still upset No. 11 Oklahoma State 1-0 on Saturday in front of a crowd of 1,144 at Prentup Field.

"We just wanted to come out hard and get our first Big 12 win," senior keeper Kara Linder said after the Buffs guaranteed themselves first place in the conference for the next month.

Marshall, already CU's all-time leader in goals, opened her senior season playing defender for head coach Bill Hempen, the position she played on the United States' U-20 World Cup championship squad.

"That's a question you have to ask Bill," Marshall said when asked if she will be on the back line all season. "I'd love to play a little bit of forward, but I'm content wherever the team needs me."

For starters, Hempen felt like he needed his best player at defender. The Buffs are still searching for a full-time replacement for Michelle Wenino, the co-Big 12 defensive player of the year last season who now plays professionally for the Chicago Redstars of the WPS.

Kelci Newlin, who made her first collegiate start on Saturday, has the talent to anchor the back line. The sophomore from Aurora (Ponderosa High School) just needs to work on her conditioning.

"We just haven't found the right person to play there," Hempen said. "If I can get Kelci fit enough to play for 90 minutes, she could be that player. But she's not ready for that right now. To throw her into that scenario right now would be a disaster for me and for her. I'm hoping she understands what it takes."

Newlin played about half the game before Kelly Ross spelled her and cleared away the Cowgirls' best chance to tie the score in the final minutes.

"I really liked the way the kids competed because it was pretty miserable. A beautiful day if you want to take a stroll, but to run around out here for 90 minutes it's not ideal," Hempen said. "It was a good team effort, nobody let down. When we put the reserves in they were spot on."

With 17:14 remaining, even Marshall wilted in the 95-degree heat and had to leave the game due to cramps in her left leg.

"She gets them all the time," Hempen said. "I remember going to watch Nikki in a high school game and she went down and I thought she broke her leg the way they carried her off, but it was just cramps. ... The kids responded well to not having her out there."

OSU was able to finally put some consistent pressure on Linder late in the game — the visitors drew their only two

corner kicks in the final five minutes — but the home team was able to hold on with sophomore midfielder Kate Russell sliding back to replace Marshall.

“I feel like we’re always kind of sluggish starting the season, so this is a huge win for us,” Marshall said. “It was an ultimate team effort. We had some individual performances that were incredible, but everyone worked together to get this win.”

After a scoreless first half in which each side mustered only one shot on goal, the Cowgirls made the first major mistake of the game and paid dearly for it. A routine cross by Ally Goodman slipped through the mitts of freshman keeper Adrianna Franch and found the foot of Kelly Butler.

Butler buried the chance into an empty net in the 63rd minute for the only goal of the match.

“You have to be expecting that the ball can get through to you,” said Butler, who had three of the Buffs’ seven shots and two of their three shots on goal. “This is an awesome start to our season.”



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THE DENVER POST

region report

CU upsets Cowgirls in soccer

Denver Post staff and wire services

Posted: 08/23/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

Kelly Butler's goal in the 63rd minute, an open-net score after a long cross from Ally Goodman, gave Colorado a season-opening, 1-0 victory over 11th-ranked Oklahoma State in a Big 12 Conference women's soccer game Saturday at Prentup Field in Boulder.

Oklahoma State, the defending Big 12 champion, outshot Colorado 11-7. But the Buffaloes scored the only goal they needed when Goodman's cross went off the fingertips of Cowgirls goalkeeper Adrianna Franch. Butler collected the rebound and scored on an open net.

"We tried to be more direct in the second half and make them chase and make them tired, and we were fortunate enough to get one on the board," CU coach Bill Hempen said.

Colorado, which tied in two games against Oklahoma State last year, moved to 5-0-2 all time against the Cowgirls.

Area triathletes shine.

Littleton's Jasmine Oeinck pulled away in the running leg to win the USA Triathlon elite national championship in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Oeinck recorded a time of 2 hours, 2 minutes, 49 seconds, less than a minute ahead of second-place Jenna Shoemaker of Boulder.

In the men's race, Matt Chrabot of Virginia Beach, Va., won in 1:48:14. Chrabot trains part time in Colorado Springs. He was followed by two Boulder athletes, Tim O'Donnell (1:48:48) and Matt Reed (1:49:26).

Parker player helps U.S. hockey team win.

Seth Swenson of Parker collected an assist, and teammate Alex Gacek of Massachusetts recorded a hat trick as the U.S. under-17 hockey team defeated Germany 9-6 at the Five Nations Tournament in Fussen, Germany.

Team USA earned third place.

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