

CU booters fall to No. 13 Illinois

Hempen`s squad unable to overcome 2-0 deficit at DU Invitational

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

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DENVER -- The Colorado soccer team knew nothing would come easily the first month of the season against a loaded slate that includes five top-25 opponents.

Friday affirmed just that.

Six days after knocking off then-No. 11 Oklahoma State, the Buffs suffered their first loss of the season, falling to No. 13 Illinois 2-1 at the University of Denver Invitational.

Jordan Hilbrands scored two goals to lift the Illini over the No. 18 Buffs (1-1, 1-0 Big 12), who still have non-conference games against St. Mary`s, in-state rival Denver, Oregon, Utah and ranked foes Florida (No. 7), Stanford (No. 4) and Santa Clara (No. 19) before Big 12 play begins in earnest.

"We certainly had our opportunities and chances early on, but we didn`t finish," CU head coach Bill Hempen said.

Despite Colorado controlling play for much of the first half, Hilbrands struck first in the 31st minute, fighting off CU defender Kelci Newlin and firing a shot past diving goalie Kara Linder.

Her third goal of the season came just after halftime as she dribbled through the Colorado defense into the box and buried the ball in the right corner of the net.

The Buffs had their chances.

Kate Russell just missed wide from 18 yards out early in the first half, and senior Nikki Marshall -- who started the game in the defense before moving up to forward in the second half -- fired inches over the crossbar with eight minutes to play as the Buffs tried to rally.

CU out-shot Illinois 7-6 in the first half and 16-14 for the game, but only four of the Buffs shots made it on goal, with Illinois goalie Alexandra Kapicka making three saves to equal Linder.

"They did a great job of taking the game away from us," Hempen said. "They connected passes and played smart balls while we were a little more frantic, which cost us in the end."

CU didn`t get on the scoreboard until the final minute of the game when sophomore Cassidy Fitzpatrick buried a goal off of a rebound from her own shot at the top of the box.

"I was just in the right position and I was very eager to score," Fitzpatrick said. "I was trying to find that channel between their defense and Nikki found me. I was lucky that I got that second chance and stayed with it, and I found a place in the net."

Colorado resumes DU Invitational play at 11 a.m. Sunday against St. Mary`s before returning home next weekend to host Oregon, Colgate and DU in the Colorado Soccer Classic.

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sports - region report

No. 13 Illini frustrate Buffs

Denver Post staff and wire services

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The University of Colorado was not able to get its second women's soccer upset against a top-20 opponent, losing 2-1 to No. 13 Illinois in the first game of the DU Invitational on Friday. The Buffs, ranked No. 18, beat No. 11 Oklahoma State last Saturday.

CU coach Bill Hempen lamented his team was not able to capitalize on numerous early chances, but he gave the Illini (2-0) credit for "taking the game away" from the Buffs.

"They connected passes and played smart balls while we were a little more frantic," Hempen said, "which cost us in the end."

The Buffs (1-1) got their lone goal with 58 seconds left when sophomore Cassidy Fitzpatrick was left unmarked at the top of the box. Her first shot was blocked, but the rebound came right back to her for a one-touch past the goalkeeper.

- In the nightcap, the host Pioneers got a win in their first game in the new University of Denver

Soccer Stadium, edging St. Mary's 2-1.

Freshmen Kalie Vaughn (Rocky Mountain High School) and Katy Van Lieshout (Boulder H.S.) scored their first collegiate goals in the second half, and the defense and freshman goalkeeper Lara Campbell, who made seven saves, made the lead stand up.

The invitational resumes Sunday with Colorado vs. St. Mary's at 11 a.m., followed by DU and Illinois at 1:15 p.m.

- Jen Thomas scored twice, both on passes from Courtney Ryan, to lead Metro State, ranked No. 3 in Division II, to a 3-1 home win over Nebraska-Omaha.

Irish sweep DU volleyball.

The Denver volleyball team (0-1) lost to Notre Dame in the opening match of the Shamrock Invitational in South Bend, Ind., falling 25-16, 25-18, 25-16.

"It was a great learning experience for our young team," head coach Beth Kuwata said. "Going into the first match of a season you are always trying to figure out where you are at and what still needs to be tweaked and this was a great test for us."

Sophomore Jordan Raines led DU with eight kills.

Ziegler done at Amateur.

Legacy High School alumnus Steve Ziegler of

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Broomfield was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Amateur, losing on the 21st hole to Byeong-Hun An of South Korea, who's trying to break the record for youngest winner of the event — for the second straight year.

Last year, Danny Lee surpassed Tiger Woods as the youngest winner of the Amateur, at 18 years and one month. An won't turn 18 until Sept. 17.

An squandered a 3-up lead on the back nine, bogeying the 17th and 18th holes to let Ziegler force a playoff.

An prevailed when Ziegler missed the green with his second shot at No. 3 and An followed by leaving his shot right in the middle of the green. When Ziegler missed a long par putt, he flipped his putter into the air and swatted at it before removing his cap to shake An's hand.

DU's Garza on U-20 soccer squad.

The University of Denver's Sam Garza is one of four forwards named to the U.S. men's under-20 team that will compete at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Egypt starting Sept. 23.

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Hilbrands' two goals stymie Buffs

August 28, 2009 | 10:52 pm No comments
By George Tanner



Colorado sophomore Cassidy Fitzpatrick dribbles toward goal as the Illini's Cory Steigerwald defends in the second half Friday night.
(photo by Tom Auclair/ColoradoSoccerNow.com)

Jordan Hilbrands scored two goals as the University of Illinois women's soccer team defeated Colorado 2-1 on Friday afternoon in Denver.

Hilbrands got the game's first goal in the 31st minute.

She took a vicious lead pass from Courtney Bell, split two CU defenders and poked the ball past goalkeeper Kara Linder and into the lower right corner of the net.

The goal came against the run of play, after the Buffaloes played most of the opening period in the Illini's half of the pitch; they simply couldn't get past goalkeeper Alexandra Kapicka and the back line of Krystin Miller, Danielle Kot, Julie Ewing and Caitlin Dombart.

CU's first-half offensive frustration came to a head 28 minutes into the game, when midfielder Kate Russell, curled a shot so close to the Illinois goalpost that Kapicka probably heard it go past.

Had that shot gone in, the face of the game would've changed

"That's 1-0 us, isn't it?" Buffs coach Bill Hempen mused. "After all of the pressure we were putting on, we needed some reinforcement going on. Then it makes them chase the game, which I doubt they could under the circumstances."

But Russell's shot didn't go in, the Buffs didn't take the lead and the Illini weren't the ones chasing the result. Hilbrands' first-half goal gave Illinois confidence, and the back line tightened up. In the middle, Miller and Kot were particularly difficult for the Buffs to break down.

"It's a different game when those defenders are big," Cassidy Fitzpatrick said. "But you've mentally got to prepare for that. I think we did a good job with them at the beginning of the first half, and I think we've got to hold onto that for the whole game."

Illinois kept the Buffs at bay after the opening score and then parlayed it into a two-goal lead in the 53rd minute. Hilbrands broke into the CU penalty area on the left side and beat Linder again into the lower right corner.

"They outsmarted us," Hempen said. "They had better soccer IQ than us. Once they got ahead, they took the game completely from us, and we didn't know how to deal with it."

Nikki Marshall and Fitzpatrick, both of whom started on defense, moved into the offensive attack in the second half. CU had a few more scoring chances, but it was nothing like the first 25 minutes of the match. The Buffs finally got on the scoreboard in the final minute of play.

Fitzpatrick hammered a shot toward goal, and it was blocked by Illinois' Jenna Carosio. Fitzpatrick pounced on the rebound and fired it past Kapicka into the upper portion of the net.

"I found myself in the right place; I found a channel between two defenders, and I kind of stayed back at an angle from Nikki," Fitzpatrick said. "My first shot stayed low, but it hit off a defender. Thankfully I kept with it and found a place in the net right over the goalkeeper. I think that was a good opportunity for us. I just want us to finish some more. We had some great opportunities out there, and it would be good if we could finish them."

PLAYER OF THE GAME: That's an easy one. Hilbrands.

CU PLAYER OF THE GAME: For the second straight match, I'm going to go with Russell. When building from the back, the Buffs tend to funnel their attack through Russell. She's very active, working on the left or right or middle of the pitch, and she is able to distribute calmly and efficiently. She was the most effective player on either team.

SAVE OF THE GAME: Linder had much more to do this week than last weekend against Oklahoma State, when she was named the Big 12 defensive player of the week. She made a couple of beautiful stops against Illinois, but none was better than her effort in the 48th minute. Ewing fired a blast from the left side of the penalty area to the top right corner of the net. Linder leaped diagonally and stretched as far as she could to slap the ball wide of its target.

FITZPATRICK'S PRESCRIPTION FOR THE BUFFS: "I really would like us, once we feel like we're passing the ball around and being comfortable with a team, I just want us to finish our chances. I think that's the most important thing for us right now. Connecting the ball when we're under pressure, getting forward and finishing the ball are the most important things right now."

RANKINGS: Before the game, CU was ranked 18th in the country, and Illinois was 13th.

BREAKING GROUND: The game was the first played in the University of Denver's new soccer-specific stadium. DU followed this match with a 2-1 victory over St. Mary's.

AS THE TOURNAMENT CONTINUES: The Buffs will face St. Mary's (of California) at 11 a.m. Saturday at the University of Denver. The Pioneers will host Illinois in the second game. The pitch is just west of Magness Arena.

ILLINOIS STARTERS: Kapicka, Sahly, Read, Ewing, Kot, Bell, Miller, Steigerwald, Nweke, Dombart, Mykines.

CU STARTERS: Linder, Menachof, Ross, Barczuk, Lowry, Fitzpatrick, Bricker, Butler, Russell, Vitacca, Marshall.



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