

Bufs' Hempen sticks with home-grown talent

All six of CU's soccer signees from Colorado

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As he has built the Colorado soccer program into a perennial Big 12 power, Bill Hempen has recruited from all corners of the nation.

This year was no different. Hempen hit the usual hot spots: California, Arizona, Washington, and of course, Colorado.

But when it came time to get signatures on the dotted line, Hempen completed a rare recruiting "sweep." He didn't have to leave the state for any of his recruits, landing five players from Colorado, plus a transfer who originally left the state for Arizona, then decided to return home.

"One of the things we try to do is keep the best of the best here -- and I think we did a good job with that this year," Hempen said.

Colorado prep products have clearly been the backbone of Hempen's program. He built a perennial NCAA Tournament team around Mullen's Fran Munnely, then continued the streak with Skyline's Nikki Marshall.

Now he hopes to maintain the quality with more Colorado players.

This year's class includes Fairview's Annie Stuller, as well as Arvada West's Annie Brunner, Liberty's Alex Dohm, Heritage's Lizzie Herzl and Mountain Vista's Hayley Hughes. Also new this year will be transfer Amy Steiner, who spent a year at Arizona.

Stuller, Herzl and Brunner are all products of the Storm club system. Hughes played with REAL Colorado, Dohm played with the Pride club in Colorado Springs and Steiner played for the Colorado Rush.

"The clubs are outstanding in this state," he said. "We get a lot of out-of-state 'looks.' But if we can keep the best here, that's the best way to go."

If past history is any guide, a couple of CU's newcomers may see significant playing time right away. Hempen has never been afraid to throw freshmen into the fray.

The class also covers virtually every position.

Brunner is a goaltender who is already enrolled at CU and taking part in the conditioning program. With just one other goalie on the roster, Brunner is likely to contend for playing time right away.

One player who won't be hard to find will be Herzl, a 6-0 defender. Steiner is also listed as a defender, Stuller a forward and Dohm and Hughes as able to play either defender or forward.

Dohm represents something relatively new for Hempen, as she'll be the only player on CU's roster from the Colorado Springs area. According to Hempen, Dohm "has the same mentality, the same spirit, the same work ethic" as Marshall.

The Buffs also released their 2010 schedule on Wednesday, and Hempen admits it's a slightly less ambitious lineup than in years past.

Still, CU will play host to the Colorado Women's Soccer Classic in mid-September that will feature UCLA, Purdue and Denver, and they'll also play at Gonzaga and Washington State.

CU's spring schedule will include games at Cal and St. Mary's, plus home games vs. Northern Colorado, Regis and Metro State.

2010 CU soccer schedule

All home games played at Prentup Field

Aug. 15 -- vs. Air Force, 1 p.m. (exhibition)

Aug. 22 -- vs. Wyoming, 1 p.m.

Aug. 29 -- vs. Northern Colorado, 1 p.m.

Sept. 4 -- at Denver, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 -- vs. Drake or UNLV at Denver, 10 a.m.

Sept. 10 -- at Gonzaga, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12 -- vs. Washington State at Gonzaga, 11 a.m.

Sept. 17 -- Denver vs. UCLA, at CU, 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 17 -- vs. UCLA, 4 p.m.

Sept. 19 -- Denver vs. Purdue, at CU, 11 a.m.

Sept. 19 -- vs. Purdue, 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 24 -- at Texas A&M, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26 -- vs. Texas, 1 p.m.

Oct. 1 -- at Texas Tech, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3 -- at Baylor, 1 p.m.

Oct. 8 -- vs. Missouri, 4 p.m.

Oct. 10 -- vs. Iowa State, 1 p.m.

Oct. 15 -- at Oklahoma State, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17 -- at Oklahoma, 1 p.m.

Oct. 24 -- vs. Kansas, 1 p.m.

Oct. 19 -- vs. Nebraska, 3 p.m.

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