

CU Buffs soccer team snaps road losing streak

Freshman Bricker scores first career goal to lift Buffaloes

Camera staff report
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LAWRENCE, Kan. -- Every road game was a huge thorn in the side of the Colorado women's soccer team leading up to Sunday's match at Kansas.

But the Buffs halted a five-game road losing streak on Sunday with a 1-0 victory at the Jayhawk Soccer Complex.

Colorado freshman Erin Bricker gave the Buffs the win with her first career goal in the 16th minute and CU held on for the win, the team's first true road victory of the season.

The Buffs won despite being outshot 20-7 overall and 14-2 in the second half.

"We had enough of the ball in the game, but we just didn't finish our plays with shots," CU coach Bill Hempen said. "If we want to be who we say we want to be, we have to win. The grass is not always green and the sun is not always out and sometimes you just have to find a way to get through the game and we did that today."

Colorado remained atop the Big 12 standings in improving to 8-7 overall and 5-2 in conference action. KU fell to 9-5-1, 1-4.

The Buffs hit the road initially for Friday's game in Missouri, where they lost 1-0. Colorado had been outscored 11-2 during its five-game road losing streak.

But Bricker, who leads CU in assists with three, carried the ball through the KU defense and knocked her shot in the back of the net.

"What a great way for Erin to get her first collegiate goal," Hempen said. "We were away from home in a truly meaningful game that helps your team. She beat the defender and it was as quiet of a goal as she is a person. It wasn't a rocket. She saw where to put it and rolled it in. It was a great goal for her to start her career in scoring."

Colorado's defense stood strong in the second half and withstood KU's pressure.

"From about 25 minutes left in the game on, I'll be honest, they were in our end a lot," Hempen said. "They hit the crossbar twice and fired a number of shots, but we persevered. The first thing the team said to me after the game was, 'We won ugly!'

"Like I've said before, that's going to happen. People aren't going to look at the box scores, they're going to look at our record and just want to know who we beat. We won on the road today against what I think is a very good Kansas team, and we'll take the 1-0 win."

Colorado has a rare 12-day break before returning to the pitch on Oct. 23 when the Buffs face Texas A&M at 6 p.m. in College Station. CU will then travel to Austin and face Texas two days later.

Ritz third at worlds

Former CU standout Dathan Ritzenhein ran the second fastest U.S. time in to finish third at the IAAF World Half Marathon Championships on Sunday in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Ritzenhein's time of 1:00.00 helped lead Team USA to a fourth-place finish.

Boulder's James Carney placed 38th with a time of 1:04.00.

Zersenay Tadese of Eritrea won the men's race with a time of 59:35.

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Bufs trample Jayhawks

Colorado earns first road victory of 2009 season

By Esteban L. Hernandez on October 12, 2009

After two consecutive road losses at the hands of Big 12 Conference rivals, the Colorado Buffaloes women's soccer team might be breaking their road deficiency with a 1-0 win against the Kansas Jayhawks.

In a news release after Sunday's win, head coach Bill Hempen gave some insight into the Buffs' fifth Big 12 victory.

"We had enough of the ball in the game, but we just didn't finish our plays with shots," Hempen said. "If we want to be who we say we want to be, we have to win. The grass is not always green and the sun is not always out, and sometimes you just have to find a way to get through the game and we did that today."

Freshman forward Erin Bricker, who leads the Buffs with three assists this season, scored the only goal of the match 15 minutes into the first half.

Hempen said Bricker's goal, which was the first of her career, was invaluable.

"We were away from home in a truly meaningful game that helps your team," Hempen said in a news release. "She beat the defender and it was as quiet of a goal as she is a person. It wasn't a rocket. She saw where to put it and rolled it in. It was a great goal for her to start her career in scoring."

Colorado (8-7) remains firmly atop the Big 12 standings, posting a 5-2 Big 12 record. Kansas (9-5-1) dropped to 1-4 in the conference.

The Buffs will have 12 days to rest before their next matchup, which Hempen said the players will use to their advantage.

"With this break, the most important thing will be healing," Hempen said in a news release. "This is a perfect time for some of our players to lay low and heal...after 12 days of practice, I hope they can't wait to get back out there and play."

With only two games left in their five-game road trip, the Buffaloes will travel to College Station, Texas, to face the Texas A&M Aggies on Oct. 23.

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Freshman forward Erin Bricker fights for the ball Sept. 27.
(CU Independent file/Michelle Davenport)