

# CU spikers sweep Cal Poly in tourney

## Bufs open Big 12 play Wednesday

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The Buffaloes volleyball team finished the Colorado Invitational on Saturday with a solid straight set victory over the Cal Poly Mustangs 25-19, 28-26 and 26-24 at Coors Events Center. The victory also wrapped up non-conference play and pushed the Bufs to 5-4 in the young season.

"We played great tonight," sophomore co-captain Rosie Steinhaus said afterwards. Steinhaus had a near flawless match while leading the Bufs with 14 kills and some crucial late points.

In the first set Colorado came out firing and took a 14-7 lead before taking it 25-19.

The second set was much closer. The Buffaloes and Mustangs traded points throughout. At 24-24, the home fans rose to their feet and it was too much for visiting Cal Poly. The Buffaloes clinched the set 28-26 behind stellar play from senior Kaitlyn Burkett.

"We've really been progressing," Steinhaus added. "We came out in the San Diego game hard and we came out today even harder."

After winning the first two sets, the Bufs played off the home crowd to handle the play of Cal Poly, who refused to give up late on the road. Megan McConnell led the Mustangs with 10 kills.

Impressive freshman Kerra Schroeder also played a big part in the Bufs' win. She notched eight kills.

"We think that this game and the San Diego game showed us what we can do," Schroeder said.

Schroeder is trying to embrace a leadership role early on in her Colorado career as the team starts a grueling Big 12 schedule.

"I want to be a leader even though I'm a freshman," she said. "I want to stand up for our team."

"Tonight's match was huge," CU coach Liz Kritza said of the win. "Cal Poly is a very quality team and it really helps us get some momentum going into Big 12 play.

"We play the top three teams in the conference right away. For a young team it's important to have confidence going in and knowing they can perform at the highest level."

The Buffaloes travel to Ames, Iowa for a Wednesday match against Iowa State in the Big 12 opener at 5:30 p.m.

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