

# Despite offensive struggles, Hempen's Buffs 3-0 in Big 12

## Menachof scores lone goal against Cyclones

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Right now Nikki Marshall, a brilliant goal-scorer, doesn't care about style points and isn't worried about a lack of goals by the Buffs.

The bottom line is Colorado improved to 3-0 in the Big 12 on Sunday afternoon at Prentup Field with a 1-0 victory over Iowa State in front of 1,304 relieved witnesses.

The Buffs (6-5-0), in sole possession of first place in the conference, also defeated Oklahoma State and Nebraska by the same 1-0 score.

"I don't think I've ever played a Big 12 game that wasn't tough," Marshall said. "So however we get it done ... 1-0 is the same as 3-0 to me. A win is a win."

When asked what three consecutive 1-0 victories in conference play said about his team, Bill Hempen quipped: "They don't like me very much."

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This time the Buffs made their coach sweat it out for more than 85 minutes.

Kelly Menachof scored her first goal of the season just 4:17 into the game on a pass from freshman Erin Bricker for what proved to be the game-winner.

"We're 3-0 and we haven't given up any goals in conference play. How mad can I be? A lot of coaches would take that," Hempen said. "If 1-0 is the way we're going to win, then I have to learn to live with it."

In the 61st minute, Menachof, Marshall and Kym Lowry all blasted point-blank shots that Cyclones keeper Ann Gleason was able to turn away to keep the visitors in the game.

But the Buffs' young defense, even with talented midfielder Kate Russell (ankle) out of the lineup due to injury, was smothering. Iowa State only managed one shot on goal, a weak offering from Kelsey Calvert in the 70th minute that Kara Linder made a routine save on.

Hempen said the difference right now between the Buffs and a program like Stanford -- the No. 3 Cardinal beat CU 4-0 on Sept. 18 -- is a relentless approach on offense.

"Stanford wanted to score 20 on us, so we had to stay in the game for 90 minutes," Hempen said. "I don't know why from an offensive standpoint we're not in it for 90 minutes."

Marshall, who had to change uniforms in the first half of a physical game after bleeding on her No. 17, had six of CU's 17 shots but was only able to force the keeper to make a save on one of them.

"We have to be able to attack for 90 minutes, regardless if we're up 3-0 or down 3-0. That's the next step and that's the difference between us and some of the better teams," Marshall said. "We have the potential and the players to be that good."

Menachof had three of the Buffs' six shots on goal. She played all 90 minutes, as did defensive heroes Kelly Ross, Amy Barczuk, Quinn Krier, Kym Lowry and Linder.

"I don't really care about the scores as long as we win, and 3-0 (in Big 12 play) is huge for us," Menachof said. "It's a tough conference and anything can happen on any weekend, so it's great for us to start off this way. ... We're always trying to attack, we're just not having much success finding the back of the net, but it will come."

CU completes this key three-game home stand on Friday against Oklahoma (4 p.m., Prentup Field) before embarking on a daunting five-game road trip.

"These two games were absolutely necessary with one more to go," Hempen said of the wins over Nebraska and Iowa State. "It's not easy to play on the road, even the best teams struggle on the road."

### **Notable**

CU junior forward Amanda Foulk competed against her sister, Natalie Foulk, a freshman defender for Iowa State, for the first time in her career. ... Marshall's sister, CU freshman Shaye Marshall, had two shots (one on goal) in 30 minutes. ... The Buffs took twice as many corner kicks (eight) and the Cyclones (four). ... ISU midfielder Marissa Allen was issued a yellow card during a chippy stretch of play in the first half. ... Ralphie will run on Prentup Field before the Buffs take on the Sooners.

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