

CU Buffs soccer team struggles to tie Seattle U

Bufs have only scored 19 goals in 17 games

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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The game had a backyard feel to it.

The two coaches weren't able to officially get it on the schedule until Wednesday. Seattle had a game canceled, Colorado had an opening on its schedule, and an agreement was reached to meet at Prentup Field on Saturday morning.

Due to the CU athletic department's commitment to the football game against Texas Tech at Folsom Field, there was no public address announcer, no player introductions, no national anthem.

And there wasn't much action on the field either.

In the end, the Buffs and Redhawks settled for a 1-1 draw after two scoreless overtime periods and 110 total minutes of play.

"It's just an absolute struggle for this team to score goals," CU head coach Bill Hempen said. "You would think you'd be able to survive giving up just one, but we can't."

The Buffs (6-9-2) have only scored 19 goals all season (eight in eight Big 12 games). But the team got off to a good start in that department as Hayley Hughes pin-balled a shot off the cross bar and keeper for a goal and a 1-0 lead in the 11th minute.

"If that's how we have to score, then we're not going to get much out of it," Hempen said.

CU's other season-long weakness -- defending against corner kicks -- reared its ugly head when an uncontested Emma Levy scored on a header off a set piece in the 19th minute.

Hughes, Amy Barczuk and Alex Dohn each forced Seattle keeper Madison Goverde to make a great save over the final 90 minutes, but the tie was never broken.

"Obviously, we played pretty well at the start of the game and painted it through and found some chances," Hughes said. "But we'd get into some times when we couldn't possess it as long as we'd like to and didn't capitalize on any of our chances. It's unfortunate."

The Redhawks (9-5-2) only mustered four shots on goal while giving up 10.

"We gave ourselves a chance and we chose not to take advantage of it," Hempen lamented. "That's plain and simple."

CU will have to win its final two matches of the regular season and get some help from other teams in order to finish in the top eight of the Big 12 and advance to the conference tournament.

The Buffs host Kansas on Monday and Nebraska on Friday at Prentup Field.

"Hope is always alive. It's how we respond," Hempen said. "It's hard to say at this point. They're trying."

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Bufs women's soccer draws with Redhawks

Colorado ends 1-1 with Seattle

By Mark McNeillie on October 24, 2010

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On a gloomy day in Boulder, the Bufs could only muster a tie.

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Colorado (6-9-2) drew 1-1 with the Seattle University Redhawks (9-5-2) Saturday morning at Prentup Field, in Boulder.

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"We got another [chance] to improve our record," said freshman defender Hayley Hughes. "It didn't work out as well as we would have liked."

The Colorado staff had scheduled this game only four days prior to kick-off, because CU needed one more game to play the same amount of games as all Big 12 schools.

Despite the short preparation time, Colorado felt they could have been ready, said senior defender Kym Lowry.

"We should have been ready not matter what," Lowry said. "It was a life line for us, and should have taken advantage of it."

Colorado struck first early in the game. In the 11th minute Hughes blasted a shot from 23 yards out, which deflected of the cross bar and into the back of the net.

Seattle responded seven minutes later, when sophomore Emma Levy got a free-header in the box from freshman forward Heather Thomas' corner kick. Levy converted the easy chance past Colorado freshman goalkeeper Annie Brunner.

Despite Colorado out-shooting the Redhawks 8-4, the score remained 1-1.

Colorado head coach Bill Hempen said he regretted his team not taking the opportunities they were given.

"Maybe [the goal was] that little piece of luck that we could use to carry us, but [play] just bogs down, and we're back to square one again," Hempen said.

After the break, Colorado came out strongly, attempting eight shots throughout the second half. Despite lots of possession, the Bufs failed to find a way past Seattle junior goalkeeper Madison Goverde.

After being tied for 90 minutes the game went to overtime.

Play was more of the same in overtime, as both teams went in search of the winning goal. Colorado came the closest 13 minutes in when Hughes launched another shot that Goverde barely got a hand to.

Despite the effort, a goal never came, and the game ended 1-1.

Now, with only a week left in the season, Colorado has two conference games remaining. Sitting ninth overall they will need some help if they are to move into eighth, and make the Big 12 Tournament.

The players are frustrated that they do not control their own destiny, Lowry said.

"It sucks, especially being a senior," she said. "This is it for me, its hard but all we can do right now is keep our heads up and go at it on Monday."

The coaching staff is looking for someone to take charge on the field for the final stretch, Hempen said.

"I know [the team] doesn't want it to be this way, but it is," he said. "Somebody needs to step and make a big difference, because there is a lot of the same going on right now."

Colorado will look to make the change on Monday, when they will take on the Kansas Jayhawks at 2:30 p.m. in Boulder.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Mark McNeillie at Mark.mcneillie@colorado.edu.

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