

CU keeps postseason hopes alive

Stuller returns, scores game-winner in OT to lift Buffs over KU

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
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Anne Stuller to the rescue.

The freshman from Fairview scored the game-winning goal in overtime to give Colorado a 2-1 victory over Kansas on Monday at Prentiss Field.

Stuller had missed the previous nine games due to illness. Thanks to her timely first collegiate goal, CU's postseason hopes are suddenly a lot healthier.

The Buffs (7-9-2, 3-5-1) moved up to eighth in the Big 12 standings. With a victory in the regular-season finale on Friday against Nebraska they will qualify for the conference tournament Nov. 3-7 in San Antonio, likely as the No. 8 seed. CU is the only team to hand probable No. 1 seed Texas A&M a conference loss.

"It felt so good," Stuller said of walking off the field a hero after her Big 12 debut. "Just to even play soccer again and get back out on the field felt so good. I'm just really proud of our team."

"I'm ecstatic right now."

Kate Russell had a chance to secure the win but had a penalty kick turned away by KU keeper Kat Liebetrau in the 93rd minute. In overtime, Russell blasted a shot off the cross bar and Amanda Foulk had a shot denied by the right post.

"Our freshmen have been our overtime scorers a lot. Thank God she

was able to put it away because those two early opportunities in overtime were just so close," a relieved Russell said. "We just needed that extra one percent, and Stuller was able to fix that for us."

The Jayhawks (5-13, 1-9) had nothing to lose and stunned CU when Caroline Kastor headed in a goal 18 seconds into the match.

KU had a chance to take a 2-0 lead in the sixth minute, but Buffs keeper Annie Brunner made a diving save on a penalty kick by Whitney Berry.

"Digging a hole of two goals, granted there's still 85 minutes to play, it's still hard to come back from," CU coach Bill Hempen said. "As somewhat underwhelmed as I was with (Brunner) early this season ... she can do that now."

"The kids responded pretty well to that. We certainly had some opportunities to go ahead and didn't reward her until the end."

Amy Barczuk, a rock-solid defender, pinched up into the KU box and scored the equalizer in the 75th minute.

"We definitely had it rough going down a goal in the first minute. That's a shocker," Barczuk said. "We just persevered. At this point in our season, we had to win or we would have been done."

Now the final conference game against the Cornhuskers will have a playoff feel to it. A win and the Buffs advance to the

Big 12 Tournament. A loss and the post-game "Senior Night" tribute will mark the end of the season.

"We've been given a chance and hopefully we're able to make the most of Friday night," Russell said. "We definitely want to continue our season instead of starting our spring training."

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Colorado women's soccer beats Kansas

Bufs get much needed win in overtime

By Mark McNeillie on October 26, 2010

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The Buffs still have a lifeline to get to the Big 12 tournament.

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Colorado women's soccer beat the Kansas Jayhawks 2-1 in overtime at Prentup field, in Boulder Monday afternoon. It marks the second time this season the Buffs have comeback from a goal down to win a game.

"We persevered," said CU sophomore midfielder Amy Barczuk. "At this point in the season we had to win this game or else we'd would have been done."

The Jayhawks took a lead less than a minute into the game. From the kickoff, the Buffs allowed Jayhawks senior forward Kaitlyn Cunningham to run-open with the ball. Cunningham slid a pass to freshman forward Caroline Kastor, who fired the ball into the back of the net.

Kansas was given an opportunity to double their lead, as CU freshman defender Lizzy Herzl conceded a penalty to the Jayhawks. Freshman goalkeeper Annie Brunner was able to get down and push away Kansas sophomore midfielder Whitney Berry's shot, preserving the score at 1-0.

The score remained the same at halftime, despite Colorado out-shooting Kansas 8-6 with six shots on goal.

Both teams had several opportunities in the second half, but the Buffs finally made their breakthrough in the 75th minute through Barczuk.

The goal pushed the Buffs as a whole, to start going forward to get winning goal.

"We chased it and chased it and chased it," said CU head coach Bill Hempen. "We were almost too exhausted to go any farther, and then the goal gave us the momentum to say, 'hey, we've got the game back, we can win this now.'"



Surrounded by Kansas players, freshman Lizzy Herzl leaps for a header. The Buffs beat the Jayhawks 2-1 in the third minute of overtime on Monday at Prentup Field. (CU Independent/David Blackwell)

Controversy arose in the 84th minute, when Colorado junior defender Erin Bricker was brought down in the box by Kansas goalkeeper Kat Liebetrau. The Buffs were awarded a penalty, but Liebetrau was only given a yellow card, incensing the Colorado coaching staff. CU junior midfielder Kate Russell stepped up, but failed to convert the penalty leaving the score tied.

The score remained 1-1, forcing the teams to go to overtime. Monday was the eighth time the Buffs have had a game go to overtime.

Colorado came out hot in overtime, searching for the winning goal that would keep them in contention for the Big 12 tournament.

Russell struck the crossbar in the 93rd minute, and less than a minute later, CU senior forward Amanda Foulk did the same.

Colorado scored the winning golden goal in the 93rd minute, when Foulk ran into the box again, but this time, passed to freshman forward Anne Stuller, who fired the ball in to the back of the net.

Stuller's goal came to the delight of team.

"[The goal] felt really good," Stuller said. "We won in over time, and we can still get to the Big 12 tournament. That's what matters the most and that's what [the team] is most happy about."

With one game remaining, Colorado sits eighth in the Big 12 and in the final place to get into the big 12 tournament. A strong performance against rival Nebraska will be needed if the Buffs hope to keep their place in the tournament.

"Our season is still on the line, as far as [the Nebraska] game," Barczuk said. "There's the whole rivalry between CU and Nebraska, and it's the last time we play them in the Big 12, so there's a lot of things that are cool about this game Friday."

Colorado will take on the Cornhuskers at 3 p.m. Friday at Prentup Field, in their final game of the regular season. Friday also marks Senior Day, where seniors Amanda Foulk, Mel Hicks, Kym Lowry, Kelly Ross and Taryn Vitacca will be honored after the game.

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