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UCLA women tumble at Colorado

By Scott French

UCLA, a perennial final-four qualifier, has fallen to 15th in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America poll after Colorado pulled an upset Sunday in Boulder.

Alex Dohm shut down Bruins star Sydney Leroux and Lizzy Herzl scored with a less than three minutes to go in overtime as the Buffaloes (4-4) emerged 1-0 winners.

They're the second school to pull a major upset over UCLA -- Northwestern did so at the end of August -- and it dropped the Bruins to its lowest point in the polls in years.

UCLA (6-2-1), which has been to the past seven College Cup final fours and eight of the last 10, playing in the 2000, 2004 and 2005 title games, was third in the NSCAA preseason poll but fell out of the top 10 after the 1-0 loss to Northwestern.

Leroux, a Canadian-born U.S. U-20 national team star who is on the preliminary roster for the full national team's matches against China on Oct. 2 in Kennesaw, Ga., and Oct. 6 in Chester, Pa., took half of UCLA's shots but couldn't find the net with constant attention from Dohm, a freshman from Colorado Springs who usually plays up top.

"[Leroux] is an outstanding player, and if you can limit the touches and opportunities she gets, then you have a good chance," Colorado coach Bill Hempen told his school's athletics Web site. "Alex probably did as good a job on one of the best players in the country that anyone could possibly do."

Herzl, usually a defender, was pushed up to forward in overtime and rewarded Hempen's hunch by volleying a Kym Lowry header from Kate Russell's cross into the upper-left corner. The freshman from Littleton, Colo., was the Big 12 Conference's Newcomer of the Week.

UCLA, which beat Denver in the opener of its two-game Colorado swing, has another big clash Sunday against No. 10 Santa Clara (6-1-2). The Bruins haven't been beaten at home in 71 games, the nation's longest such streak.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Julie Galaudet netted the second goal as Loyola Marymount pulled away late to a 2-0 victory Friday over Utah State, then assisted Lily Sorrentino's early strike to beat Penn, 1-0, on Sunday. The assist was her 18th as a Lion, tying the mark set by Jessica Lyon (1995-98).

LMU (6-2-0) has won six of its last seven matches and has surrendered just one goal in the last five -- in a 1-0 loss to then-No. 4 Notre Dame.

FRESHMEN OF TROY: USC (6-1-2) scored just four goals in its first six games -- the Women of Troy conceded just two in a 3-1-2 start -- but have found the touch in its past two games, firing home seven.

Three of the goals in Friday's 4-1 rout of Oklahoma were scored by freshmen, with Autumn Altamirano (Tustin/Beckman HS) and Elizabeth Eddy (Newport Beach/Newport Harbor HS) netting their first college goals and Haley Boysen (Moorpark/Harvard-Westlake School) scoring her second. Altamirano -- feeding senior leader Alyssa Davila (Upland/Upland HS) -- and Eddy also had assists.

USC's 11 goals have been scored by nine players. Only Boysen and Ashli Sandoval (Jamul/Granite Hills HS) have more than one; both have two.

49ERS ARE BACK: Junior forward Nicole Sweetman (Oxnard/Oaks Christian School) tripled her collegiate goal total with two strikes in Long Beach State's 4-1 romp over Akron in UNLV's tournament. The 49ers (6-3-1) bounced back from its horrid Bay Area trek -- which concluded with a 6-0 loss to Cal -- by going 2-0 in Las Vegas.

They topped UNLV, 2-1, with Marysol Rosas (Santa Ana/Mater Dei HS) scoring in the 54th minute to end a 337-minute goal

drought and Shawna Gordon (Rancho Cucamonga/Los Osos HS) providing the victory with a 96th-minute strike.

Lindsay Bullock (Manhattan Beach/Mira Costa HS), who assisted Gordon's goal, and Nadia Link (Rowland Heights/Walnut HS), with her team-best sixth strike of the season, tallied against Akron.

Sweetman shared Big West Conference Offensive Player of the Week honors with UC Irvine's Tanya Taylor (Buena Park/Sunny Hills HS), who scored a goal and assisted two more as the Anteaters (6-1-2) won at Fresno State and San Francisco.

NOTES: Christen Press (Palos Verdes Estates/Chadwick School) is the Pac-10 Player of the Week after scoring five goals to lead No. 2 Stanford to victories over Utah and Georgetown at Santa Clara's tournament. ... Christina Murrillo (Rancho Santa Margarita/Trabuco Hills HS) has scored three of Cal State Fullerton's last four goals and a team-best four in all. ... Cal State Northridge played No. 6 Texas A&M close for 50 minutes, then gave up three goals in 15 minutes en route to a 5-0 loss in College Station. ... UC Riverside hasn't scored in its last five games -- the Highlanders' goalless streak is at 501 minutes, and they've got just one goal in eight games -- but goalkeeper Jessica White (Yucaipa/Yucaipa HS) made seven saves to get a draw against Utah State.

PACIFIC-10 CONFERENCE

UCLA (5-2-1)

Friday: Denver 2 (Rogers 72, Bast 76), UCLA 4 (Leroux 24, Mathis 39, Smith 65, Cline pen. 67)

Sunday: Colorado 1 (Herzl 108), UCLA 0

This week: Friday vs. San Diego, Sunday vs. Santa Clara

USC (5-1-2)

Friday: USC 4 (Altamirano 40, Davila 58, Eddy 73, Boysen 76), Oklahoma 1 (Hampton 84)

This week: Friday at Gonzaga, Sunday at Eastern Washington

BIG WEST CONFERENCE

CAL STATE FULLERTON (2-6-0)

Friday: Nebraska 3 (Marlborough 2, Bartels 53, 70), Cal State Fullerton 1 (Murillo 27)

Sunday: Creighton 3 (Connolly 21, og Gonzalez 26, Cingoranelli 64), Cal State Fullerton 0

This week: Friday at San Diego State

CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE (4-5-0)

Friday: Cal State Northridge 0, Pennsylvania 1 (Campbell 21)

Sunday: Texas A&M 5 (og Slepicoff 41, Mautz 52, Mathias 56, Shipley pen. 66, Majewski 83), Cal State Northridge 0

This week: Monday vs. San Diego

LONG BEACH STATE (6-3-1)

Friday: UNLV 1 (Forrester 36), Long Beach State 2 (Rosas 54, Gordon 96), OT

Sunday: Long Beach State 4 (Bullock 6, Sweetman 40, 75, Link 70), Akron 1 (DeNiro 86)

This week: Friday vs. Arizona State

UC IRVINE (6-1-2)

Friday: Fresno State 0, UC Irvine 2 (Goodson 15, Sanderlin 58)

Sunday: San Francisco 0, UC Irvine 2 (Rodriguez 24, Taylor 64)

This week: At UC Irvine Tournament -- Friday vs. Oregon State, Sunday vs. Nevada

UC RIVERSIDE (1-6-1)

Friday: UC Riverside 0, Portland State (Ross 36, Renard 44, 82)

Sunday: UC Riverside 0, Utah State 0, OT

This week: At UCI Tournament -- Friday vs. Nevada, Sunday vs. Oregon State

WEST COAST CONFERENCE

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT (6-2-0), Westchester

Friday: Loyola Marymount 2 (Martino 62, Gallaudet 78), Utah State 0

Sunday: Loyola Marymount 1 (Sorentino 14), Pennsylvania 0

This week: Friday vs. Arizona, Sunday at Northern Arizona

PEPPERDINE (5-3-1), Malibu

Saturday: Washington State 1 (Stolz 54), Pepperdine 0

Sunday: Hawaii 0, Pepperdine 2 (Spacciapolli 30, Payetta 69)

This week: Friday vs. Cal Poly, Sunday vs. Arizona State

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