

# Buffaloes fall in last minute to Pioneers

## Denver scores game-winner on penalty kick with 57 ticks left

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DENVER -- Blame the keeper.

As long as it's Denver goalie Lara Campbell.

Colorado lost 2-1 to rival DU on a penalty kick by Nicholette DiGiacomo with just 57 seconds left in regulation.

The game-winning opportunity was awarded to the Pioneers after CU keeper Annie Brunner was called for a penalty after taking Kalie Vaughn down in the box during a late run.

Brunner said she did not agree with the call because she thought she took Vaughn out using her legs cleanly and outside of the box. Her head coach had a better angle and disagrees.

"It was the right call," Bill Hempen said moments after the Buffs' (2-1) first loss of the young season. "There was probably a little bit of confusion between our keeper and our center-back about coming and staying. Once the DU kid is following through with what she was planning on doing she gains a step and gets behind and between.

"(Brunner) tried to get it, but obviously she tripped her up in the box."

And DiGiacomo, who set up the Pioneers' first goal with a perfect corner kick, buried the penalty kick for the victory on Saturday at Ciber Field in the nightcap of the DU Invitational.

"Annie Brunner made a great decision to get that foul. And if that PK would have been any worse, she would have had it," CU midfielder Kate Russell said. "We should have been able to stop that through ball. DU is a good team and we both had our exciting moments and the energy level was very high."

So was Campbell's play in front of her net. She made six saves in the game, including three or four of the spectacular variety.

"That's always very annoying and very frustrating," Russell said. "Well done by her. She kept them in the game. I think we should have had two or three more goals. She did a very good job and was big when she needed to be."

The Pioneers (2-1) took a 1-0 lead when freshman Jessy Battelli's header off DiGiacomo's corner kick slipped inside the cross bar in the sixth minute.

CU didn't panic, started to dominate possession and finally tied the score 1-1 on an unassisted goal by Hayley Hughes. Her shot deflected off a DU defender to beat Campbell.

The Buffs out-shot the Pioneers 9-2 in the first half, but only 12-11 for the game.

Brunner was credited with three saves. But Campbell deserves credit for DU's victory.

"Their keeper made some blinding saves where we had clear chances," Hempen said. "She kept them in position to do what they did. Fantastic performance by her. We just couldn't find any way by her. ...

"That's why people stay for 90 minutes to see what happens at the end."

The Buffs -- who still lead the all-time series with DU 10-5-2 -- opened the season with back-to-back home wins over

Wyoming and Northern Colorado.

Hempen`s team will regroup quickly before playing UNLV -- a 2-1 loser to UNLV in the first game Saturday -- at 10 a.m. on Monday at Ciber Field during the second round of the DU Invitational.

"I still think our team is a pretty good team," Hempen said. "We just have to be prepared to be better the next time. I really can`t fault effort as much as execution."

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