

Hempen's CU Buffs settle for tie with Auburn

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DENVER -- Colorado snapped a four-game losing streak with a 2-2 tie against Auburn in the Denver Invitational on Friday.

The tie was only a minor relief to the Buffs.

"We gained some confidence, which we need, because we are a good team and we can compete with these teams," said Colorado senior defender Caroline Danneberg, who scored her first career goal. "We also aren't satisfied until we get wins under our belts."

The Buffs (2-4-1) nearly pulled off the win in overtime with two shots that hit the crossbar and at least two more solid scoring chances.

Senior Kate Russell's shot from about 30 yards out in the first overtime found the crossbar and freshman Carly Bolyard saw her shot rejected by the crossbar midway through the second overtime.

"We're definitely not satisfied with the tie against this team," said junior Amy Barczuk, who also scored for CU. "It's better than being on the other end with a loss, but as you can see in overtime, we should have won that game."

Colorado coach Bill Hempen once again shuffled his lineup, moving Barczuk from defense to forward.

The move paid off early in the first half when Barczuk took control of the ball, spun around and fired off a shot from 30 yards out that gave CU a 1-0 lead.

"We have to be as physical as forwards as you are as a defender," Hempen said. "We needed that battle up front. She set the standard. (Forward Anne) Stuller fed off that. And then everyone else we plugged into that did a pretty decent job of keeping the battle up against their defenders, because you don't want to make it any easy day for their defenders."

Auburn (5-1-1) tied it up on a free kick from just outside CU's penalty box as Katy Frierson snuck her shot around CU's wall and into the net.

The Buffs went up 2-1 in the second half when Danneberg took a free kick from about 35 yards out. She sent the ball into Auburn's goal box that Tigers keeper Aimee Golightly misplayed. Golightly let the ball bounce in front of her, but the ball bounced over her and into the net.

Auburn tied it in the 65th minute off a goal by Ana Cate.

"We could have won the game for sure," Hempen said. "But we didn't, so how do we feel about that? It's a difficult emotion for us to sort out."

Colorado wraps up the DU Invitational against CSU-Bakersfield at 3 p.m. Sunday, also on the DU campus.

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