

Soccer: CU Buffs settle for tie with Colorado College

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COLORADO SPRINGS -- It might take some time for the Colorado soccer team to appreciate winning the Colorado Cup.

Claiming the trophy for second annual event was nice, but after a 0-0 tie with Colorado College at Stewart Field, the celebration was a bit tempered.

"Yeah, everyone was kind of silent after the game," Buffs goalkeeper Annie Brunner said. "How do you celebrate a tie? But, we still won it, it's still coming home."

The Buffs and CC finished the season-opening Colorado Cup with 1-0-1 marks, but CU won the Cup by virtue of having more goals during the tournament, 3-1.

"It was one of our team goals this season, so it always feels good to walk away with accomplishing one of your team goals," senior Amy Barczuk said. "It means a lot to be the No. 1 team in Colorado. That stands for something."

A year after defeating the Tigers 5-0, CU managed just one shot on goal this time, a rather harmless one by freshman Madison Krauser 3 minutes into the second half.

"Colorado College, they're solid," CU head coach Danny Sanchez said. "They just don't give you a lot of space. The main piece of it is they had the ball more often, so when you have the ball you don't have to defend."

CC out-shot the Buffs 12-6, including 5-1 in shots on net. CC also doubled up the Buffs on corner kicks, 8-4.

The Buffs had some chances late, including a shot by Shaye Marshall that smacked the crossbar during the first overtime, but had to rely on their defense to get a tie.

Brunner delivered her second shutout of the season with five saves. In front of her, the defense made so many key plays that Brunner at one point told junior Lizzy Herzl, "We're putting on a clinic on how to defend."

The Buffs are going to need that this season, especially as they fold 12 new freshmen into the mix and learn how to develop an attack. They came away from the tournament with an upbeat outlook, however.

"On the positive side, we tied a very, very good team with not playing very well," Barczuk said.

And, despite not playing their best, they won the Colorado Cup for a second year in a row -- whether they appreciated it or not on Sunday.

"We talked about it, (a tie) is like kissing your sister, but this time you get a little present as well," Sanchez said. "Once we get back and we have the shiny trophy in my office, I think they'll appreciate it a little bit more."

Notable

Hayley Hughes did put the ball in net during the first half for CU, but the goal was waved off because of an offsides penalty. ... CU leads the all-time series with the Tigers, 6-2-1. CU had won six in a row before Sunday. ... CU defeated Northern Colorado 3-0 on Friday, while CC defeated Denver 1-0. ... Freshman Olivia Pappalardo started in the midfield and made her CU debut. She also left the game late in the second overtime with a calf cramp. ... Brunner has played all 200 in minutes in net for CU and has yet to allow a goal. ... Brunner has six career ties to her credit, second most in team history.

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Colorado College and Colorado sparred for 110 minutes without a goal being scored Sunday in a match that featured a pair of strong defenses as the Buffaloes tied the Tigers 0-0 at Stewart Field.

The authors of that tight-as-a-glove defense for Colorado College were Kecia Morway, Sierra Keeler, Kelly Browne and Sarah Haizlip. Colorado managed just six shots in the title game of the Colorado Cup.

"Colorado College is a very good team, very organized in the back — we had barely a sniff at the goal," Colorado coach Danny Sanchez said. "We had one decent chance in the second half and a half chance in the first and that was really it."

Although focused of what his team could do to improve, Colorado College coach Geoff Bennett was happy with his back line.

"To concede one shot on goal in 110 minutes, yeah, that's a good defensive effort," he said. Colorado College managed 12 shots with five requiring saves by Buffaloes goalkeeper Annie Brunner, who got her second shutout in as many games.

"Credit to Colorado," Bennett said. "They came out, especially in the second half and in overtime, and changed their tactic. They were setting numbers behind the ball and trying to counter. They were playing more to keep us at bay and it worked out for them."

Colorado was crowned the winner of the Colorado Cup despite the teams having matching 1-0-1 records by virtue of goal differential. Earlier Sunday, Denver beat Northern Colorado 2-1 for third place.

Tigers freshman goalkeeper Kate Scheele recorded her second consecutive shutout and has opened her collegiate career with 200 scoreless minutes. The last time CC began a season with consecutive shutouts was 2005, when freshman Geneva Sills recorded victories over Iowa and Montana.

Despite the solid effort, there were few smiles on the Colorado College sideline after the game. That his Tigers treated a tie like a loss said volumes to Bennett.

"We'll move on," he said. "We're a hundred times ahead of where we were last year at this point."

"We'll get ready for the University of Northern Colorado next Friday but I think this is going to push us to another level — this frustration and disappointment."

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