

## Women's soccer: CU Buffs shut out LIU Brooklyn

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

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Going into the locker room at halftime on Friday, Anne Stuller didn't have much to feel good about.

The Colorado junior made up for it in the second half, though, scoring two goals to lead the Buffaloes' soccer team to a 2-0 win over LIU Brooklyn at Prentup Field in the first game of the Omni Hotels Classic.

"I think in the first half, my teammates wanted to kill me because I was playing horrible, but luckily I'm a forward so if you have two good touches the whole game and the rest are bad, they'll forgive you," Stuller said.

A Fairview High School graduate, Stuller also had two goals in CU's season-opening win against Northern Colorado on Aug. 17. She is the first CU player to notch multi-

ple two-goal games since Nikki Marshall did so in 2007.

With Stuller leading the way, the Buffs (2-0-1) are unbeaten through their first three games for just the third time in school history (also in 2006 and 2007). This is the first time in school history that CU has shut out its first three opponents.

"It's awesome," senior defender Quinn Krier said. "We're all returners in the back, so we feel really solid together."

The Buffs didn't allow a single shot on goal. LIU's only serious threat came 12 minutes into the game. After a cornerkick, the Blackbirds (0-2) hit a shot off the right upright.

"It could have been a different game (had LIU scored)," CU coach Danny Sanchez said. "After that we felt very comfortable. We closed down their players a little bit quicker because they were shooting a lot from long range. The second half, obviously, we looked much better."

CU had just one shot on goal before intermission, but the offense woke up in the second half.

In the fifth minute of the second half, junior Hayley Hughes blasted a shot that was blocked by an LIU defender. Stuller was there for the rebounded and fired a low liner from about 35 yards out to give CU a 1-0 lead.

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Less than four minutes later, freshman Madison Krauser made a great play to get the ball in front of the net to Stuller, who buried her fourth goal of the season. She has already matched her total from last season, when she tied for the team lead.

"Really it's all my team," she said. "Maddy, on my second goal, launched a ball into my thigh and I had no choice but to finish it, so that goal was all hers. My first goal, the ball just rolled to me and it was a sitter and I was able to put it in the back of the net. I'm fortunate to have great players around me."

So far, CU has been fortunate to have great play from its defense. On Friday's CU's defense allowed LIU to take just five shots, only one of those coming after halftime.

"Communication is a really big key back there, and tackling," Krier said. "Our tackling has gotten a lot better."

Playing in front of 1,216 fans, the Buffs couldn't have picked a better way to finish their home opener.

"It was really important for us to come out today, being our first home game, to really make a statement," senior Amy Barczuk said. "We struggled a little bit first half and then we really picked it up in the second half. Overall, just a really great team effort."

"Having a good crowd here means so much. We have great fans. It was a great environment to play our first home game today."

Earlier Friday, Denver and Wright State played to a 1-1 tie at Prentup Field. Denver outshot the Lady Raiders 23-5, including 5-0 in the second overtime.

Emilie Fillion put Wright State ahead 1-0 in the seventh minute. DU tied the game in the 18th minute on a goal from Nikki Pappalardo.

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Colorado 2, LIU Brooklyn 0

At Prentup Field

LIU Brooklyn (0-2) 0 0 -- 0

Colorado (2-0-1) 0 2 -- 2

Goals (assists) -- CU: Annie Stuller (Hayley Hughes), 49:23; CU: Stuller (Madison Krauser), 53:03.

Goalkeepers (Min-Goals allowed-Saves) -- LIU: Jennifer Bannon (90-2-3); CU: Annie Brunner (90-0-0).

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