

## **Soccer: Fortune smiles upon CU Buffs in win over Cincinnati**

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

---

DENVER -- Colorado's soccer team isn't concerned with who gets credit for goals.

"They can kick it, you can kick it, I can kick it, as long as it makes it in there," Buffs head coach Danny Sanchez said.

On Sunday, the Buffs' offense generated relentless pressure but needed a fortunate bounce to defeat Cincinnati 2-1 at Ciber Field in the Denver Invitational.

Hayley Hughes scored her first goal of the season in the eighth minute and the Buffs scored the game-winner on an own goal in the 76th minute.

"We got a little fortunate with the second goal, but it was coming," Sanchez said. "You put that much pressure, it was coming."

CU (4-1-2) dominated play for much of the game, but found itself in a 1-1 tie heading into the final 15 minutes. At that point, Lauren Shaner sent a pass to freshman Emily Paxton, who, with back turned to the goal, got a foot on the ball and lifted it up and toward the goal. The ball hit off a Bearcats defender and into the net.

"I just flicked it back behind me and just got fortunate," Paxton said. "It was relieving. It was fortunate and we were lucky to get it, but we played really well and I think we deserved it."

On Friday, the Buffs were routed by Denver, 4-1, but against Cincinnati (3-3-1), the Buffs dominated. CU out-shot the Bearcats 25-9, including a 16-4 advantage in shots on goal. The Buffs also had nine corner kicks to just five for Cincinnati.

"I think we deserved this game," Hughes said. "It's tough to say we won on an own goal, but we had so many shots on goal and a bunch of chances that really should have dropped for us and kind of got unlucky, so it was nice to get one kind of lucky one."

There was nothing lucky about the first goal.

In the first minute, Hughes had a breakaway chance, but Cincinnati keeper Kristina Utley made the stop. Seven minutes later, Hughes utilized her speed. After a punt from keeper Annie Brunner, freshman Olivia Pappalardo headed the ball forward to Hughes, who got on another breakaway and put the ball past Utley.

"It was nice," Hughes said of the seventh goal of her career. "I got a great ball through and just kind of took a touch. I think the (Cincinnati defender) tried to put it down, but it didn't really work for her, so I just kind of took advantage of it and went with it and put it away, like I didn't the first one. It was nice to get a second chance."

Although Hughes had yet to score this season, she has been knocking on the door, and Sanchez said it was good to see her come through.

"She's always going to be dangerous," Sanchez said. "She's going to put herself in those spots and it was good to get her off the snide and get a goal."

The Buffs kept up the pressure, posting 14 shots in the first half, nine of them on net. Anne Stuller had a pair of hard shots early in the half, but Utley was up to the task. Utley finished with 12 saves.

"Their keeper was excellent today," Sanchez said. "I think that was really what kept them in the game."

Cincinnati's offense didn't get much going, but the Bearcats got the equalizer 5:37 before the half. After a corner kick, Megan Cravenor gathered a loose ball in front of the net and booted it home.

In the end, the Buffs had just enough to walk away with a win, which was the ultimate goal after suffering their first defeat on Friday.

"We definitely needed a game like this," defender Bianca Jones said. "Our game on Friday, we just tried to move on and we tried to learn from it. It was definitely a learning experience. Our coaching staff stressed that and we bought into that and it showed in our game today."

Sunday's win was big for another reason, too. Just seven games in, they've already tied last year's win total (4-13-2).

"It means that we're moving toward the right direction and CU soccer is finally going to get on the map," Jones said.

#### Notable

CU's Amy Barczuk and Hughes were named to the all-tournament team. ... Two of CU's three goals during the tournament were own goals. Prior to this tournament, the Buffs had just two own goals in program history (one in 2004 and one in 2009). ... Stuller had eight shots, six on goal. Both numbers are career highs and the eight shots were the most by a CU player since Nikki Marshall had eight against Oklahoma on Oct. 2, 2009. ... CU's 25 shots tied for the 13th-best single-game total in program history. ... CU's Quinn Krier and Cincinnati's Laura Rose received yellow cards in the second half. ... This was the first-ever meeting between the Buffs and Bearcats. ... CU visits Wyoming on Friday and will host Air Force on Sunday.

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.

Colorado 2, Cincinnati 1

At Ciber Field, Denver

Cincinnati (3-3-1) 1 0 -- 1

Colorado (4-1-2) 1 1 -- 2

Goals (assists) -- Colorado: Hayley Hughes (Olivia Pappalardo and Annie Brunner), 7:46; Cincinnati: Megan Cravenor (Lauren Hettinger), 39:23; CU: own goal, 75:17.

Goalkeepers (Min-Goals allowed-Saves) -- Cincinnati: Kristina Utley (90-2-12); Colorado: Annie Brunner (90-1-3).