

## Annie Brunner shuts out Ducks in Pac-12 opener

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EUGENE, Ore. -- Danny Sanchez always prefers a win, but earning a tie at Oregon on Friday was no reason for the Colorado soccer team to hang its head.

The Buffs opened Pac-12 play with a 0-0 tie against the Ducks at Papé Field.

"To go on the road and get a result playing on (artificial) turf in the Pac-12 opener, I think we can take a lot of positives from it," said Sanchez, CU's first-year head coach.

CU keeper Annie Brunner notched her sixth shutout of the season and third in a row, but the Buffs (6-1-3, 0-0-1 Pac-12) escaped after Oregon (5-2-2, 0-0-1) nearly took the win in the final minute of the second overtime.

Oregon's Bri Pugh made a run down the left side and, with CU defender Amy Barczuk marking her, got near the end line and slipped a cross pass to the right. Brunner dove for that ball but missed it, putting her out of position for a shot. Oregon's Achijah Berry got a foot on the ball, but was defended well and the shot went just wide right of the goal.

Oregon out-shot the Buffs 16-13, but CU had a 7-4 edge in shots on goal. Oregon out-shot the Buffs 4-1 in overtime.

"I think the quality opportunities were pretty even," Sanchez said. "There was a long stretch in the first half where I thought we played very well. Over time, I think they had better opportunities than we did."

Both teams had good scoring chances in the first half, but couldn't convert as the goalkeepers stood out. Brunner had her best save of the game in the first half, but Oregon's Abby Steele matched her throughout the contest.

In the second half, CU's best scoring chance came from the foot of Anne Stuller. With a free kick just outside of the goal box, Stuller lifted the ball over the Oregon wall, but Steele made a great save to keep the game scoreless.

Oregon's Maryn Beutler had a solid shot on net in the first overtime, but it went directly to Brunner, who made the easy save. That was the only shot on net for either team in overtime. Two minutes later, Hayley Hughes fed a nice ball to Stuller, but Stuller was just offside and didn't get a chance at a shot.

CU didn't have any scoring chances in the second overtime, but managed to weather the Ducks' pressure.

"A draw is probably a fair result," Sanchez said. "This is one we could have got a (win) on the road, but it was a pretty even match.

"It's a tough pace to go and get a result, and they gutted it out and got a result. We're going to take all the positives from it and build off of it for next weekend."

CU will host Washington on Friday and Washington State on Sept. 30.

Notable

Brunner moved into sole possession of third place on CU's all-time shutouts list (13) and is now tied for third with

six shutouts in a single season. ... CU has not allowed a goal in over 340 minutes. ... The game was a physical battle that included four yellow yards, three on Oregon and one against CU's Amy Barczuk. ... CU was 0-2 against Oregon before Friday, including a 3-1 loss in Boulder last year. ... Pac-12 coaches picked Oregon to finish 10th and Colorado to finish 11th. ... Stuller now has 22 shots on goal, matching her total from last year.

COLORADO 0, OREGON 0

At Pape' Field, Eugene, OR

Colorado (6-1-3, 0-0-1) 0 0 0 0 -- 0 Oregon (5-2-2, 0-0-1) 0 0 0 0 -- 0

Goals (assists) -- None.

Goalkeepers (Min-Goals allowed-Saves) -- CU: Annie Brunner (110-0-4); OREGON: Abby Steele (110-0-7).