

Bufs beat Northern Colorado in opening game of Colorado Cup

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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DENVER -- Colorado's Brie Hooks may not find the net every game, but the freshman could not have asked for a better debut on Friday night.

Playing the first game of her college career, Hooks scored twice and the Buffaloes rolled to a 3-0 win over Northern Colorado in the opening game of the third annual Colorado Cup at the University of Denver's CIBER Field on Friday night.

"Solid debut," the 5-foot-1 forward from Maple Valley, Wash., said.

Hooks became the first player in program history to score twice in her debut, and she did it in just 16 minutes of action off the bench.

"I just wanted to go out there and prove myself first game and show what I can do," she said. "I really don't get nervous for games. Just more excited to finally have the chance to play at the collegiate level."

CU head coach Danny Sanchez had been impressed with Hooks during preseason practices, and he was pleased to see her perform well Friday.

"Obviously, she's dynamic, she's good on the ball and she had a couple of nice finishes," he said.

CU already led 1-0 when junior midfielder Darcy Jerman fed a nice pass to Hooks, who was streaking down the right side of the field. Hooks corralled the ball and punched it past Bears goalkeeper Natalie D'Adamio in the 34th minute.

"It was a great ball, perfect right to my run and all I had to do was take a touch and just shoot," Hooks said.

Hooks added her second goal in the 79th minute to cement the victory.

Colorado opened the scoring in the 21st minute on an own goal. Junior Brooke Rice, making her Buffs debut after transferring from Santa Clara, put pressure on the UNC goal. D'Adamio, who was outside the goal box, tried to clear the ball, but it hit off one of her defenders and deflected back into the net.

"I'm going to debate that one because I think it went off Brooke, so we'll watch the film on that," Sanchez said. "But at the end of the day, if you put teams under pressure those are going to happen. We don't care how they go in, as long as they go in."

If it stands as an own goal, it'll be just the fifth in the 345-game, 18-season history of CU soccer. Three of those have come in the past calendar year -- all at CIBER Field. Four of the five own goals in CU history have come on DU's field.

CU improved to 7-0 all-time against UNC, outscoring the Bears 20-0 in those games. CU, which has won the first two Colorado Cup trophies, improved to 4-0-1 in this tournament.

"We created a lot of chances and didn't give up a lot in the back, so it was a good day for us," Sanchez said.

The Buffs wrap up the Colorado Cup on Sunday by hosting Colorado College at Prentup Field at 2:30 p.m.

Notable

The Buffs won their fifth consecutive season opener and improved to 7-0-3 in their last 10 openers. All-time, they are 9-5-4 in openers. ... With 9:21 to play in the first half, the teams were sent inside for a lightning delay that lasted nearly an hour. There was a second lightning delay, this time for about 20 minutes, during halftime. ... Seven players made their CU debuts, including freshman Alex Huynh and Rice, who both started, and Hooks. ... Jerman and Heather Ward were issued yellow cards for the Buffs. ... UNC has never won a game (0-5) in the Colorado Cup. ... Senior Anne Stuller led CU with four shots, three of those on net.

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