

Colorado soccer: Buffs get first ever Pac-12 home win

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It wasn't pretty, but the University of Colorado finally got its first Pac-12 win at home.

Colorado toughed out winter-like temperatures and a little icy precipitation to beat Oregon State 2-1 at Prentup Field on Friday afternoon.

Since joining the Pac-12 two years ago, Colorado (9-2 overall, 1-1 Pac-12) hadn't been able to win a conference game at home, but two first-half goals against Oregon State gave the Buffaloes an early lead, and they hung on for the win.

Colorado coach Danny Sanchez said with just two wins so far this season, he knew Oregon State (2-7-2, 0-1-1) would be on the hunt for a win this weekend.

"We knew Oregon State was a team desperate for results and I feel like we played like, not to overstate it, but like warriors, especially in the last 15 minutes of the game," Sanchez said. "Just really gutted out the win."

With temperatures in the 30s, Colorado midfielder Maddie Krauser scored the game's first goal after just 5 minutes of play. Krauser, who picked up her second goal of the season, knocked the ball into the right corner of Oregon State's goal with help from Colorado forward Annie Stuller.

Colorado scored again just 8 minutes later when Buffs defender Bianca Jones crossed left to Stuller, who sneaked the ball past Oregon State goalkeeper Sammy Prudhomme on the far right side of the net.

But Oregon State answered less than a minute later with a header by Jenna Richardson that shot to the right side of Colorado's goal while goalkeeper Annie Brunner was on the left.

"We relaxed," Sanchez said. "They scored that goal a minute after we scored that goal, and we made it maybe more difficult than we needed to. After that, the game settled down and the second half wasn't the prettiest soccer, but like I said, we gutted out the win and that's what you have to do in this league."

Krauser said giving up that goal motivated her to work harder to hang on to the lead. Brunner, who made three saves against Oregon State, said scoring two goals so quickly in the game motivated the defense to work even harder to get Colorado the win.

"The attackers did well to win two goals," she said. "That'll win us the game if we can keep their score down to just one. It's a motivator for sure."

Sanchez said his team will celebrate the win over Oregon State for a few hours Friday evening, but then Saturday morning, it's back to work.

Colorado will train Saturday for its 2 p.m. game against Oregon on Sunday. They've watched some Oregon film already, but Brunner said the team mostly focused on Oregon State last week.

"One game a time," Brunner said.

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