

Colorado soccer: Buffs get back on track with victory over Stony Brook

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Once the Colorado soccer team gets into Pac-12 Conference play, it likely won't get as many scoring chances as it has had to this point in the season.

The Buffaloes hope goals keep coming at this clip, though.

On Friday, four different players scored as CU rolled past Stony Brook 4-0 at Prentup Field in the Omni Hotels Colorado Soccer Classic.

"I think the goals we're scoring are good goals and more importantly we're creating some good chances," CU head coach Danny Sanchez said. "We also know that as we get further in the season, we're not going to get as many opportunities as we did today, so we have to be more lethal and better in front of the goal, but today we were pretty good."

CU (7-1-0) generated 20 shots, with eight of those on goal, to knock off the Seawolves (5-2-1), who had just four total shots, and none on net.

Already, the Buffs have 17 goals this season and it's the third time they've netted at least three in a game. They had just two three-goal games last season.

The result was exactly what the Buffs needed after a tough week that included their only loss, 3-0 against Denver on Sunday. Several CU players were among the many in the area that were displaced from their homes after flooding in the area last week. Six players lived together in a home that was flooded and they have had to find new places to live.

"(Friday's win) is definitely very nice, especially with everything the last week and the game against DU," said sophomore Madison Krauser, who was one of the displaced players. "The team has just been great, the coaches have been great and found a couple of us a house. I almost think it brought everyone together that much more."

This week, the Buffs were able to regain some normalcy in their routine and they certainly looked comfortable against Stony Brook.

Krauser had a nice crossing pass to freshman Brie Hooks, who buried the ball for a 1-0 lead just 2 minutes, 15 seconds into the game.

"If you score early, it opens the game up and I think it really opened up for us in the first half," Sanchez said.

About 16 minutes later, Krauser scored her first goal of the season to put CU ahead 2-0. Krauser said she was dribbling the ball and looking for an open teammate before taking her shot.

"I noticed that I was at the top of the 18 and I was like, 'Well, I might as well take it,'" she said.

Emily Paxton and Anne Stuller added goals late in the second half to put the game away.

Defensively, the Buffs made life easy on goalkeeper Annie Brunner, who didn't have to make a single save.

"Getting another shutout is great and we've been working a lot on making things predictable for Annie when there are shots," senior defender Hayley Hughes said. "There are going to be some shots on goal, but we want to minimize those and make them predictable for her."

Notable

Hooks has seven goals, tied for the third most ever by a CU freshman. ... Stuller's goal was her sixth this season and 19th of her career. ... This season, the Buffs are averaging 10.25 shots on goal per game. Last year, they averaged 5.9. ... Northern Colorado and UNLV played to a 1-1 tie in the first game on Friday. Broomfield High graduate Danielle Birdsall scored for UNC. ... On Sunday, CU will face UNLV at 1:30 p.m. and UNC will meet Stony Brook at 11:30 a.m.

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