

Colorado soccer: Buffs fall to No. 2 Stanford in Pac-12 opener

By Sarah Kuta Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

With just one loss during Colorado's best-ever non-conference start, Buffs coach Danny Sanchez thought his team had a real chance to upset No.2 Stanford.

The Buffs held the Cardinal to three shots in the first half, none on goal, but Stanford scored two second-half goals that Colorado couldn't answer.

In their Pac-12 conference opener, the Buffs (8-2) fell 2-0 to undefeated Stanford (8-0-1) at Prentup Field in Boulder.

"What I told the team was I think this year versus last year, last year we were just happy to be in it," Sanchez said. "This year, we were a little disappointed."

Both teams were scoreless in the first half, with the only shot on goal in the first half coming from CU forward Annie Stuller.

In the second half, both teams attacked and attempted more shots, but Stanford scored the game's first goal.

About 10 minutes into the second half, Stanford forward Courtney Verloo kicked hard off an assist from Maddie Bauer. Colorado goalkeeper Annie Brunner leapt high to her right to push the ball away, but the ball bounced off the goal post and Brunner watched the ball sail behind her into the net.

"That was a pretty quality hit," Brunner said. "It had a lot of movement. It's just frustrating to get a tip on it and then turn around and go dang it."

Brunner and Colorado tried to regroup, but 10 minutes later, Stanford scored another, this time by forward Taylor Uhl with help from Verloo.

Uhl kicked the ball toward the far right corner of the Colorado goal while Brunner was on the far left side. Bruner dove for the ball, but couldn't get there fast enough.

"It's coming across, that's tough to react to and it just fell right at (Uhl's) foot," Brunner said. "She's a quality player. One of the best in the nation, so she's going to finish that."

Thought it was a disappointing loss, Sanchez reminded his players that they have 10 more conference games to play this season.

Stuller, who was displaced from her off-campus home because of flooding in Boulder earlier this month, said she's already thinking ahead to next weekend, when the Buffs face Oregon State and Oregon at home.

"We played well," Stuller said. "We have a lot to work on going forward. Lucky for us we're 8-2. We still have more season, more games to play. We did good things in spurts. In defense

we had good spurts. In midfield we had good spurts. Attacking I think we had good spurts. It's just about keeping that going for 90 minutes."

Notable

Colorado freshman forward Brie Hooks, who's scored seven goals so far this season, is out for "a little bit," said coach Danny Sanchez, with a sprained right knee. Hooks sat out for all of Saturday's game against Stanford with her right knee taped.

Contact staff writer Sarah Kuta at 303-473-1106, kutas@dailycamera.com or twitter.com/sarahkuta.