



Hempen's Buffs battle to tie with Oklahoma St.

CU misses out on two good chances at victory in second half

By Kyle McDaniel Camera Sports Writer
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Colorado soccer coach Bill Hempen always asks his team to work hard and leave everything on the field.

After two overtimes and a 110-minute clash with No. 12-ranked Oklahoma State on Sunday, Hempen saw the Buffs had done just that.

"I felt so bad for my kids. I'm looking at them and I saw that the tank was on fumes," Hempen said. "But they didn't want to stop. They wanted to win."

No. 18-ranked Colorado battled through 90 minutes of regulation and two 10-minute overtimes to tie Oklahoma State 1-1 at Prentup Field.

Oklahoma State scored first about six minutes into the game on a deep cross into the box from Annika Niemeier. OSU standout Yolanda Odenyo jumped higher than the CU defenders and headed the ball past Buffs keeper Kirstin Radlinski.

CU (8-1-2, 2-0-1 Big 12) answered Oklahoma State's goal two minutes and 30 seconds later. Senior striker Gianna DeSaverio punched in a deflected shot off of OSU keeper Erin Stigler on the far post.

DeSaverio, who has scored three goals in the last two games for Colorado, said the Buffs were charged up after allowing the first goal, so the team started playing better after Oklahoma State (9-0-1, 1-0-1 Big 12) went up 1-0.

"I think we started off kind of slow and when they scored it turned us on a little bit," DeSaverio said. "We finally started playing hard."

In the second half, Colorado possessed the ball well and had two major scoring opportunities that failed to **"It's definitely intense. But we've been in a lot of these situations so far. So it's definitely one of those adrenaline rushes. I know that we all just wanted to work hard, and that's it."**

CU defender Michelle Wenino

result in goals. Right after halftime, Colorado star forward Nikki Marshall was dragged down on the right side of the goal in the box for a penalty kick.

Senior Alex Cousins lined up to take the kick and struck it toward the right side of the goal. But Stigler managed to get a hand on the ball to deflect it away from the net.

Hempen said he thought Oklahoma State's keeper knew exactly where the ball was going on the penalty kick.

"I heard them say she's going to your right because they had film on PK," Hempen said. "So she knew where (Cousins) was going. And even at that she needed everything -- she had to get to the ball. So Alex is pretty upset about it. But that's OK."

Colorado's other good chance in the second half came when Kate Russell hit the cross bar only a few minutes after Cousins missed her penalty kick.

But after neither team added another goal, the game went into a first golden-goal overtime, in which no one scored, and finally ended after a second scoreless extra period.

The game was the third of CU's season to extend past regulation. The Buffs also settled for a 1-1 tie against then-No. 20 Florida and beat Mississippi in one overtime earlier this year.

Colorado standout defender Michelle Wenino said Sunday's extra time had a familiar feel because of the Buffs' previous OT games.

"It's definitely intense," Wenino said. "But we've been in a lot of these situations so far. So it's definitely one of those adrenaline rushes. I know that we all just wanted to work hard, and that's it. It's golden goal, so with us we wanted to go all out and make sure nothing went by us."

Wenino also said the Buffs, who will travel to take on Missouri on Friday for their next game, were a little unfortunate on some goal-scoring opportunities Sunday.

"That's just how games are," Wenino said. "Some games, you have all the luck on your side and some of the games you don't."



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