



Buffs headed to Minnesota for NCAA Soccer Tournament

CU players had hoped to host for third year in row

By Kyle McDaniel, Camera Sports Writer

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The Colorado soccer team huddled around a television in a living room on Monday night, watching ESPNNews to see where it would land in the 64-team NCAA Women's Soccer Tournament.

Ally Goodman, Mel Hicks, Kara Linder and Nikki Keller invited their teammates to their house to watch as the brackets were announced on national television.

"We all talked about having a party over here -- the three other girls who live here," Goodman said. "We had it at my place and Kara's place last year, and it worked out well. And everybody has a good time. Everybody kind of calls this the 'soccer house' because the four of us live here."

The Buffs earned their sixth-straight berth into the NCAA Tournament Monday, receiving a No. 4 seed. Colorado (14-4-4) will play South Dakota State (14-4-1) in the first round in Minnesota on Friday. The other first-round match pits Marquette (11-7-3) against host Minnesota (20-3-0)

Colorado was hoping to host the preliminary rounds of the tournament, but the team will have to make its way up to Minnesota for the beginning of the tourney.

"We'd love to host," Goodman said. "It's the luck of the draw. I just found out from my dad that it's supposed to be 35 degrees, so it's not the most exciting news we can hear. But we've got to go down there and win two games and see what happens after that."

The Buffs hosted the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament in each of the past two seasons. But Colorado, which lost 1-0 to Missouri in the Big 12 Championship game on Sunday, will have to win on the road if it plans to move on.

If Colorado advances through the first two rounds, the team could potentially play undefeated and top-ranked Notre Dame in the third round if the Irish can advance, too. "I like the seed," said Colorado leading scorer Gianna DeSaverio. "We all really wanted home field advantage. We love staying at home the first two rounds. I think we can get through the first two rounds. I think the moment of truth is going to be if we get to Notre Dame."

Senior defender Michelle Wenino said she wasn't surprised by the seeding.

"I kind of saw that coming, playing Notre Dame in the third round if we get there," she said. "But I'm excited. It's going to suck to travel because we were blessed so much the past two years to stay home."

A potential third-round game between Notre Dame and Colorado would be a rematch of when the two teams met in the third round during the 2006 NCAA Tournament. The Irish got the best of the Buffs then, defeating Colorado 3-0.

Wenino said Colorado would be better prepared if both teams were fortunate enough to make it that far this time around.

"It's good. We know some of their players and their style," Wenino said. "I'm used to some of their forwards. It will be interesting and a good matchup. I'm excited to play them, hopefully if we get there."

Colorado is one of six teams to make the NCAAs out of the Big 12 Conference. Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, Missouri, Texas and Kansas all earned bids. Texas A&M and Missouri will host first- and second-round games.



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