



Buff spikers lose to Furman, fall to 0-2

Camera staff report

Sunday, August 26, 2007

NEW ORLEANS — For the second time in as many days, the Colorado volleyball team won the first two games of a match Saturday, then saw the opponent take the last three for the win.

Saturday's slip came against Furman, which took a 14-30, 24-30, 30-25, 30-28, 15-12 win in the All-State Sugar Bowl Volleyball Classic in New Orleans. The CU loss came on the heels of a five-game defeat at the hands of Tulane on Friday.

It's the first time CU has dropped the first two matches of the season since 2002, when the Buffs started off 0-3 with losses to UCLA, Ohio State and Hawai'i.

Kelsey Loop led the Buffs with 18 kills in the five games, while Alex Buth, Lauren Schaefer and Mallori Gibson each added 14 kills apiece. Buth also had her second double-double of the season, adding 12 digs to her total.

Colorado opens its home schedule next Friday with the Colorado Invitational at the Coors Events Center, with North Carolina-Wilmington, Central Florida and No. 12 California in the field.

The first game will be played at 11 a.m. Friday between Central Florida and UNC Wilmington, with the Buffs hitting the floor at 6:30 p.m. against Wilmington.

Booters top UNC

GREELEY — Nikki Marshall had two goals and an assist Saturday night to lead Colorado to a 6-1 exhibition win over Northern Colorado.

CU scored three goals in each half, and led 3-1 at intermission.

Also scoring goals for Colorado were Nikki Keller, Alex Cousins, Kym Lowry and Michaela DeJesus.

The Buffs outshot the hosts 19-7, including a 13-6 edge in shots-on-goal.

The Buffs open the regular season Friday with a 4:30 p.m. game at the University of Denver.



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Bufs beat Bears 6-1

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Colorado Daily Staff Reports

The University of Northern Colorado had planned to open their new soccer facilities with a win, or at least a close game.

Instead, they invited the No. 14 ranked University of Colorado soccer team up to Greeley.

And what did they receive as a result of their hospitality?

A 6-1 defeat at the hands of the Buffs.

The game was an opportunity for the Buffs to get playing time for some of the 18 newcomers to coach Bill Hempen's roster before the regular season games get started next week in Denver. While the younger players did show some nerves, Hempen and his squad were happy with how the team came together and battled with the growing UNC program.

"Early on it wasn't a real good game," said head coach Bill Hempen. "We scored a goal off a free kick and then a penalty kick. They were just as good as we were, but we just scored our set pieces."

Freshmen Michaela DeJesus started things off for Colorado as she placed a perfect shot off a free kick in front of the goal, out of the reach of UNC goalkeeper Monique Wells, giving the Buffs a 1-0 lead 13 minutes into the game.

"I was more excited than nervous in the beginning," said DeJesus. "As soon as I got out there it was pretty much like any other game. Once I got going with Nikki (Marshall), who is amazing and so easy to play with, I was able to settle down and play a lot better."

"Michaela played great tonight," said Hempen. "She scored the first goal on a free kick and let me tell you, David Beckham's got nothing on her."

In the 22nd minute, junior veteran Alex Cousins gave the Buffs a 2-0 lead off of a penalty kick. Cousins' goal seemed to be the turning point for the Buffaloes as junior Nikki Keller followed with a goal of her own just under four minutes later. Freshman Nikki Marshall sent a pass in front of the goal and Keller beat the keeper to the left and put the Buffs ahead 3-0.

"Overall I think we played really good tonight," said Cousins. "Team dynamics come with experience but everyone was working really hard and it all strung together in the end."

UNC got on the board late in the first half when Jessica Zimmerman headed the ball past CU keeper Kara Linder off a corner kick by Brittani Knott.

Colorado went into the half with a 3-1 advantage and continued to put pressure on the Northern Colorado defense with three more goals coming in the second half.

The Buffs started quickly in the second half as Marshall got her own rebound off a hard shot and put it past the keeper for a 4-1 lead. Marshall would strike again just two minutes later when she took a pass from Cousins and beat the keeper to the left corner. Coming off a summer playing defense for the U-20 national team, Marshall saw action both upfront and in the back for CU.

"Tonight was awesome," said Marshall. "A lot of the freshmen stepped up from practice to the game and it really showed. I'm really excited about how we played and I expect some great things this season."

"Nikki played in front and back for us tonight," said Hempen. "That kid has grown up so much in the last 12 months, it's incredible."

Colorado dominated the stats, outshooting the Bears 19-7, with 13 shots on goal.

The Buffs got their final goal from freshman Kym Lowry in the 81st minute. Fellow freshman Heidi Daugherty crossed a ball from the outside and Lowry buried it in the back of the net, putting CU ahead 6-1 over UNC.

The win was a very positive start for the Buffaloes, as every physically healthy newcomer saw playing time and, despite the young line-up, Colorado was able to maintain their composure throughout the game and shut down the UNC offense.

"The back line consisted of three freshmen and a sophomore," said Hempen. "You could tell that the freshman weren't even breathing in the beginning, but once we got a goal or two they were able to breathe because they knew that they could make a mistake since we had a bit of a cushion. They played a lot better once the fear was gone."

The Buffs will take the win and continue to work on some areas that still need some improvement in order to be ready for the season opener. Colorado has a week before they kick off the regular season with a game against Denver on Friday, Aug. 31 at 4:30 p.m. in Denver. The Buffs will open the home slate on Thursday, Sept. 6 against Utah at 4 p.m. at Prentup Field.

Scoring Summary:

1. 13:17 CU DEJESUS, Michaela (unassisted)
2. 22:08 CU COUSINS, Alex (Penalty kick)
3. 25:44 CU Keller, Nikki (Nikki Marshall)
4. 38:10 UNC ZIMMERMAN, Jessica (Brittani Knott)
5. 50:57 CU MARSHALL, Nikki (unassisted)
6. 52:14 CU MARSHALL, Nikki (Alex Cousins)
7. 81:39 CU LOWRY, Kym (Heidi Daugherty)

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Spikers fall in the N.O.

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Colorado Daily Staff Reports

The Buffs thought that they had set themselves up with an easy start to the season. Instead of scheduling top ranked teams like they have in years past, the Buffs scheduled themselves into the All-State Sugar Bowl Volleyball Classic in New Orleans, where they thought they would live it up in the Big Easy.

Things did not go as planned.

Suffering their first season-opening defeat since 2002, Colorado opened up the 2007 season with losses to Tulane and Furman on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

The Buffs won the first two games against Tulane, 30-24, 30-27, but then lost the last three games, 28-30, 20-30, 14-16.

Taking on Furman on Saturday, CU got off to a quick start by winning the first two games, 30-14, 30-24. But then for the second time in as many days, CU lost the final three frames, 30-25, 30-28, and 15-12.

This is the first time CU has dropped its first two matches of the season since 2002 when it lost three straight at the Hawai'ian Airlines Wahine Classic in Honolulu to UCLA, Ohio State and Hawai'i.

In the match against Tulane on Friday, CU went up 28-19 in the first game, but the Green Waves rattled off five straight points before CU was able to close out the game 30-24. The Buffs recorded 17 kills and four errors on 38 attacks to hit .342 in the game.

The Buffs took the second game 30-27. Once again, they recorded 17 kills. CU hit .400 by collecting three errors and 35 attacks.

CU fell in the third game by a narrow margin of 28-30 and then dropped the fourth game 20-30. In the final game, the Buffs were stopped short, losing 14-16.

Freshman middle blocker Schylur Edelman recorded her first collegiate start. She totaled five kills and five blocks. Junior Kelsey Loop started at outside hitter and sophomore Kaitlyn Burkett started at setter, each earning their first career starts.

Against Furman, the Buffs again started off well, dominating the first frame from the beginning and sealing it off early with a 30-14 win. CU recorded 21 kills and three errors on 37 swings to attack at a .486 percentage. The second game was closer with four lead changes and eight ties. Colorado hit .281 with 13 kills.

Kaitlyn Burkett dished out 41 assists in four games and Lauren Fanelli handed out 14 to lead the Buffs to a .231 attack percentage. Callie Webster picked up a team-high 19 digs.

Colorado will open its home schedule with the Colorado Invitational August 31-September 2 at the Coors Events Center in Boulder. The Buffs will welcome UNC Wilmington, Central Florida and No. 12 California. The first match on August 31 will be at 11 a.m. between Central Florida and UNC Wilmington. The Buffs will start action at 6:30 p.m. against UNCW.