



# Bufs hold on in first home game

## Fast start carries 18th-ranked CU

By CJ Powell, For the Camera  
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A strong offensive start made up for a poor defensive finish Thursday for the No. 18-ranked Colorado women's soccer team, which defeated Utah 4-2 in the Buffs' home opener.

After scoring four goals in the first half, the Buffs seemed content to sit back and play defense — a strategy that allowed the Utes to put two shots into CU's goal.

A third Utah goal went in as time expired and was not counted.

"We backed into a shell," CU coach Bill Hempen said. "It was a frustrating way to finish in what was a good beginning and not such a great end.

"However, we won, so how upset can I be?"

The goals came quickly for Colorado, which got on the board in the first minute of play.

Freshman Natalie Weeks sailed a corner kick in front of the net, and Michaela DeJesus knocked it past Utah goalkeeper Lee Lynzee.

Gianna DeSaverio scored the second goal after weaving in and out of the three Utah defenders, eventually booting the ball to the back of the net.

Nikki Marshall, who had two goals through two games of the season for CU, capitalized on a precise pass from former Broomfield High School standout Amanda Foulk for what turned out to be the game-winning goal.

Marshall said the credit should go to Foulk.

"I didn't do anything," Marshall said. "I was just at the right place at the right time. Amanda's assist was gorgeous."

Allison Kidd, one of only two seniors on the Colorado roster, scored the final goal with minutes left in the half.

It was a different story in thesecond half. Utah played much better offensively, putting nine shots on goal compared to CU's two.

Adele Letro, who one of the Utes' best offensive threat, finally got on the board 16 minutes into the

second half. Katy Reinke tallied the second Utah goal minutes later.

Hempen said the early lead contributed to a lack of concentration in the second half.

"I'd rather coach from 4-0 at halftime than 0-0," Hempen said. "But it's a difficult thing to keep your focus."

Marshall echoed Hempen's sentiment and was disappointed with the team's performance.

"We haven't really been up that much, besides (against) Northern Colorado," Marshall said. "I feel like we just got too comfortable with that lead and stepped back."

"That was not a good win."

Colorado (2-0-1) next plays Brigham Young at 4 p.m. Saturday on Prentup Field. BYU beat Colorado 3-2 last season.



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Salt licked

By ELIOT DEMPSEY Colorado Daily Sports Editor  
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The Buffs took the field for their first home game of the 2007 season on Thursday night at Prentup Field, and it did not take long to give the home fans something to cheer about.

The Buffs scored the fastest opening goal in school history when freshman Michaela DeJesus took a corner kick from Natalie Weeks and volleyed it into the back of the net just 52 seconds into the match, the first of four goals in a 4-2 CU win.

"You can't predict when you are going to score, but it was sure nice to see that," said CU head coach Bill Hempen. "People are going to be keying in on Nikki and trying to shut her down, I think she was frustrated, but Gianna got a goal in her first time in a CU uniform, and Michaela had a great goal in any league."

The Buffs were on fast forward for the rest of the first half, scoring three more goals to take a 4-0 halftime lead.

Gianna DeSaverio, starting her first game for CU, dribbled past three defenders on her way to the second goal of the match at the 23 minute mark. She was also close on another shot, but as the ball passed the Utah goalie, it rolled just outside of the goal post.

"It felt good, I have been waiting for it and I haven't quite been healthy and I am finally there so it felt good to finally play," said DeSaverio. "The goalie kept coming out so far, so I thought I should chip her and I just missed it a little bit unfortunately."

She almost had another one in the second half as well, when she chipped the ball over the head of Utah goalie Lynzee Lee. DeSaverio, who is originally from Colorado and transferred in from the University of Arizona last year, had her family in the stands.

Her aggressive play seemed to act as a spark for her teammates in the first half.

"I think I am one of those players who just likes to go at people and I am very intense, so I think that helps our team pick up their intensity," she said.

Intensity throughout the game was a slight problem, as the Buffs relented some in the second half.

"I think that a lot of things are just inexperience, especially with the freshman and sophomores, they don't know how serious each game is," said junior midfielder Alex Cousins. "This is a well coached team that can come out well at half, we know that now from this game I just don't think that girls knew that was possible. They are used to club ball where teams give up after the half, that's not how it is at this level at all."

Nikki Marshall and Allison Kidd each added goals for CU in the first half as well.

Marshall had to pass several Ute defenders on her way to the goal, and Kidd took a nice through ball from Amanda Foulk to put it in the net.

Utah made a comeback in the second half, however, and ended up scoring two goals by 2006 second team NSCAA All-American Adele Letro and Katy Reinke, but it was not enough.

Letro was held in check for most of the game, especially in the first half.

"She is definitely a great player, Bill told me I just have to slow her down and the other midfielders would help out, but I feel like a lot of us got tired," said Cousins. "As soon as we broke down, she was able to counter on us. We just have to work together as a team, and not just one person blocking her."

Hempen said that Cousins plays physical, which is a good thing, but that at times she and the rest of team failed to follow one of the team mottos, 'field awareness.' Hempen added that while he and Cousins have a "tenuous relationship," it is only because she is so important to the team's success, just as important as Nikki Marshall and that he is always pushing Cousins to be better.

CU faces BYU on Saturday at Prentup Field at 4 p.m., and Hempen said that he hopes to avoid another high scoring affair. He said he felt very comfortable with a 4-0 halftime lead, but that 4-2 in the end made him nervous.

"Rich (Manning of Utah) is a great coach, and his team wasn't just going to lay down and die. We tried to absorb what they brought at us, but we never got to the next step, which is absorbing and now keeping the ball from them," said Hempen. "You absorb some of what they have, you are able to possess, and they lose their spirit, but they never lost their spirit because we never possessed."

The Buffs are 0-2 against BYU, and lost last year 3-2 in Provo, Utah. They will need to absorb as much as they can from the Utah game if they are to beat the Cougars on Saturday.



# CU spikers can't build on big win

## Bufs play CSU close, but still get swept

By Michael Kelly, For the Camera  
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FORT COLLINS — Something had to give.

The Colorado State and Colorado volleyball teams were coming off impressive tournaments in which they both breezed through without dropping a game. So, when they met in the first match of the Hilton Classic at Moby Arena on Thursday, a streak had to end.

In a tightly contested match, the Buffaloes saw their streak snapped. While the Rams came away with a sweep, the 30-28, 30-27, 30-28 match was anything but a blowout. It came down to a few points at the end of each game, and CSU found a way to win.

"We were battling, but CSU is just a couple of points better than us right now," said CU coach Pi'i Aiu, whose Buffs were coming off a victory over No. 11 Cal on Sunday. "They've got some kids that can make great plays for them."

In the third game, it was a couple of players that came through in the end. Jaime Strauss and Mekana Barnes came up with big kills to avoid going to a fourth game. Barnes, who led the Rams with 17 kills, ended the match with a smash.

"When it came down to it, CSU was just a little bit better than us at crunch time," Aiu said. "We're a young team. I'm not making excuses, because excuses are crap. That's something we have to learn to do."

"We're pleased with almost everything we're doing. We're putting ourselves in position to win games."

Colorado (3-3) had a chance in every game but couldn't pull away down the stretch. In the third game, the Buffs led most of the way, only to see the Rams (3-3) rally in the end. Colorado held a 24-22 lead, but the Rams rallied to take a 29-27 lead. Kills by Mallori Gibson and Emilee Sisco made it close, but it wasn't enough.

"We need to work on finishing," Sisco said. "Throughout the game we do a good job of staying on top or tied."

In the second game, the Buffaloes were close to taking control, but that's when the Rams tightened up. Two big blocks by Strauss gave CSU a 29-27 lead, and Barnes ended it with a powerful kill to put the Rams up 2-0 in the match.

"Jaime Strauss is one of the top outside hitters in the nation," Aiu said. "She does so much more for you than hit. I have a lot of admiration for what she does."

Neither team dominated the first game, either. The Rams and Buffaloes seesawed throughout, and with the score tied at 27, the Rams pulled away. Kills by Amanda Fahnestock and Tonya Mokolki brought CSU to match point, and after a kill by Gibson made it close, Fahnestock ended the Buffaloes' nine-game winning streak with a kill.

"We played at a high level, we just didn't execute like we should have," said Gibson, who had a match-high 18 kills. "We never let down throughout the whole match."

Colorado will try to rebound against Winthrop today at 5 p.m. in the second day of the Hilton Classic. After bouncing back from two disappointing losses to open the season, the Buffaloes are confident they can do it again.

"Every match we try to forget about, whether we win or lose, and try to focus on the next match," Gibson said.



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