



Competition level spikes for CU

Volleyball team off to best start in program history

By Ryan Thorburn

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The Colorado volleyball team is off to the best start in the history of the program.

And the Buffs haven't even played a game in Boulder yet.

Pi'i Aiu, whose team is 6-0 after winning tournaments in Mississippi and Texas, is obviously very pleased with the results so far. But the long-time CU head coach understands his senior-laden squad's level of play will have to rise dramatically this week during the Colorado Invitational.

The Buffs host 21st-ranked Colorado State tonight on the brand new floor at the Coors Events Center. They will face No. 8 Florida on Thursday and finish the tournament against North Carolina on Saturday. All three home matches will start at 6:30 p.m.

"Winning is a learned behavior," Aiu said. "And we're kind of relearning that behavior."

CU is coming off a difficult 6-22 season, but those painful memories have faded somewhat after cruising to tournament titles at the Mississippi State Classic and Islander Beach Invitational. The Buffs have a pair of true road wins against Mississippi State and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

"The fact that we went on the road and beat two teams on their home court that are pretty good is very encouraging," Aiu said. "We're 6-0 away from home and that's all good. But we are used to playing a real tough non-conference schedule and that's what we've got coming up."

The Rams (5-1) have won four consecutive matches against CU and have a 20-11 advantage in the series. Last season CSU swept the Buffs 30-28, 30-27, 30-28 in Fort Collins.

"CSU is a real good team. They're going to be a top-15 team this year and would have already cracked the top 15 if they hadn't lost to Pepperdine," Aiu said. "Mekana Barnes is one of top middle (blockers) in country. For her height, inch for inch, she's probably the best. ... They're going to present some problems for us, but that's what we need right now."

Lauren Schaefer was named the most valuable player at the Mississippi State Classic and leads the team with a 51.2 attack percentage. Alex Buth was the MVP at the Islander Beach Invitational and leads the team with 67 kills. Perhaps even better news for the Buffs is the fact that Amber Sutherland (39 kills), who sat out last season after shoulder surgery, is starting to regain her all-conference form.

"Our seniors are doing a nice job both in their play and leading the team. They're leading by committee by now," Aiu said. "Amber played her way into being better this past weekend. She hasn't played

volleyball in just over a year and she's playing her way back into getting better and better."

Hempen's Buffs

hit the road

The CU soccer team will take a three-game win streak on the road when the Buffs play at Mississippi on Friday and at Memphis on Sunday.

Bill Hempen's Buffs are coming off an impressive 4-0 victory over James Madison on Sunday at Prentup Field to improve to 3-1-1 (1-0 Big 12).

Senior Amber Bettenhausen scored two goals to lead the way. Alex Cousins and Kelly Menachof each added goals off penalty kicks.

The Buffs have scored 11 goals in their last three games after tallying just one goal during a 0-1-1 start to the season.

"We've been practicing a lot and we're a lot calmer around the goal than we were during the first few games," Bettenhausen said. "Everyone really did a great job for us today and we hope to keep this momentum going into next weekend."

CU's match in Oxford, Miss., will begin at 6 p.m. and the match at Memphis will begin at noon.

Ole Miss (1-2-2) is coming off its first victory of the season, a 1-0 shutout of Southern Miss on Sunday. The Rebels lost 2-1 to Memphis, which hosts another Big 12 foe in Oklahoma on Friday, earlier this season.



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Tolan earns first career college victory

Camera staff report

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

SAN FRANCISCO -- Colorado senior Derek Tolan captured co-medalist honors Tuesday in the San Francisco Olympic Club Intercollegiate for his first career win in a college golf tournament.

Tolan had never finished in the top five before Tuesday's win.

He tied California's Michael Jensen with an even-par 213 after firing a one-under par 70 in Tuesday's final round.

"It feels good," Tolan said. "I'm not going to lie, it definitely does feel good."

Behind Tolan's effort, the Buffs were second as a team.

Tolan birdied four of his last seven holes to catch Jensen.

Tolan's effort likely paced the best season opening performance by the Buffaloes in their history. California claimed the team crown with a wire-to-wire win, posting a 9-over par 861 team score. That bested the Buffaloes (869) by eight, though CU closed the gap from 15 after 36 holes.

Senior Patrick Grady, playing in his first collegiate tournament in over 15 months after taking a redshirt season for 2007-08, tied for seventh overall after closing with a 1-under 70 Tuesday for a 2-over 215 total. He had four birdies, two in the last three holes, and three bogeys for his round.

CU's three other players all closed with 2-over 73s on the 6,855-yard, par 71 Lake Course at The Olympic Club.

The Buffs return to action next Monday and Tuesday in the Ron Moore Invitational at Denver's Green Valley Ranch Golf Club.

San Francisco Intercollegiate

TOP 5 INDIVIDUALS

T1. Derek Tolan, Colorado 74-69-70--213

T1. Michael Jensen, California 71-70-72--213

T3. C.Cunningham, S.Francisco 70-73-71--214

T3. Scott Smith, Nevada 70-74-70--214

T3. Paul Peterson, Ore.St. 73-74-67--214

OTHER BUFFS

T7. Patrick Grady 70-75-70--215

T25. Kevin Kring 76-71-73--220

T32. Luke Symons 75-74-73--222

T36. Justin Bardgett 75-75-73--223

TOP 5 TEAMS 1. California 861; 2. Colorado 869; 3. Alabama-Birmingham 873; 4. Xavier 876; 5. San Diego 877; 5. Oregon State 877.

CU's Childs second

in first tourney

FORT COLLINS -- Freshman Emily Childs took second place Tuesday in her first collegiate tournament, and in the process led the University of Colorado women's golf team to a runner-up finish in the CSU Ptarmigan Ram Fall Classic.

Childs, leading the individual field for a majority of the third round, posted a 209. She closed play Tuesday with a one-under 71 on the Ptarmigan Country Club golf course layout.

Her 209 was a school record for the lowest 54-hole score in program history, besting former Buff Lindsay Senger's 214 at CSU in 2006 by five strokes.

"I am really excited," Childs said. "We all played well and tried to win but Cal ended up playing better. I am definitely proud of how I played all three rounds and very happy with how everything worked out for our first tournament." No. 20 California took first place with a score of 846, which was good for a six-stroke win over the Buffaloes.

CU closed with a program-best 12-under 852, despite pulling within one stroke of the Golden Bears on multiple occasions in the final round.

CU junior Dominique Pytlewski and fellow freshman Emily Talley each tied for seventh with a 213.

The Buffaloes return to action on Sept. 18-20 when they travel to Albuquerque, N.M., for the UNM Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invitational.

Ram Fall Classic

TOP INDIVIDUALS

1. Shannon Yocum, California 71-67-70-208

2. Emily Childs, Colorado 71-67-71-209

T3. Cindy LaCrosse, Louisville 70-69-71-210

T3 Lee Lopez, Long Beach State 68-74-68-210

5. Pia Halbig, California 69-70-72-211

6 Erica Moston, San Jose State 71-72-69-212

T7. Dom.Pytlewski, Colorado 69-70-74-213

T7. Emily Talley, Colorado 70-70-73-213

T7. Danlle Cvitanov, S. Francisco 73-74-66-213

T7. Allison Goodman, California 72-67-74-213

OTHER BUFFS

T18. Julie Kim 73-72-72-217

55. Stephanie Simich 79-75-74-228

Team scores -- 1. California 846, 2. Colorado 852, 3. Louisville 858, 4. San Jose State 872, 5. San Francisco 876, 6. Long Beach State 877, 7. Baylor 879, 8. Colorado State 883, 9. Fresno State 889, 10. Brigham Young 890.



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