

MORNING SUN

Relatively rolling

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When Central Michigan needed it most, goalkeeper Anne Decker made her best saves.

Decker and the Chippewas stayed undefeated through four games Sunday afternoon by defeating Illinois State 2-1 in overtime, with the senior goalie giving her team new life on more than one occasion.

"She has been playing out of her mind," CMU coach Tony DiTucci said. "She does a good job of directing everyone and is a great asset to have back there."

In the previous Chippewa game Friday, a 1-0 shutout of the University of Detroit, Decker became the all-time winningest goalie in CMU history with 28 career wins.

On Saturday, the best two saves of her nine saves came when the game was on the line.

With the score tied at 1-1, Decker made a sprawling save with 32 seconds remaining in regulation and the ball was punched away harmlessly.

After the contest made its way to overtime, it wasn't long before Illinois State (1-2-1) had another scoring opportunity at the 9:20 mark. But Decker made another diving stop and then coralled the rebound attempt to preserve the game.

The momentum from those two saves changed the complexion of the game as the ball made its way to the other end.

A CMU shot attempt by Molly Gerst was deflected away by Illinois State goalie Andrea Shaw, but right onto the foot of sophomore Kylie Armstrong, who put the ball into the open left corner of the net for the game-winning goal.

"It was a back and forth game that could have gone either way," DiTucci said. "The shot totals were similar and both teams had the same amount of corner kicks. It was a pretty even matchup."

The youth of the CMU lineup stepped up in a big way to help the squad improve to 4-0. Freshman Amanda Waugh was the scorer of the first-half goal that tied the score at 1-1 as she took a perfect pass over the top of the defense by fellow freshman Amanda Burns.

"We wanted to try and get forward quickly. (Burns) made a great feed on the goal," DiTucci said.

Burns also appeared to have given the Chippewas a 2-1 lead with 41:35 left in the second half on a rainbow boot into the top right corner, but the goal was disallowed because of an offside call.

"That is probably the best game she has played for us so far," DiTucci said of Burns.

Armstrong then put her mark on the contest with the winner after entering the game in place of Burns at the 24:00 mark of the second half.

It wasn't the most elegant of wins according to DiTucci, but he was pleased that his team found a way to get the job done.

"We're proud of them. They just find a way to win and it isn't always pretty, but different players have stepped up for us at different times. Today it was the younger players," DiTucci said. "We battled through and made the most of our chances."

The CMU women now take the undefeated record on the road for three games, with the trip beginning with a game Friday at Niagara. Action begins at 3:30 p.m.

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