

Oct. 18 Girls Soccer



Is this any way to treat a friend? Steinert's Natalie DeAngelo (11) and Adrianna Boucher (16) tackle Stephanie Miranda after her second-half goal gave Steinert a 2-0 lead today (Photo by Mike Dill/purchase photos at michaeldillphotography.com).

Buzgo's return from concussion bolsters Steinert with MCT looming

By Rich Fisher

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Oct. 18: Aside from Briyanna Femia showing she is gearing up for another big tournament season by making 15 saves for Steinert's girls soccer team today, the Spartans defense got some more good news.

Senior back Angelina Buzgo played for the first time in two weeks after suffering a concussion against Princeton on Oct. 4, and helped the Spartans to a 2-0 victory over Allentown on Senior Day at

Steinert.

With sweeper Mollie Coyne still out injured, Buzgo's return was timely as the Spartans begin Mercer County Tournament play Saturday at Hightstown.

"Mollie will probably miss Saturday but be back after that," coach Aimee Turnbull said. "It's great to get Angelina back. She adds a lot of experience for us, she can help us defensively, which she did today because Mollie is still out. She can also help us go forward on offense."

Buzgo said she felt no ill effects from the concussion, but did admit to being a bit hesitant on head balls.

"I was nervous I was gonna start hurting," she said. "I was avoiding head balls so it wouldn't hurt, but that was hard. I never realized how much you used your head until you can't use it."

Buzgo's return helped Steinert (7-4-3) come up with a big win over a Redbirds team that has a lusty 13-4-1 record.

The Spartans took a 1-0 lead midway through the first half when Darah Wagner sent a ball into the box that Adrianna Boucher re-directed over the goal line.

It stayed that way until the second half, when Natalie DeAngelo's shot went off goalie Amanda Hornyak and Stephanie Miranda was there to convert the rebound.

Steinert maintained the lead as Femia showed that the Spartans will have that always valuable strong goaltending heading into the post-season.

"She got more action today," Turnbull said. "She's made some critical saves throughout the season. Sometimes maybe she didn't have to make a lot of saves but when she had to make those saves, she did. Her timing is impeccable."

Next up for the Spartans is a strong Hightstown team (10 a.m. Saturday), which took a 2-1 win over Steinert on Sep. 24. Since that game, the Spartans have gone 4-1-3 with their only loss being to WW-P North.

"We haven't addressed it yet," said Turnbull, whose team lost to Pennington in last year's finals. "It's an incentive playing them. Every team we've played we've hung in there or beaten them.

"It's really up for grabs, that's what's going to make us hungry, knowing anyone can win it. If we play well it will be a good match for us, but Hightstown is a great team. I thought we did some nice things today, so it's exciting."

Buzgo said the veteran leaders are still working on some bonding, but it's slowly coming around.

"We've been working on pasta parties and try to get everyone together for team chemistry, that's one thing we don't have as much as last year," she said. "That's hurt us a little bit. But we're gonna crack down on that more. It's important now."

So is having a veteran defender like Buzgo back in the lineup. If not for the Spartans, just for Angelina's sanity.

"It was killing me so much sitting out," she said. "It was brutal.

"I asked the doctors when it happened if I would be back by Senior Day and they said it depended how my symptoms went. The timing was perfect for me. If it was a day later I wouldn't have been able to play, so this was pretty cool."

And pretty important in the grand scheme of things.

Nottingham falls as Toscano's big game can't overcome Princeton

Chelsea Toscano continued her season-long standout play in goal with 15 saves today, but it couldn't help Nottingham as the Northstars dropped a 2-0 decision at Princeton.

Next up for the Northstars is a first-round MCT game at WW-P North.

Hornets rally falls short in loss to Notre Dame

After spotting Notre Dame a three-goal lead, Hamilton put forth a comeback effort in the second half but couldn't close the deal in dropping a 3-2 decision to the Irish. Freshman Taylor Nelson scored both Hornet goals but it was "too little too late" according to coach Anthony Tessein.

Hamilton visits Princeton for a first-round MCT game.