Tekle keys Buffs' win opener

JEFFERSON CITY — With Nahom Tekle knocking in three goals, Milligan started its season with a 4-2 victory over NCAA Division II Carson-Newman on Thursday night.

The Buffaloes got a quick start from Tekle as he scored his first goal on an assist from Sandre Wilson in the game's seventh minute. In the ninth minute, Tekle was on the receiving end of a pass from Nimely Robertson to give Milligan an early 2-0 lead.

The Buffaloes got on the board again in the 16th minute when Tekle knocked in a pass from Chris Ochieng to put Milligan up 3-0 at the half.

Carson-Newman opened the scoring for the second half as Joao Pedro Dowlsey found the goal in the 54th minute, and the Eagles saw Jared Prall score in the 81st minute. However, Jessup Ebanks responded in the 75th minute with a goal on an assist from Tekle to keep the Eagles at bay.

Defensively, Alex Haun recorded four saves.

"I felt it was a good start for us," Buffs coach Adam Laney said. "We need to be a little more sound on defense, but it is a great start."

The Buffaloes return to action on Saturday when they participate in the Michael Shope Memorial Tournament at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, N.C. Milligan will square off against the University of Montevallo at 1 p.m.