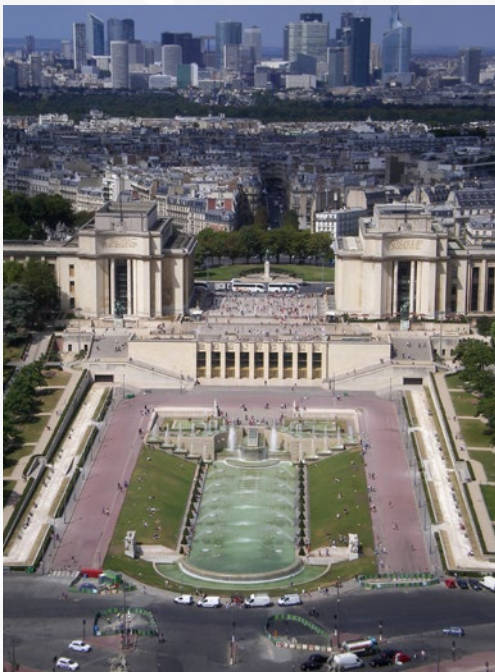


2012 EUROPE TOUR

BUFFS EMBARKED ON 5-GAME, 10-DAY EUROPEAN TOUR



The University of Colorado men's basketball team traveled across the Atlantic Ocean for a five-game, 10-day European trip in August taking them to Paris (France), Antwerp (Belgium) and Amsterdam (The Netherlands). It's the second time in history the CU men's basketball team has traveled to Europe for an exhibition tour in the off-season.

In 1997 from May 20-30, the CU men's basketball team played squads from England and Germany achieving a 2-2 record. In September of 2006, CU travelled to Vancouver, British Columbia winning all three games they played in.

This past August 13, CU left Denver International Airport (DIA) on Monday morning en route to Chicago, then landed in Paris the following day at 9:25 a.m. local time (8 hours and 20 minutes later) on Aug. 14.

All three European cities were eight hours ahead of mountain time.

The basketball team stayed in Paris three nights and started play against the AMW France Elite team on back-to-back nights.

Game #1 (August 15) CU dropped an 86-73 decision as sophomores Spencer Dinwiddie and Askia Booker each scored 13 points to pace the Buffaloes, while junior forward Andre Roberson added 11 points and 20 rebounds. Kevin Seraphin led all scorers with 24 points for the winners. Michel Toti and Ada Sane chipped-in with 16 and 14 points, respectively for AMW France.

The more experienced collection of professional players from the AMW France All-Stars led throughout the game in a close back-forth dual with the younger Buffaloes. With CU trailing 50-47 at the break, the Buffs jumped ahead early in the third quarter (international play 10 minute quarters) on a Booker three-point play and freshman forward Josh Scott's layup, giving CU a 52-50 lead after holding the home team scoreless for 3:15 minutes to open the third quarter. AMW France pulled even and took the lead for good, and led by as many as nine points on the strength of a pair of treys.

CU trailed 59-56 in the third quarter with five freshmen on the court at the same time. From there, it was a close battle as AMW France slowly pulled away pushing ahead 75-69 with 5:36 to play. Freshman Xavier Johnson recorded nine points and seven rebounds in his college debut, while Scott added 12 points on 6-of-9 shooting.

Game #2 (August 16) Both teams again played one another the following night as freshman Josh Scott tied a team-high 13 points with 10 rebounds, and junior Andre Roberson added 13 points, nine rebounds and four steals in CU's 91-74 loss against the AMW France Elite "Pro A" All-Stars at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin in Paris.

The Buffs started strong racing out to a 9-0 lead keeping the home team scoreless through the first 7:25 of the first quarter. Roberson's three-point play on a dunk after a steal pushed CU into a commanding 11-2 lead 4:35 remaining in the quarter. However, AMW France countered and evened the game at 15-15 after 10 minutes of play.

The second quarter remained close until AMW pulled away outscoring the Americans, 26-17 in the latter 10 minutes taking a 41-32 lead at the half. The home team broke open the third quarter outscoring CU, 31-25 and erupting for 11-of-14 shooting from the field (78.6 percent), including four, three-pointers. AMW pushed its advantage to at least 13 points on two occasions in the second half. Kevin Seraphin led all scorers with 16 points (8-of-14 FG shooting) and Giovan Oniangue added 14 points and four rebounds.

The French shot 58.3 percent from the field (35-of-60) for the game. CU was led by freshman Xavier Johnson off the bench with 12 points and five rebounds, while sophomore Spencer Dinwiddie added seven points and four boards. Senior Sabatino Chen had six rebounds and sophomore Askia Booker added 10 points.

Among the activities the team experienced other than basketball was a Paris city tour that including The Eiffel Tower, a Seine River Cruise, the Louvre Museum, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Champs-Elysees.

The team left Paris and travelled by bus to Bruges, Belgium, western Europe's most-visited medieval cities for lunch and a city tour. The city was picturesque city squares and canals. The tour guide said Bruges was untouched during both World Wars.

Game #3 (August 18) Freshman Josh Scott scored a game-high 19 points leading CU with a balanced scoring attack as the Buffaloes broke open a close game in the third quarter into a 91-63 rout over Optima Ghent at the Sportarena Tolhuis. Day five of CU's 10-day European Trip saw junior Andre Roberson add 15 points and 14 rebounds, sophomore Askia Booker chip-in with 18 points and six assists, with freshmen Chris Jenkins and Xavier Johnson adding 12 and 10 points, respectively. Jenkins and Johnson grabbed six rebounds apiece.

"We made fewer defensive mistakes with fewer breakdowns, that's why we gave up 63 points rather than 80's, 90's in which we did the first two games," said CU head coach Tad Boyle. "Obviously, the level of competition tonight wasn't what it was like the first two games. I was really pleased with the way our team responded. We had about an hour and an half film session this afternoon and that, I think the guys took it to heart and really tried to go out on the floor and execute the things we talked about."

The game was close through the first 30 minutes (10-minute quarters) with CU holding a 59-53 lead, then raced out to a crushing 32-10 fourth quarter, limiting the Dragons to 10 points in the final stanza. CU scored six straight points to open the quarter increasing its advantage to 65-53 before Optima Ghent scored on a three-pointer.

From there, the rout was on as CU went on a 16-0 run with a strong display of inside and perimeter play led by Roberson's eight points. The Americans dominated the glass with a 50-19 advantage (23 offensive) and shot 45.8 percent from the field compared to the home team's 40 percent.

The Buffs trailed after the first quarter 22-19, however led each quarter thereafter. Scott was 9-of-15 from the field; Booker was 8-of-11; and Roberson went 7-of-13, along with three steals. Thomas Van de Vandel led Optima Ghent with 19 points.

Game #4 (August 19) Trailing by 10 points with two minutes to play, the CU men's basketball team almost pulled off a stunning come-from-behind victory from its underclassmen, only to fall in the final seconds to Gembo BCC, Borgerhout, 88-86 at the Sporthal Luisbekelaar. The Buffaloes played the entire game without its upperclassmen presence of Askia Booker, Sabatino Chen, Spencer Dinwiddie, and Andre Roberson.

CU countered with the entire game on Sunday with all six freshmen, first-year transfer players, and their returning reserves from a year ago. Most of CU's firepower that generated 56.2 percent scoring and 70.5 percent of rebounding a year ago, did not play. The Americans started the game with forwards Wesley Gordon and Xavier Johnson; guards Xavier Talton, Eli Stalzer and Chris Jenkins. Forwards Josh Scott and Xavier Johnson came off the bench with juniors Ben Mills and Kevin Nelson and sophomore transfer Beau Gamble seeing minutes.

COLORADO BUFFALOES

Scott led all scorers with 24 points with six rebounds and a blocked shot.

"We added a fifth game on this trip trying to get some guys as many minutes, and as much as a flow of the game in a normal situation, to give them that experience, so we went with a nine-man rotation," said CU head coach Tad Boyle.

"It gave us a great look into our freshmen class that are not normally in the rotation and getting them some minutes, so I thought the way we competed and lose by two to a very quality team that I think is better than the team we beat last night (Sat., Aug. 18), it gives us a lot of things to build on. The thing about this trip, is you want to learn as much as you can about your young players and we had a chance to do that today."

The Buffaloes were playing their second game in less than 24 hours were also led by Jenkins with 17 points and eight rebounds; Stalzer scored 10 points with six steals; and Gordon chipped-in with seven rebounds, six points, two steals and two blocks. Johnson added 11 points.

Trailing 74-66 with 1:47 to play, Gembo BBC made back-to-back treys for what seemed like a commanding 84-74 lead. Scott scored the next bucket with a power move in the paint, then Nelson added four points, inching CU closer and an 86-83 deficit with 16.6 seconds to play. With no timeouts, CU managed to force the home team into a turnover where Jenkins subsequently missed a three-pointer to tie. Gembo BBC added a pair of free throws for an 88-83 lead and Stalzer closed the gap with a three-pointer at the buzzer. Gembo, whose average age is 28, was the Belgian Division II 2011-2012 champion and returned 10 players from its title team a year ago were led by Domien Loubry with 22 points and six three-pointers.

Four CU players, Talton, Scott, Gordon, Johnson, all fouled out one-by-one in the fourth quarter.

CU shot 45.9 percent from the field (28-of-61) and committed 29 turnovers. Gembo BBC shot 49.2 percent for the game (29-of-59).

Game #5 (August 20) In their final game of the tour, the Buffaloes broke open a six-point first quarter lead into a 23-point cushion at halftime and cruised to a 96-57 victory over the Rotterdam Challengers at the Topsportcentrum. The Buffaloes dominated every facet of the game from a 55-29 advantage on the glass and forced Rotterdam into 25 turnovers. CU shot 47 percent from the field (41-of-87) to wrap up the five-game exhibition against semi-professional teams from France, Belgium and The Netherlands with a 2-3 record.

"Tonight was our best performance as a team; offensively, defensively, our bench played very well and I was really pleased with the way we played," said CU head coach Tad Boyle. "Individually, there were some great performances as well. The best thing from this trip is every player really improved; every player got a chance to play and get in the flow of real-live game situations against good competition. This trip is invaluable to our program this year."

CU recorded a five-game best 47 made field goals with four players in double figures led by freshman Josh Scott with 19 points (8-of-13) and five rebounds; junior Andre Roberson (18 points, 12 rebounds) and freshman Xavier Johnson (11 points, 10 rebounds) notched double-doubles; and senior Sabatino Chen poured in 11 points, six rebounds, six assists, and six steals.

Freshman Wesley Gordon chipped-in with eight points and six rebounds, while sophomore Askia Booker added nine points and five assists. Everyone played in the game for CU with 11 of 13 players scoring (Dinwiddie and Beau Gamble six points each; Xavier Talton four points and five rebounds; Ben Mills and Eli Stalzer two points each). Juniors Jeremy Adams and Shane Harris-Tunks did not play in any of the five games as both were nursing injuries.

With a six-point first quarter lead (26-20) engineered by Scott's seven points and Chen's four assists, CU held the Challengers scoreless through the first 4:40 of the second quarter, jumping out to a 34-20 lead before the home team scored their first basket.

CU then raced out to a 42-22 margin behind Scott's eight points, then three-point plays by Booker and Dinwiddie pushed their advantage to 57-34 at the break. Rotterdam was out-scored 31-14 in the second quarter, while CU also dominated the glass during the first 20 minutes by a 32-13 margin.

The third quarter was the same as the second as Chen scored six of CU's next 10 points for a 67-34 lead, while Rotterdam could only generate 10 points in the third quarter. CU's starters out-scored Rotterdam's, 53-27. The game's attendance was also played in front of a well-attended crowd (374 in attendance) and was easily the most-attended game surpassing the previous four games combined.

CU closed its stay in Amsterdam on Tuesday with a tour of the Anne Frank House in the afternoon followed by a Canal Cruise and BBQ farewell dinner. Wednesday morning the Buffaloes departed Amsterdam en route to Chicago then Denver.

