

K-Mac`s squad vows to not overlook San Jose State

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The Buffs aren't expecting an easy victory this time, but the plan is to get some more easy baskets.

During last Saturday's 88-36 ambush of Southern Utah -- a game Colorado led 24-0 and 40-2 -- Kathy McConnell-Miller's team extended its trapping defense full court and scored 33 points off of 27 turnovers.

Chucky Jeffery and Brittany Spears each had four steals. CU finished with 13 thefts as a team.

"We're a good defensive team and when we put pressure on teams they get a little rattled and cough the ball up," Jeffery said. "That's what we're looking to do (tonight)."

The Buffs (7-2) host San Jose State at the Coors Events Center. The scheduled tip time is 8 p.m. or 30 minutes after the conclusion of the CU men's game against Cal State Northridge.

San Jose State (3-7) is averaging 22.1 turnovers per game, including 36 in an 84-81 overtime victory at Sacramento State last Friday.

"Chucky and Brittany have instincts that are something that I can't teach," McConnell-Miller said. "They're long and their size and athleticism are such an advantage."

CU is 6-0 at home this season. However, San Jose State is 2-0 in true road games, including a 68-66 victory at No. 22 Cal on Dec. 9.

McConnell-Miller insists that her team will not be looking past the Spartans or thinking about taking some time off for the holidays until tonight's game is concluded. "There are several things they can do against us. We're prepared for zone, we're prepared for man," McConnell-Miller said. "But I think the mentality is we need to finish strong before Christmas break before we go home. Nobody is checking out before 10 o'clock (tonight)."

Jeffery, a talented 5-10 freshman, said playing so many games at the Coors Events Center early in the season has helped her adjust the Division I level. Through the first nine games of her CU career she is averaging 9.0 points, 5.3 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 2.3 steals.

"When we have away games it's weird," Jeffery said. "Playing home games just got me a lot more comfortable because I practice here and it's just normal for me to be here. ...

"It's just that home feeling. We have our own fans here, all of our support here, and it's our court. We have to protect it. That's just how we feel."

Backup guard Kelly Jo Mullaney is questionable for tonight's game with a sprained ankle. Starting forward/center Courtney Dunn will be back in the rotation after McConnell-Miller benched her for the Southern Utah game.

TODAY'S GAME: Colorado plays San Jose State at 8 p.m. at the Coors Events Center.

BROADCAST: Television: none; Radio: KKZN (760 AM) with Mike (play-by-play) and Carol Callan (color).

STORYLINES: The Buffs (7-2) improved to 6-0 at home with an 88-36 victory over Southern Utah. CU led the game 24-0 and 40-2 in the first half. ... The Spartans (3-7) have bounced back from a 1-7 start with two consecutive wins, including a stunning 68-66 victory at No. 22 Cal. ... San Jose State is 2-0 in true road games.

KEY STAT: The Buffs scored 33 points off of 27 Southern Utah turnovers. The Spartans average 12.4 assists and 22.1 turnovers per game.

COACHES: Kathy McConnell-Miller is 59-73 in her fifth year at CU. Pam DeCosta is 8-63 in her third season at San Jose State.

PROBABLE STARTERS:

Colorado -- G Chucky Jeffery, 5-10, freshman, 9.0 ppg, 5.3 rpg, G Alyssa Fressle, 5-10, sophomore, 5.1 ppg, 2.8 rpg, G/F Brittany Spears, 6-1, junior, 19.3 ppg, 9.3 rpg, F Meagan Malcom-Peck, 6-2, freshman, 7.7 ppg, 5.7 rpg, F/C Courtney Dunn, 6-4, senior, 4.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg.

San Jose State -- G Sayja Sumler, 5-9, junior, 7.4 ppg, 4.6 rpg, G Rachel Finnegan, 5-9, freshman, 0.6 ppg, 1.9 rpg, G Chasity Shavers, 5-11, senior, 16.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, F Mamesha Hall, 6-0, junior, 4.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg, F Shaunna Ridge, 6-0, senior, 7.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg.

SERIES: This is the first meeting between the two teams.

UP NEXT: The Buffs host Grambling State on Dec. 30 at the Coors Events Center (7 p.m., no television).

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