

Colorado loses 19th road game in row vs. Division I opponent

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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CORVALLIS, Ore. -- The road continues to be as cruel to the Buffs as a Cormac McCarthy novel.

Colorado played hard and led for most of the game but still lost 74-69 to Oregon State on Friday night at Gill Coliseum in front of a subdued crowd still mourning the Beavers' loss to rival Oregon 24 hours earlier in the Civil War.

The Buffs have lost 19 consecutive road games against Division I opponents. The program's last such victory was on Dec. 22, 2007, at Colorado State (73-70). CU returns to Moby Arena next Thursday to face the rival Rams.

Technically, thanks to a generous ruling by the NCAA, CU's 18-game road losing streak ended with the 73-58 victory over Division II Chaminade -- the host team of the EA Sports Maui Invitational -- on Nov. 25.

"Yeah, it's a good feeling," senior Dwight Thorne said when asked if he remembered what it felt like to silence a hostile arena. "At Kansas last year the crowd was pretty much irrelevant throughout the game. That's a great feeling when you make shots and the crowd goes quiet and they stay quiet the whole game."

The Buffs (5-3) lost at Allen Fieldhouse last season after blowing a late lead. This was a more realistic opportunity to fly home victorious considering the Beavers lost 65-63 to Sacramento State in their previous homegame.

Cory Higgins -- who entered the game second in the Big 12 in scoring (20.7 ppg) behind Oklahoma State's James Anderson (21.0 ppg) -- finished with 15 points. Super freshman Alec Burks led the way for the Buffs with a team-high 19 points.

It wasn't enough as Nate Tomlinson missed a pair of free throws that could have given CU the lead in the final minute trailing 70-69. Oregon State went 4-for-4 at the stripe in the final 17.2 seconds to pull out the victory in the Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series matchup.

"It's extremely disappointing. We did a horrific job of containing the ball and on defensive rebounding and fouling people," CU head coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "Toughness is containing the ball. Toughness is defensive rebounding. Toughness is finishing at the rim, we had opportunities at the rim and we just flipped it up there. Toughness is defending without fouling."

CU out-rebounded the Beavers 32-30, but Oregon State was 26-for-34 from the line and shot 51.1 percent from the field for the game.

A basket by Jared Cunningham with 12:37 gave Oregon State its first lead since 2-0. Burks answered with a putback off an offensive rebounds and gave CU a 53-50 lead on a pair of free throws with 10:00 left.

After the Beavers (3-4) surged ahead by three points, Marcus Relphorde tied the score 64-64 on a 3-pointer and then gave the Buffs a 67-64 lead with another clutch shot from behind the arc with 2:33 remaining.

Oregon State scored the next four points, all at the line, to pull ahead 68-67. Relphorde drew a foul and swished his free throws to give CU a one-point edge with 1:35 remaining.

A Calvin Haynes jumper put the Beavers back on top, and Tomlinson missed a pair of free throws with 46.9 seconds left.

Cunningham caught the Buffs napping and scored a layup after having the opening tap sent to him en route to the basket on a set play.

CU responded with a 7-2 run capped with a Thorne 3-pointer.

Dufault picked up his second foul with 17:08 remaining in the first half. Casey Crawford came in and increased the visitors' lead to 17-12 with a backdoor layup.

The Beavers went on a 6-0 run to cut the deficit to one point, prompting Bzdelik to call a timeout with 9:21 left in the half. CU regrouped and built a 36-31 lead by the intermission as Higgins splashed a mid-range jumper at the buzzer.

Alec Burks led all scorers with 13 points at halftime on 5-for-8 shooting. The 6-foot-6 freshman guard also grabbed five of CU's 15 rebounds in the first 20 minutes.

Haynes came off the bench and scored 11 points in the first half, including both of Oregon State's 3-pointers.

CU was 12-for-25 (48 percent) from the field and 10-for-12 (83.3 percent) at the line compared to 10-for-23 (43.5 percent) and 9-for-16 (56.3) in those departments for the Beavers.

The Buffs return home on Monday to face Colorado Christian.

Oregon State 74, Colorado 69

COLORADO (69)

FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Rlphrde 29 3-9 5-6 1-1 0 2 13

Dufault 12 3-5 1-1 2-4 0 4 7

Burks 36 7-13 5-7 6-9 1 1 19

Higgins 39 5-12 4-4 1-3 3 1 15

Thorne 19 2-5 2-2 0-3 1 3 7

Tmlinsn 26 1-5 0-3 0-3 3 3 2

H-Tunks 15 1-2 0-0 2-4 0 4 2

Crawfrd 8 1-3 0-0 0-0 0 2 2

Hrnckl 16 1-1 0-0 1-2 1 2 2

Totals 200 24-55 17-23 15-32 9 22 69

Percentages: FG .436, FT .739.

3-Point Goals: 4-17, .235 (Relphorde 2-4, [C.Higgins](#) 1-3, Thorne II 1-4, Crawford 0-1, Burks 0-2, Tomlinson 0-3).

Team Rebounds: 3.

Blocked Shots: 1 ([C.Higgins](#)).

Turnovers: 12 (Burks 3, [C.Higgins](#) 2, Tomlinson 2, Harris-Tunks 2, Thorne II, Hornbuckle).

Steals: 4 (Burks 2, Relphorde, [C.Higgins](#)).

Technical Fouls: None.

OREGON STATE (74)

FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Tarver 32 6-10 2-2 1-4 1 1 14

Deane 21 0-1 1-2 1-4 0 4 1

Burton 19 3-8 2-4 2-5 2 3 8

Cninghm 27 3-6 7-7 1-1 1 1 13

JTarver 20 2-2 0-0 0-2 2 2 4

Hampton 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Schaftnr 21 1-3 8-8 0-5 0 1 10

Brandt 13 0-1 0-1 0-0 0 2 0

Haynes 30 6-9 5-7 1-4 1 3 19

Johnson 7 1-2 0-1 1-1 0 0 2

Wallace 8 1-3 1-2 1-1 0 1 3

Totals 200 23-45 26-34 9-30 7 18 74

Percentages: FG .511, FT .765.

3-Point Goals: 2-8, .250 (Haynes 2-3, Brandt 0-1, Wallace 0-1, Deane 0-1, [S.Tarver](#) 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 3.

Blocked Shots: 1 (Haynes).

Turnovers: 10 (Haynes 3, [J.Tarver](#) 3, Burton 2, Wallace, Deane).

Steals: 8 ([J.Tarver](#) 2, Wallace 2, Cunningham 2, Deane, [S.Tarver](#)).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 36 33--69

Oregon St. 31 43--74

A -- 5,417.

Officials -- Scott Thornley, Verne Harris, Michael Irving.

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Road no trouble for CU's Burks

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 12/05/2009 12:13:24 AM MST

CORVALLIS, Ore. -- It looks like Alec Burks is as poised on the road as he is at the Coors Events Center.

Colorado's talented 6-foot-6 freshman guard led CU with a game-high 19 points during the Buffs' 74-69 loss to Oregon State on Friday night at Gill Coliseum in the Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series.

Burks shot 7-for-13 with nine rebounds, including six on the offensive glass.

"I'm trying to help my team out any way I can," Burks said. "They weren't blocking me out so I just went in there and tried to get rebounds."

Burks, who has started all eight games of his CU career, was 10th in the Big 12 in scoring entering the game (15.6 ppg).

"He is a tremendous scorer. He can do everything," Cory Higgins said of Burks. "Teams are going to have to respect him. He just puts that much more pressure on their defense and he makes a lot of plays for other people."

Burks led all scorers with 13 points at halftime as CU led 36-31. And after the Beavers took their first lead (46-45) since 2-0, he grabbed a key offensive rebound and scored to silence the crowd.

"Alec is very athletic, very versatile, he helps create for everybody," Marcus Relphorde said. "He's very valuable to the team."

Big 12 dominating

CU's defeat aside, so far the Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series is lopsided in 2009.

The Big 12 still leads the challenge 4-1.

Thursday was a brilliant night for the Big 12 with Texas Tech knocking off No. 10 Washington in overtime (99-92), No. 2 Texas beating up on USC in Austin (69-50) and Baylor pulling off a mild upset at Arizona State (64-61).

Tonight Oregon plays at Missouri, Washington State plays at Kansas State and California plays at Iowa State.

No. 1 Kansas welcomes a struggling UCLA team -- the Bruins are 2-4 with losses to Cal State Fullerton, Portland, Butler and Long Beach State -- to Allen Fieldhouse. Arizona plays at Oklahoma.

The Pac-10 won this series 7-5 in 2007 and the conferences were 6-6 in the series last season.

CU and Oregon State were both 0-2 in the Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood series the past two years as the Buffs were swept in a home and home by Stanford and the Beavers were given the same treatment by Iowa State.

Beckley stays home

CU's Trent Beckley did not make the trip due to an illness. The junior forward from Vail also missed the win over San Francisco and has not been attending practices as a precaution to keep other players from getting sick.

According to a CU official, Beckley is not believed to have contracted H1N1.

Series

CU led the series with Oregon State 5-1 entering Friday's meeting, although the Beavers won the previous meeting 98-87 in 2004.

Notable

The Buffs were second in the Big 12 in scoring offense (81.1 ppg) and field goal percentage (51.5 percent) behind Kansas (91.8 ppg, 52.2 percent). ... Levi Knutson, Trey Eckloff and Javon Coney did not see any action for the Buffs.

Looking ahead

The Buffs will host Colorado Christian on Monday at the Coors Events Center (7 p.m., no television) and will travel to Fort Collins next Thursday to take on Colorado State at Moby Arena (7:30 p.m., the mtn.).

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OSU men's basketball hits free throws down the stretch to pull out 74-69 win over visiting Colorado

By Lindsay Schnell, Special to The Oregonian...

December 04, 2009, 11:18PM

CORVALLIS—Oregon State coach Craig Robinson has said since he arrived in Corvallis last season that if the Beavers want to be a winning basketball team, they need to hit their free throws.

The charity stripe has plagued OSU early this season, as the team shoots just 66 from the line.

But Friday night, Oregon State shot 100 percent — in the last four minutes.

The late perfection was enough, as the Beavers (3-3) rallied from 36-33 halftime deficit to beat visiting Colorado 74-69 at Gill Coliseum.

"You sorta take it for granted that you make foul shots, but you can't take it for granted," Robinson said. "We can't take anything for granted here."

Calvin Haynes led OSU with 19 points off the bench, and Seth Tarver (14 points), Jared Cunningham (13) and Roeland Schaftenaar (10) were also in double digits.

"It's extremely disappointing," said Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik. "We did a horrific job of containing the ball, defensive rebounding and fouling people. We had a couple opportunities late to tie the game to keep the pressure on them ... and we let them off the hook."

It was the second consecutive game that freshmen Cunningham and Joe Burton started in place of Haynes and Schaftenaar. The change seems to be working – OSU has won both games with the newcomers in the lineup.

"Whatever works, that's what we're going with," Haynes said of the lineup change. "Nobody's sitting here whining about who's starting, who's coming off the bench. We're here as a family, as brothers."

Cunningham introduced himself to the starting lineup with a one-handed slam off the tip to open the game and give OSU a 2-0 lead but after that, it was all Colorado (5-3).

The Beavers struggled to contain Colorado guards Alec Burks and Cory Higgins, who had 19 and 15 points, respectively. Burks, who came in averaging 15 points, had 13 by half. The Buffaloes scored inside, hit outside and crashed the boards to take a 36-33 halftime lead.

Oregon State didn't regain the lead until 12:35 to go in the game when Cunningham cut to the basket and hit a lay-up and go up 46-45 only to have the Beavers give it right back.

Burks scored at the other end and got fouled. He missed the free throw but Oregon State's Angus Brandt didn't block out, and Higgins tipped it in for a 49-46 Colorado lead. That caused Robinson to call a timeout and give Brandt, a freshman, an earful.

It was back and forth from there. Tied at 64 apiece with 3:26 to play and the shot clock winding down, Seth Tarver was forced to jack up a shot that fell way short, giving Colorado a chance to take another lead. Marcus Relphorde did just that for his team, hitting a three from the corner to go up 67-64.

But that's when OSU stepped to the line and erased any memories they had of 9-16 performance in the first half. Schaftenaar, Cunningham and Seth Tarver all hit free throws when it was needed—along with a jumper from Haynes—giving Oregon State its first home victory of the 2009-10 season. The Beavers were 17-18 from the line in the second half.

"That's how you win games," Robinson said.

Fans also got a glimpse of what Burton could do in the future. The center is much more agile than his 6-foot-5, 270-pound frame would suggest, and teammates rave of his ability to throw the long outlet pass. He scored off two offensive rebounds and corralled a defensive board with 5:20 to go that he fired down court to a wide-open Hayes for a layup.

Burton finished with eight points, five rebounds and two assists in 19 minutes.

"I think people have taken him for granted over the years because he's big but he's a good big," Robinson said. "He's an athletic (270) pounds ... He gave us some great minutes and if we can keep him out of foul trouble he'd play even more."

Oregon State lost the rebounding battle 32-30, but outscored Colorado's bench 34-8.

--Lindsay Schnell, Special to The Oregonian

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