

# Texas women extend CU Buffs misery with thumping

Colorado loses fifth in row, 7th of last eight

By **Joshua Linden** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/10/2010 09:11:13 PM MST



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A Colorado women's basketball team that began the season with hopes of vast improvement and a postseason tournament berth has come to a crossroads.

The Buffaloes suffered their second demoralizing loss in a row on Wednesday night, and this one came at home.

Four nights after losing by 34 at Baylor, CU fell behind 14th-ranked Texas 14-0 early and never recovered in a 74-50 defeat in front of 2,027 at the Coors Events Center.

The loss was CU's fifth in a row and seventh in eight games. After a 10-3 non-conference performance, the Buffs have fallen to 12-10 overall and 2-7 in Big 12 play -- tying them for 10th in the league.

Wednesday's game marked the third of four straight against ranked teams.

With seven games to go, plus the Big 12 tournament, the Buffs need at least three victories to maintain any hope of earning even an NIT berth. Four of CU's final seven regular-season games are against ranked foes, though two are against teams the Buffs have already beaten.

"I think anything could happen," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "I think how they respond and how they come back is a sign of what type of team we're going to have tomorrow, at OU, this summer, next season.

"As far as where we go, I think that we're at a point where they could tank it. But I don't think that's going to happen. This staff hasn't tanked. The staff is continuously coaching them and we will come back ready to practice tomorrow."

McConnell-Miller didn't make players available to the media after the game, not that there was much to be said.

The hot-shooting Longhorns (17-6 overall, 6-3 Big 12), who have won six of seven since starting conference play 0-2, ambushed the Buffs from the opening tip to set the tone for the game.

Colorado went 0 for 3 with four turnovers on its first seven possessions before guard Bianca Smith came off the bench to hit a 3-pointer to make it 14-3 UT with 14:55 left in the first half.

Texas, meanwhile, made 10 of its first 13 shots from the field on the way to a 54-percent shooting night.

Four players scored in double figures for the balanced Longhorns, who were led by 13 points from guard Ashleigh Fontenette.

The Longhorns -- who beat CU 62-32 in Austin last year -- led by 20 at halftime and gradually pulled away, leading by as many as 32 in the second half.

McConnell-Miller said she thought her team's mindset was good coming off of the loss to Baylor.

"But I just thought Texas out-hustled them," she said. "They were extremely physical. We didn't respond well to that and

did not get off to a good start."

The Buffs turned the ball over 22 times and shot just 37 percent from the field, including 9 for 27 in the first half. They were outscored 44-24 in the paint and 39-12 off of turnovers.

Although McConnell-Miller didn't call out any players specifically, starters Brittany Spears and Courtney Dunn saw limited action in the second half. Neither played more than 19 minutes in the game.

Spears, CU's leading scorer, scored just five points and had six turnovers. The game was the third in a row in which she scored 10 or fewer points. Dunn, meanwhile, scored four points and grabbed five rebounds.

Freshman center Melissa MacFarlane started the second half for Dunn and played a career-high 22 minutes, and Kelly Jo Mullaney played 20 in helping pick up the slack.

Freshman guard Chucky Jeffery led CU with 12 points and six rebounds, and sophomore Alyssa Fressle scored 11 points in 32 strong minutes.

"I was disappointed in the first half with the way we responded and the effort and the energy that was on the floor," said McConnell-Miller, whose squad plays at No. 12 Oklahoma on Saturday.

"When we went to the bench I thought we got good minutes. With Kelly Jo, with Melissa, I thought Chelsea Dale, I just thought we got some good energy off the bench.

"I know Bianca (Smith) didn't hit her shots. I know she gave us some energy. But I just didn't feel it with that (starting) lineup. I didn't feel the energy. I didn't feel the sense of urgency that I did with the players that came off the bench."

## **Texas 74, Colorado 50**

### **TEXAS**

#### **FG FT Reb**

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

Williams 17 0-2 3-4 1-2 1 3 3

Gayle 24 2-5 0-0 0-6 0 3 4

KaNash 23 3-6 3-3 2-4 1 0 10

Raven 21 4-10 1-1 2-4 2 2 10

Fntntte 27 6-6 0-0 0-3 1 0 13

Arriaran 20 3-5 0-0 0-2 1 1 6

Andrsn 19 3-7 0-0 1-1 2 1 6

Flores 14 1-3 3-5 1-2 1 2 5

KrNash 18 2-2 1-2 0-4 2 0 5

Reed 17 5-8 2-8 2-3 1 0 12

Totals 200 29-54 13-23 10-33 12 12 74

**Percentages:** FG .537, FT .565.

**3-Point Goals:** 3-13, .231 (Fontenette 1-1, Raven 1-4, [Ka.Nash](#) 1-4, Arriaran 0-1, Flores 0-1, Anderson 0-2).

**Team Rebounds:** 2.

**Blocked Shots:** 4 (Gayle 3, Raven).

**Turnovers:** 11 ([Kr.Nash](#) 3, Raven 2, Reed 2, Gayle, Fontenette, Williams, [Ka.Nash](#)).

**Steals:** 14 (Raven 4, Fontenette 3, Anderson 2, Williams, [Kr.Nash](#), Reed, Flores, Arriaran).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

## COLORADO

### FG FT Reb

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

MMcm-P 28 0-1 0-0 1-2 1 2 0

Dunn 18 2-5 0-0 2-5 0 1 4

Fressle 32 4-10 2-3 1-3 2 5 11

Spears 19 2-8 0-0 0-3 0 2 5

Jeffery 36 4-9 4-4 0-6 2 2 12

Smith 14 1-7 0-0 1-3 1 1 3

Blythe 0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Seabrook 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Dale 6 2-2 0-0 0-0 0 0 6

BMcm-P 2 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Mullaney 20 2-5 0-0 2-2 0 2 5

McFrIn 22 2-3 0-0 1-3 0 2 4

Totals 200 19-51 6-7 9-29 6 17 50

**Percentages:** FG .373, FT .857.

**3-Point Goals:** 6-20, .300 (Dale 2-2, Mullaney 1-1, Fressle 1-2, Spears 1-3, Smith 1-7, [B.Malcolm-Peck](#) 0-1, [M.Malcolm-Peck](#) 0-1, Dunn 0-1, Jeffery 0-2).

**Team Rebounds:** 2.

**Blocked Shots:** 1 (Jeffery).

**Turnovers:** 22 (Jeffery 6, Spears 6, Fressle 3, [M.Malcolm](#)-Peck 2, Dunn 2, MacFarlane, [B.Malcolm](#)-Peck, Mullaney).

**Steals:** 7 (Fressle 3, Mullaney 2, Smith, Jeffery).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

**Texas 41 33--74**

**Colorado 21 29--50**

**A --** 2,027.

**Officials --** Clarke Stevens, Gator Parrish, Chaney Muench.

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## CU's MacFarlane showing no fear

**By Joshua Linden**stein Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/10/2010 11:55:30 PM MST

Freshman center Melissa MacFarlane entered Saturday's game at Baylor having played only 37 minutes all season. She's nearly doubled that in the last two games.

The 6-foot-7 Omaha, Neb., native followed up a 12-minute outing against the Bears with a 22-minute night in Wednesday's 74-50 loss to Texas at the Coors Events Center.

Her playing time on Saturday came because the Buffs needed an infusion of size against 6-foot-8 Baylor center Brittney Griner.

Wednesday's time came more due to the fact that coach Kathy McConnell-Miller was less than enthused with the play of a couple of her starters.

MacFarlane started the second half in place of starting center Courtney Dunn. MacFarlane went 2 for 3 from the floor and finished with four points and three rebounds. She showed signs of progress at times but also that she's still a work in progress against the Longhorns' more athletic interior players.

"I like the way she played at Baylor," McConnell-Miller said. "She took five fouls on Griner. She doesn't have fear of playing in the post. She likes to be in there. I just think with more game experience she's gonna get better. She's got to learn more. She's going up against far more athletic players, so I think she's got to learn more positioning and footwork as opposed to Courtney who we feel like has a little more finesse."

McConnell-Miller said CU's offense isn't conducive to MacFarlane because of how much the Buffs require their posts to handle the ball on the perimeter, but added that that coaches are trying to incorporate some wrinkles to help the freshman get on the floor more.

That doesn't mean, however, that the coaches have turned away from Dunn or toward simply building for the future in a season that has turned sour with seven losses in eight outings.

Dunn, along with CU leading scorer Brittany Spears, sat for most of the second half after a lackluster performance by the Buffs in the first.

"If you're implying that I'm resigning myself to playing all freshmen and sophomores, no," McConnell-Miller said when asked about playing more underclassmen Wednesday. "I just thought Melissa gave considerable effort tonight. And particularly in that second half, I did not have to coach effort."

### Censored

McConnell-Miller gave a simple reason for not making any players available to speak with the media after Wednesday's game.

"I just didn't think that they would have any answers that I didn't," the coach said. "If I would have brought one it would have been (Alyssa) Fressle because I thought she gave 32 minutes of continuous effort. ... I was really pleased with her performance."

Fressle, a sophomore starting guard, scored 11 points, grabbed three rebounds, had three steals and two assists in 32 minutes of action despite getting into early foul trouble.

### Hook `em

When Texas held the Buffs scoreless for the first five minutes of Wednesday's game, it marked the 16th time in 23 outings

this season that the Longhorns have held an opponent to a stretch of at least four minutes without a field goal.

The Longhorns have also held 13 of their opponents to at least 10 points below their season scoring average. CU was averaging 69 points per game coming in.

**Notable**

Senior guard Bianca Smith was honored before the game for reaching the 1,000 career point mark this season, a feat she achieved at Kansas two weeks ago. ... CU has now lost 18 straight against ranked foes. ... Texas extended its series lead vs. CU to 15-4. ... Colorado's current four-game home losing streak is the first such skid since the 2005-06 season. ... The 24-point loss was the Buffs' worst at home since falling 87-41 to Texas Tech on Jan. 15, 2005.

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no. 14 texas 74, cu women 50

## Longhorns add to Buffs' misery

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 02/11/2010 01:00:00 AM MST



CU's Alyssa Fressle, left, has a shot blocked by Texas' Ashley Gayle during the second half. ( Cliff Grassmick, Daily Camera )

BOULDER — Colorado women's basketball coach Kathy McConnell-Miller conceded that her team may be facing a crossroads following Wednesday night's 74-50 trouncing by No. 14 Texas before 2,207 in the Coors Events Center.

"I think anything could happen (for the remainder of the season)," McConnell-Miller said. "How they respond and how they come back will be a sign of what type of team we're going to have (for Saturday) at Oklahoma, this summer, next season."

Colorado (12-10, 2-7 Big 12) dropped its fifth straight game after a nice win at Kansas State on Jan. 20. Four of those five losses were to nationally ranked teams, showing how far the Buffaloes must go to become competitive in the league.

CU has lost four straight home games for the first time since the 2005-06 season, and this was the largest margin of defeat at home in five years. Never able to make the game interesting, the Buffaloes fell behind 14-0, 32-12 and 41-21 at halftime.

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- CU sports .

McConnell-Miller did not make her players available to the media after the game.

*Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or [tkensler@denverpost.com](mailto:tkensler@denverpost.com)*

"We're playing some young players, but they have experience," McConnell-Miller said. "It's a mentality you need that each possession is like it's your last. I have to look at different rotations, lineups."

With its guards driving the lane, Texas (17-6, 6-3) controlled the tempo from the opening tip. Winning for the sixth time in seven games, Texas scored 39 points off turnovers, compared to 12 for CU.

"(Texas) got some deflections, some quick steals, and it rattled our guards," McConnell-Miller said. "They were extremely physical and our players did not respond to that."

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Longmont, Colorado  
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## Loss to Texas leaves CU speechless

By Patrick Ridgell  
© 2010 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Colorado women's basketball coach Kathy McConnell-Miller made her players unavailable to reporters following Wednesday's 74-50 loss to No. 14 Texas. It's unclear whether this move was a reward or punishment.

McConnell-Miller bore the brunt of explaining her program's latest loss, an uncompetitive game in which the Buffs trailed 14-0 and never threatened. CU (12-10, 2-7 Big 12) has lost five straight and seven of its past eight, plus 15 in a row to opponents ranked in the AP and WBCA polls. The 24-point loss was CU's worst at home since Jan. 15, 2005.

McConnell-Miller's explanation for banning her players was, "I just did not think there was anything they could have added that I didn't (say)."

McConnell-Miller played junior Brittany Spears only 19 minutes and only 18 for starting center Courtney Dunn, who has told coaches she will not return in 2010-11 despite having a year of eligibility left. McConnell-Miller started 6-foot-7 freshman center Melissa MacFarlane in the second half and played her 22 minutes. MacFarlane's previous most was 12.

Was this a glimpse of the immediate future?

"If you're implying I'm resigning myself to playing all freshmen and sophomores, no," McConnell-Miller said. "I just thought Melissa gave considerable effort tonight. And particularly in that second half, I didn't have to coach effort."

Texas' physical style "rattled" CU's guards, McConnell-Miller said. Texas (17-6, 6-3) outscored CU 44-24 in the paint and 39-12 off turnovers. She said she was "disappointed" her team did not compete in the first half as it can. CU trailed 41-21 at halftime. She said her team lacks "consistent scoring."

Spears, a junior, finished with five points and six turnovers. Six turnovers are too many for a player at this point of Spears' career, McConnell-Miller said. Spears has scored 24 points in her past three games. McConnell-Miller said Spears is physically fine.

"We have to get her more refocused and get her some easier looks," McConnell-Miller said. "She's just struggling right now."

Freshman point guard Chucky Jeffery also had six turnovers.

"At this point in her career you have to live with those," the coach said.

### TEXAS 74, COLORADO 50

TEXAS (17-6, 6-3)

Williams 0-2 3-4 3, Gayle 2-5 0-0 4, Ka. Nash 3-6 3-3 10, Raven 4-10 1-1 10, Fontenette 6-6 0-0 13, Arriaran 3-5 0-0 6, Anderson 3-7 0-0 6, Flores 1-3 3-5 5, Kr. Nash 2-2 1-2 5, Reed 5-8 2-8 12. Totals 29-54 13-23 74.

COLORADO (12-10, 2-7)

M. Malcolm-Peck 0-1 0-0 0, Dunn 2-5 0-0 4, Fressle 4-10 2-3 11, Spears 2-8 0-0 5, Jeffery 4-9 4-4 12, Smith 1-7 0-0 3, Blythe 0-0 0-0 0, Seabrook 0-0 0-0 0, Dale 2-2 0-0 6, B. Malcolm-Peck 0-1 0-0 0, Mullaney 2-5 0-0 5, MacFarlane 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 19-51 6-7 50.

Halftime—Texas 74-50. 3-point goals— Texas 3-13 (Ka. Nash 1-4, Raven 1-4, Fontenette 1-1, Arriaran 0-1, Anderson 0-2, Flores 0-1); CU 6-20 (Dale 2-2, Fressle 1-2, Spears 1-3, Mullaney 1-1, B. Malcolm-Peck 0-1, M. Malcolm-Peck 0-1, Dunn 0-1, Jeffery 0-2). Fouled out—Fressle (C). Rebounds—Texas 33 (Gayle); CU 29 (Jeffery 6). Assists— Texas 12 (three with 2); CU 6 (Fressle 2, Jeffery 2). Total fouls— Texas 12; CU 17. Technicals—none. A—2,027.

Up next is another ranked opponent, at No. 12 Oklahoma on Saturday. A season that appears to have slipped away is not getting easier.

"I think anything can happen," McConnell-Miller said. "I think the way they respond and how they come back is a sign of what type of team we'll have (today), at Oklahoma, this summer and next season."

Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog at [www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell](http://www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell). He can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).

# Texas rolls past Colorado

By **Rick Cantu**

AMERICAN-STATESMAN CORRESPONDENT

Updated: 5:55 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010

Published: 11:55 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010

Three days after Texas defeated Texas Tech by 31 points, the Longhorns showed improvement. On defense, that is.

A blanket of snow that surrounded the Coors Events Center did nothing to cool off the surging Longhorns. Bolting to a 14-0 lead in the first five minutes of the game, Texas bounced the Buffaloes 74-50 on Wednesday night to win its fourth straight game.

With temperatures in the low 30s outside the building, the 14th-ranked Horns rode a heat wave of scoring - and stifled the home team defensively before 2,027 fans. Texas shot 58 percent from the field in the first half (14 for 24) and 53.7 percent for the game (29 for 54) in the Big 12 mismatch.

Texas improved to 17-6 overall, 6-3 in conference play. Colorado, which has lost five straight, fell to 12-10 and 2-7. It was the worst home loss for the Buffaloes since falling 87-41 to Texas Tech in 2005.

Texas coach Gail Goestenkors noticed a vast improvement on defense from Sunday's 81-50 victory over Texas Tech. Although the Horns were never in jeopardy of losing to the Lady Raiders, she was hardly impressed by her team's first-half defense.

"I just felt we were really focused tonight," Goestenkors said. "We didn't come out with the kind of energy against Tech that we needed. ... This was an opportunity to show that we were better than that with our focus and energy."

In a balanced offensive effort, sophomore guard Ashleigh Fontenette led Texas with 13 points, hitting all six of her shots from the field.

Freshman post Cokie Reed had 12 and every Longhorn scored. All 10 Texas players had at least one rebound and nine of the 10 had an assist.

The game was never in doubt as the Horns raced to a 41-21 halftime lead, and led by as many as 30 in the second half. Colorado did not score until Bianca Smith hit a three-pointer with 14:55 left in the half to cut UT's lead to 14-3.

Texas' win streak coincides with an apparent improvement in team defense. Colorado shot just 37.3 percent from the field (19 of 51). In the previous three Big 12 games, Texas opponents shot 31.6, 31.7 and 30.2 percent from the field.

"Coach tells us all the time to put our foot on the jugular and keep it there," Reed said.

"Yeah," Fontenette said, "she tells us that probably five times a game during timeouts. Our focus was to run a pressure defense and force turnovers because we are best off the breakaway."

Texas did a terrific job of containing Colorado's best player, forward Brittany Spears, who was limited to five points and three rebounds while committing six turnovers.

"We got off to a disappointing start," Buffs coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "Texas outthustled us and they were extremely physical. We didn't respond to that."

Texas had a 33-29 edge in rebounds, 14-7 in steals and 4-1 in blocked shots. McConnell-Miller said the Horns simply were more physical than the Buffaloes. Guard Chucky Jeffery scored 12 points for Colorado and Alyssa Fressle added 11 .

Texas forced 22 turnovers and committed only 11. The Horns had a 39-12 advantage in points off turnovers and a 44-24 edge in points in the paint.

"Texas got some deflections and forced some turnovers early, and I thought that rattled our guards," McConnell-Miller said.

Texas' Brittainey Raven scored 10 points and helped rattle Colorado guards by contributing four steals, matching a season high set against Texas Southern on Dec. 29.

Texas expects a tougher game Saturday at Kansas. The Jayhawks gave No. 3 Nebraska a scare Wednesday before the Cornhuskers prevailed 67-60 in Lawrence.

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## Longhorns too much for Buffs

CU falls to Texas 74-50

*By Gina Yocom on February 11, 2010*

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Continuously demonstrating a lack of energy, aggression and most of all points, the Buffs fell, and fell hard, to the Texas Longhorns 74-50 at the Coors Events Center.

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In the first half of Wednesday night's game, the CU women's basketball team managed to shoot 33 percent, faring better in the second half with 36 percent.

Their struggles began early: Within the first five minutes, CU was trailing 12-0. They would end the first half trailing 41-21, and while the rest of the game was a slow fight to close the gap, and the game continued to get away from them.

One noticeable improvement was the Buffs' three-point shooting.

The Buffs improved from shooting 23 percent from the three-point line in the first half to ending the second half with 42 percent accuracy from the three-point line.

Head coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said she was frustrated with her team's lack of points on the scoreboard.

Speaking at the post game conference by herself, players were not available for comment as per the head coach's request.

"I thought we got off to a disappointing start, definitely not the way we anticipated coming out," McConnell-Miller said. "Texas out hustled us, and they were extremely physical and we didn't respond well to that and we didn't get off to a good start."

Although she saw some improvement from her team in the second half, she said she was still not satisfied with the performance, she said.

"At the second half we were considerably better, switching to the zone helped a little bit we got a few more steals I thought we consistently struggled to score because of the physical nature of Texas," McConnell-Miller said.



Junior guard Kelly Jo Mullaney breaks away in an attempt to catch up with University of Texas during Wednesday night's game in the Coors Events Center. The Longhorns beat the Buffs 74-50. (CU Independent/Matt Lowber)

Turnovers were another problem for the Buffs. It seemed that when the Buffs had possession of the ball, it was taken from them or slipped to the other team one way or another.

Speaking of freshman guard Chucky Jeffery, who had played 32 minutes and put up 12 points, McConnell-Miller said she was pleased with her performance, but is expecting more from her older players.

"I just think Chucky is trying to feel her way through this Big 12, she's going to make a lot of mistakes, but she normally responds with rebounds and doing plays, and hitting open shots. You know, with her when she is this young in her career, you got to live with those turnovers and she is getting the idea," McConnell-Miller said. "Spears on the other hand, she is too far in her career to turn the ball over six times in a game. We got to get her a little more refocused."

McConnell-Miller said their main problem is their lack of consistent scoring and go-to players.

"It's a mentality that regardless what the score is, you have to play every possession like it's your last and that's the most disappointing part is how we played in the first half," McConnell-Miller said. "I think anything could happen, I think that how we respond and how we come back is a sign of what type of team we were going to have tomorrow at OU, this summer, and next season."

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Gina Yocom at [Gina.yocom@colorado.edu](mailto:Gina.yocom@colorado.edu).

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## No. 14 Texas topples Colorado 74-50

02/11/2010

Associated Press

Texas' victory over Colorado was a runaway — literally.

The 14th-ranked Longhorns, using tenacious defense to fuel their transition game, scored one easy basket after another on fastbreaks and routed mistake-prone Colorado 74-50 on Wednesday night for their fourth consecutive win.

"I think our main goal coming in was to disrupt the offense," said Texas' Ashleigh Fontenette, who led the Longhorns with 13 points. "We wanted to play pressure defense and get the turnovers because we're best when we get out and break the run."

Texas pressured the Buffaloes into 22 turnovers leading to 39 points for the Longhorns, who never trailed in the game. They scored the game's first 14 points, led 41-21 at the half and by as many as 32 points late in the second half.

"I thought consistently we struggled to score because of the physical nature of Texas," Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "I don't think it surprised us. I just don't think we handled it. The expectation was they were going to get in the passing lanes and be physical. They got some deflections, some steals that led to layups, and I think it rattled our guards."

Cokie Reed scored 12 points and Kathleen Nash and Brittainey Raven added 10 points each for the Longhorns (17-6, 6-3 Big 12). Texas beat Colorado (12-10, 2-7 Big 12) for the 10th time in 11 meetings in continuing its strong play since starting the conference season with consecutive losses.

"I think we definitely turned our conference season around, because we started off pretty bad, so we just wanted to come out the next few games and just try to show that we are an improved team," Fontenette said.

Certainly, Texas was the better team by far against Colorado.

"I credit our defense," Texas coach Gail Goestenkors said. "I thought we did a great job getting in the passing lanes, and we switched on some screens. We just gave them some different looks maybe than they've seen. I thought we were just really ready to play. I think our quickness caused some problems."

Chucky Jeffery had 12 points to lead Colorado (12-10, 2-7), which lost its 15th in a row to a ranked opponent. Alyssa Fressle added 11.

McConnell-Miller said she was most disappointed by her team's lackluster play in the first half. Colorado didn't score its first basket until Bianca Smith hit a 3-pointer more than five minutes into the game.

"Clearly, I need to look at the lineup and maybe some of the rotations I have in there, but we haven't gotten off to a great start and it's put us on our heels in the last three games," she said.