

Sooners extend CU women's skid to six

Spears, Smith snap out of slump, but it's not enough

Camera staff report
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NORMAN, Okla. -- Brittany Spears and Bianca Smith snapped out of their scoring slumps Saturday.

Their team's woes continued.

Another slow start on the hardcourt for the Colorado Buffaloes proved too much to overcome as 12th-ranked Oklahoma cruised to a 65-55 victory at the Lloyd Noble Center.

The Buffs lost their sixth straight game and eighth of nine to drop to 12-11 overall and 2-8 in Big 12 Conference play.

Spears, CU's leading scorer, scored 28 points after three games in which she scored only 24 altogether. Smith, one for 20 from the field the last two games, scored 13 points.

But for the second game in a row, the Buffs went more than four minutes before scoring their first points as Oklahoma jumped out to leads of 11-0 and 17-2.

"We have got to get off to a great start and the last five games we haven't done that," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said on the KVCU post-game radio show.

When asked if changes to the starting lineup could be expected for Tuesday's home game against Kansas, McConnell-Miller answered, "Absolutely. I just feel like we've got to find a better rhythm offensively and defensively."

Freshman starters Chucky Jeffery and Meagan Malcolm-Peck played a total of just 19 minutes Saturday, combining for no points, two rebounds, an assist and three turnovers.

McConnell-Miller, however, didn't mention who might be displaced.

She said her only reservations about lineup changes are that she doesn't want the player or players who lose their spots to lose confidence, noting the brutal slate the Buffs have played of late. Five of CU's opponents on the current losing streak are ranked in the top 15.

"I just don't want them to look in the mirror and feel deflated," McConnell-Miller said.

For awhile Saturday, the Buffs appeared to weather the early onslaught by OU (18-6, 8-3).

Two buckets in a row by Spears cut the Sooners' lead to 23-18 with 8:36 left in the first half. But Oklahoma closed the half on a 19-5 run to take a 19-point lead into the break.

The Buffs never got closer in the second half until closing the final 6:10 on a 16-3 run of their own as OU rested its starters in advance of Monday's game against top-ranked Connecticut.

Amanda Thompson led OU with 16 points, while Nyeshia Stevenson added 10 in a balanced effort that saw all 10 Sooners score.

Next up for CU is a winnable home game on Tuesday night against KU, which beat the Buffs in Lawrence last month but has since lost leading scorer Danielle McCray to a season-ending knee injury.

"We're all we've got, so we've just got to stay together as a team and play hard," Spears told KVCU.

McConnell-Miller said she was proud of the way the Buffs finished out Saturday's game and played hard to the finish after a disheartening home loss against Texas.

But she was particularly happy that her scorers got back on track.

Spears hit 12 of 20 shots from the field and also grabbed nine rebounds.

Sophomore guard Alyssa Fressle also continued her uptick in production with 11 points, three assists and two steals.

"Spears fought through adversity," McConnell-Miller said. "She got better shots. She hit open shots. For that, we're excited."

Oklahoma 65, Colorado 55

COLORADO (55)

FG FT Reb

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

MMlcm-Pck 7 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Dunn 28 0-5 0-0 1-6 0 2 0

Fressle 36 5-13 0-0 0-1 3 4 11

Spears 38 12-20 2-3 4-9 1 2 28

Jeffery 12 0-2 0-0 0-2 1 0 0

Smith 32 4-12 2-3 0-2 0 3 13

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

Dale 14 0-0 0-0 0-2 0 1 0

Mullaney 20 1-1 0-0 1-3 0 1 3

MacFarlane 10 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 0 0

Totals 200 22-54 4-6 9-31 5 13 55

Percentages: FG .407, FT .667.

3-Point Goals: 7-23, .304 (Smith 3-10, Spears 2-4, Mullaney 1-1, Fressle 1-4, Jeffery 0-1, [M.Malcolm](#)-Peck 0-1, Dunn 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 5.

Blocked Shots: 2 (MacFarlane, Fressle).

Turnovers: 26 (Spears 7, Fressle 6, Smith 4, Mullaney 2, Jeffery 2, Dunn, MacFarlane, [M.Malcolm](#)-Peck).

Steals: 10 (Spears 3, Fressle 2, Mullaney 2, Jeffery, Dunn, Dale).

Technical Fouls: None.

OKLAHOMA (65)

FG FT Reb

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

Thompson 25 5-10 5-5 1-3 2 3 16

Olajuwon 19 2-6 1-2 2-8 0 0 5

Stevenson 22 4-11 0-0 0-2 0 0 10

Robinson 24 3-6 3-3 1-3 6 1 9

Hartman 34 2-4 0-0 0-1 2 0 4

Rthlsbrgr 19 1-3 1-2 2-4 1 0 4

Willis 19 2-6 0-0 0-2 1 1 6

Morrison 11 1-4 0-0 1-3 0 0 2

Cloman 19 3-4 2-2 2-4 0 1 8

McFarland 8 0-1 1-2 0-0 1 1 1

Totals 200 23-55 13-16 10-33 13 7 65

Percentages: FG .418, FT .813.

3-Point Goals: 6-17, .353 (Willis 2-3, Stevenson 2-5, Thompson 1-3, Roethlisberger 1-3, Hartman 0-1, Morrison 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 3.

Blocked Shots: 1 (Thompson).

Turnovers: 20 (Robinson 3, Roethlisberger 3, McFarland 2, Morrison 2, Willis 2, Hartman 2, Stevenson 2, Olajuwon 2, Thompson, Cloman).

Steals: 11 (Robinson 5, Thompson 3, Hartman 2, Morrison).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 23 32--55

Oklahoma 42 23--65

A -- 8,298.

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Slow and steady doesn't win the race

Women's basketball lose another with a slow start

By Marlee Horn on February 14, 2010

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Another slow start was too much for the Colorado women's basketball team to bounce back from. The Buffs fell 65-55 to the No. 12 Oklahoma Sooners on Saturday at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman, Okla.

CU fell behind early, with the Sooners taking a 17-2 lead with 14:21 remaining in the half.

"We've gotten off to a bad start the last three games; just very ineffective," said CU head coach Kathy McConnell-Miller in a news release. "OU came out and completely attacked, controlled the tempo."

The Buffs did manage to narrow the lead to 23-18 with help from Brittany Spears. The junior forward was limited to 14 combined points in her last two games, but she broke that slump by putting up a game-high 28 points and helped CU get back into the game.

Oklahoma (18-6, 8-3 Big 12) would have none of that though, going on an 11-0 run afterward. The Sooners went on to show that a 3-pointer by senior guard Bianca Smith wouldn't be enough narrow the margin when Lauren Willis answered with two treys of her own.

The Buffs went into the break with the scoreboard at 42-23.

While Oklahoma led by 25 points with 11:05 remaining in the second half, Colorado continued to fight, and went on a 24-9 run at the end of the game. But their 26 turnovers were just too much to overcome.

The 65-55 loss was the Buffs' sixth straight and their 18th straight against a ranked opponent.

The Buffaloes (12-11 overall, 2-8 Big 12) return home to the Coors Events Center to host the University of Kansas at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

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Junior Sociology major Brittany Spears (22) pushes down the court against Iowa State's Kelsey Bolte during the CU versus Iowa State basketball game in Coor's Events Center on Jan. 16, 2009. (CU Independent file/Stephanie Davis)