

Kansas rolls CU Buffs

Jayhawks send Buffaloes to 35th consecutive Big 12 road loss

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/20/2010 04:13:05 PM MST

LAWRENCE, Kan. -- Kentucky? Syracuse? Duke?

Jeff Bzdelik's pre-Carmelo Anthony Denver Nuggets?

It's hard to imagine any team in the country that could have traveled here and won on Saturday at Allen Fieldhouse.

Colorado had no chance.

Not when the Buffs had the full attention of No. 1 Kansas.

The Jayhawks, who have an embarrassment of riches on the roster, were firing on all cylinders from the opening tip until garbage time during a 94-74 romp over CU.

"I can't speak for them, but I think we had their attention," Bzdelik said after KU shot 54.7 percent from the field and 45 percent from behind the arc with five different players scoring in double figures. "The last game we played here was really a one-possession game with a few ticks on the clock. We had a very competitive game at our place.

"I think the combination of the two ... they respected us, let's put it that way."

CU has now lost 15 consecutive times to the Jayhawks (26-1, 12-0), who extended the nation's longest active home-court winning streak to 57 games.

The Buffs (12-14, 3-9) are now 0-14 all-time against top-ranked teams, including 0-7 versus KU.

"We didn't finish the game off the way we should have," said KU coach Bill Self, who is obviously looking hard for things to improve on en route to the program's sixth consecutive Big 12 title. "That should have been a 30- to 35-point game."

The Jayhawks are 28-1 vs. CU since the inception of the Big 12 in 1996-97. The Buffs' frustrating losing streaks outside of Boulder were extended to:

35 consecutive Big 12 road losses dating back to an 80-78 overtime loss at Oklahoma State on Jan. 21, 2006.

28 consecutive road losses to ranked opponents dating back to an 80-78 win over No. 20 Texas Tech on Jan. 11, 1997 (CU's last road win over a top-10 opponent was an 81-79 overtime win at No. 5 Missouri on Jan. 15, 1973).

27 consecutive losses in Lawrence dating back to a 75-74 victory on Feb. 10, 1983.

27 consecutive road losses to Division I opponents dating back to a 73-70 win at Colorado State on Dec. 22, 2007.

"Kansas had a lot to do with it, but it's on us," Alec Burks said after leading the Buffs in scoring (17 points) and rebounding (seven boards). "It doesn't matter how another team plays, it's on us. We have to play our game. If we do that we win."

Xavier Henry knocked down three 3-pointers and Cole Aldrich made three point-blank baskets to spark the Jayhawks to an 18-7 lead out of the gate.

After Burks' first field goal cut the deficit to nine points, KU answered with an 11-1 run to seize complete control with a 35-

14 lead and 6:49 still remaining in the first half.

"They made shots early when we were in zone, and when you go man they're just too big inside," said CU point guard Nate Tomlinson, who fouled out with 9:41 remaining without taking a shot for the second consecutive road game.

The Buffs ended a field goal drought of four minutes and 59 seconds when Marcus Relphorde was credited with a hoop on a goal-tending call.

KU led by 18 until Casey Crawford led a mini-comeback with a couple of 3-pointers to bring CU to within 41-28 with 3:48 remaining.

Henry scored on an in-bounds pass as time expired to make the score 48-34 at the intermission. The highly touted freshman led all scorers with 12 points at the break and 24 for the game on 9-for-16 shooting (4-for-7 behind the arc).

Tyshawn Taylor scored seven points in the first 5:10 of the second half to help KU build a 63-45 lead with 14:43 remaining. He finished with 17 points on 6-for-7 shooting.

"It was hard to stop them. They were making shots. We got to the ball to the rim several times and we needed to finish or make better decisions to find open people," Bzdelik said. "But give them a lot of credit. They had us back on our heels with the way they played today."

A dunk off an offensive rebound by Aldrich made the score 81-57 and sent the crowd into a frenzy as Bzdelik called timeout. The junior center finished with 17 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks.

Self called the dogs off and put in the KU scrubs -- a group that could start at a lot of other programs -- with 3:00 remaining and the home team up 90-66.

"We didn't play very well and they played very well," CU senior captain Dwight Thorne said. "So you get what you got."

CU lost 66-61 at Allen Fieldhouse last season thanks to Sherron Collins' late-game heroics, and 72-66 in overtime at the Coors Events Center after the Buffs squandered a chance to pull off the upset in regulation.

There was no drama this time as the nation's top-ranked team took care of business.

"They're an exceptionally good basketball team and they had a real bounce to their step today. They hit us hard and we were kind of reeling

after that," Bzdelik said. "We were trying to play catch up and that's very difficult

against a great team no matter where you play them, especially here. ...

"They're No. 1 in the nation for a reason."

Kansas 94, Colorado 74

COLORADO (74)

FG FT Reb

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

Relphrd 33 7-14 0-0 1-4 3 1 16

Dufault 20 3-9 0-0 1-3 0 2 7

Tomlnsn 24 0-0 0-0 0-1 4 5 0

Burks 31 7-16 3-4 2-7 1 3 17

Higgins 24 3-7 6-7 0-2 0 2 13

Thorne 30 1-2 4-4 0-5 2 1 6

Hr-Tnks 11 0-0 1-2 0-0 0 4 1

Knutson 10 2-3 0-0 0-0 1 0 6

Crawfrd 17 2-5 2-2 2-2 1 3 8

Totals 200 25-56 16-19 7-25 12 21 74

Percentages: FG .446, FT .842.

3-Point Goals: 8-16, .500 (Knutson 2-2, Crawford 2-3, Relphorde 2-4, [C.Higgins](#) 1-2, Dufault 1-3, Burks 0-1, Thorne II 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 1.

Blocked Shots: 2 (Burks, [C.Higgins](#)).

Turnovers: 19 (Thorne II 5, Relphorde 4, [C.Higgins](#) 3, Burks 2, Harris-Tunks 2, Tomlinson, Dufault).

Steals: 10 (Thorne II 3, Relphorde 2, Dufault, Tomlinson, Harris-Tunks, Knutson, [C.Higgins](#)).

Technical Fouls: None.

KANSAS (94)

FG FT Reb

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

MrcMrrs 19 2-3 1-3 2-5 2 3 5

Aldrich 28 6-8 5-8 4-10 2 2 17

XHenry 29 9-16 2-3 2-6 1 1 24

Collins 29 4-11 2-2 0-1 7 2 13

Taylor 24 6-7 4-4 0-3 6 3 17

Robinsn 6 1-3 0-0 2-2 0 1 2

Teahan 3 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 1 0

Withey 3 0-1 0-0 1-2 0 1 0

Mrngstr 17 0-1 0-0 0-1 2 2 0

Reed 15 1-4 0-0 0-0 0 1 3

Johnsn 5 1-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 2

MrkMrris 21 5-9 1-2 2-7 2 2 11

Jnemann 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Totals 200 35-64 15-22 14-40 22 19 94

Percentages: FG .547, FT .682.

3-Point Goals: 9-20, .450 (X.Henry 4-7, Collins 3-7, Taylor 1-1, Reed 1-3, Mark.Morris 0-1, Morningstar 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 8 (Aldrich 5, Mark.Morris 2, Taylor).

Turnovers: 18 (Mark.Morris 5, Taylor 3, Johnson 2, Marc.Morris 2, Collins 2, Morningstar, Withey, Robinson, X.Henry).

Steals: 11 (Morningstar 2, Reed 2, Taylor 2, Robinson, Marc.Morris, X.Henry, Collins, Aldrich).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 34 40--74

Kansas 48 46--94

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Burks gets first taste of Kansas

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/21/2010 12:10:16 AM MST

LAWRENCE, Kan. -- There is no question Alec Burks is talented enough to fit into Kansas' rotation as a role player.

But the Grandview, Mo., export -- who was not recruited by KU -- has found a perfect home at Colorado, where he is a rising star in the Big 12.

Burks, playing for the first time at Allen Fieldhouse in front of family and friends, led the Buffs with 17 points and seven rebounds in Saturday's 94-74 loss to the No. 1 Jayhawks.

"The atmosphere is crazy playing here with all these fans. They sell out every game and it's fun to play here," Burks said. "I was kind of settling in at first and then I picked my game up and just tried to help my team to win."

KU's much more highly touted freshman, Xavier Henry, put on an impressive show for NBA scouts with 24 points. He had a lot more help than Burks, as five different Jayhawks scored in double figures.

CU lost the first meeting on Feb. 3, 72-66 in overtime, with Burks watching on the bench with a sprained knee.

"It seemed like a very different (KU) team," Burks said. "They haven't lost at home in like a couple years, so they're a very good team here."

Burks (421 points) moved past Donnie Boyce (417 points, 1991-92) and into third on CU's all-time freshman scoring list. Only Richard Roby (480, 2004-05) and Chauncey Billups (465, 1995-96) are ahead of him with six more games promised this season.

"I felt like before the season I had the talent to have a good season," Burks said when told about the milestone. "All you can do is put the hard work in and it will pay off some day."

Point of inconsistency

Nate Tomlinson arguably played his best game in a Colorado uniform on Wednesday night. The sophomore point guard had 13 points, a career-high eight rebounds and three assists during the Buffs' 77-67 victory over Oklahoma.

But battling Sherron Collins dribble for dribble at Allen Fieldhouse made it tough for Tomlinson to remain consistent as he finished with four assists, one steal, one turnover and no points before fouling out with 9:41 remaining.

Meanwhile, Collins -- who had 13 points, seven assists and two turnovers -- experienced his 123rd victory at KU. One more and the senior point guard will have been an active part of more wins than anyone in the program's storied history.

"It's a big deal," Collins said. "I am very appreciative of all the guys that helped me get this, including the coaching staff."

A second homecoming

Burks isn't the only Kansas City-area product on the CU roster. Casey Crawford is a former Gatorade Player of the Year in Kansas from nearby Overland Park.

The 6-9 junior scored eight points off the bench for the Buffs, who actually outscored the Jayhawks' reserves 21-18.

Notable

The Jayhawks are 12-0 in Big 12 play for the first time since finishing the regular season 16-0 in 2002. ... KU leads the all-

time series 119-39, including a 60-7 advantage in Lawrence (51-5 at Allen Fieldhouse). ... Keegan Hornbuckle made the trip but did not dress for the game. The freshman forward has missed six of the last eight games with a right shoulder injury.

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THE DENVER POST

No. 1 Kansas beats Colorado 94-74

By DOUG TUCKER AP Sports Writer

Posted: 02/20/2010 04:16:46 PM MST

Updated: 02/20/2010 05:44:32 PM MST

LAWRENCE, Kan.—Bill Self could kick himself.

In the excitement of the locker room after No. 1 Kansas cruised past Colorado 94-74 on Saturday, Self neglected to mention the great milestone reached by the player who he says impacts a game more than anyone else he ever coached.

With 123 victories in his illustrious career, senior guard Sherron Collins, along with senior Brady Morningstar, tied the record for most wins by a player in the storied history of Kansas basketball. With four games left in the regular season and the entire postseason also looming for the nation's top-ranked team, no one doubts they will shatter the record set by Raef LaFrentz, C.B. McGrath and Billy Thomas from 1995-98.

"I talk about it all the time but I forget to mention it in the locker room after the game," Self said. "It's a remarkable deal. I think it's really cool."

Cole Aldrich had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five

blocked shots and Xavier Henry gave notice that his freshman slump is done, scoring 24 points in a victory that touched and neared many milestones.

Tyshawn Taylor, back in the starting lineup after a nine-game absence, had 17 points and six assists for the Jayhawks (26-1, 12-0), who entered the day with a three-game lead in pursuit of their sixth straight Big 12 championship.

The Buffaloes (12-14, 3-9), who pushed Kansas into overtime on their court earlier in the season, were led by Alec Burks with 17 points and Marcus Relphorde with 16.

But they were never competitive Saturday, falling behind by nine points 5 minutes into the game and getting outrebounded 40-25.

"It seemed like a very different team," Burks said. "They played real different at home. They haven't even lost here in a couple years so they're a very different team at home."

The Jayhawks count Morningstar with 123 wins, although he redshirted one year.

Collins was not upset that his coach failed to talk about it.

"I think he is pretty proud of me," he said. "I am very appreciative of all the guys that helped me get this. Coach probably won't say anything about it until tomorrow in practice. He was a

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THE DENVER POST

little upset after the game about how we finished."

Collins had 13 points as the Jayhawks stretched the nation's longest home court winning streak to 57 games, five from the school record.

Another looming goal is the 2,000th win for the Jayhawks. With four games remaining in the regular season, they are at 1,996.

One thing Self did address to his players was the Big 12 championship that is at hand. With the Big 12 owning the top RPI among the major conferences, merely winning the regular-season title would be an achievement, and the Jayhawks still have a chance to go through unbeaten.

"It's a big deal if you're the best team in a league that's supposedly as good as any league in the country, the RPI-rated No. 1 league," Self said. "But we haven't won it yet by no means."

It was Kansas' highest point total since beating Radford 99-64 on Dec. 9.

"They hit us hard and we were reeling after that," Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "They are an exceptionally good basketball team."

Henry, the most highly touted prospect Self ever signed, got his college career off to a sizzling start, scoring in double figures in 14 of his first 15 games and was even being compared to Kentucky freshman sensation John Wall.

But just as suddenly, he dropped into what coaches described as a "typical freshman funk" and struggled for five games.

He seemed to snap out of it with 15 points at Texas on Feb. 8, and then on Saturday enjoyed by far his finest outing of the conference season. His second 3-pointer gave the Jayhawks a nine-point lead just 5 minutes into the game and he wound up hitting 9 of 16 from the field while adding six rebounds.

"For the past five games, he's been the most consistent player we've had," Self said.

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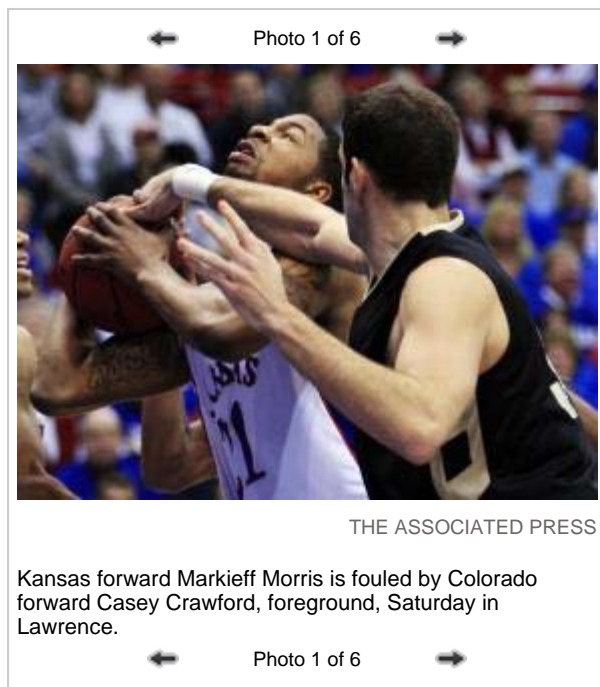
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Kansas demolishes Colorado



Five Jayhawks score in double figures for 20-point win

BY [TULLY CORCORAN](#)

Created February 20, 2010 at 6:06pm

Updated February 21, 2010 at 12:22am

LAWRENCE — The sequence was only a few seconds. Maybe 10. But it told you everything you needed to know about Colorado basketball and Kansas basketball.

The sequence began on Colorado's end, where Austin Dufault thought he was going to dunk. (A bit of foreshadowing here: This wasn't an especially productive strategy Saturday for Colorado.) He did what he always does. He rose. He raised the ball. He swung it at the goal. And Markieff Morris erased it.

The play continued.

Kansas sped to the other end with an outlet from Tyshawn Taylor to Brady Moringstar. Morningstar lobbed the ball into the air and Morris, who had sprinted all the way back, flushed it in the face of Dufault, who also had oh-so-painfully sprinted all the way back, straight to his own eventual humiliation.

"Tough day for that guy," Taylor said.

Tough day for all of Colorado's guys. No. 1 Kansas beat the Buffaloes 94-74 in Allen Fieldhouse in a game that set this "Big 12 is good top-to-bottom" conversation back a couple years. Kansas (26-1, 12-0 Big 12) physically mauled Colorado (12-14, 3-9). The Jayhawks scored 48 points in the paint. They outrebounded the Buffs 40-25. They blocked eight shots.

On another play, Alec Burks found himself alone on the baseline, staring down the barrel of Cole (45) Aldrich. He decided to try a dunk. This ended with Burks writhing in pain on the ground and Kansas taking the ball the other way off the stuff.

"Cole," Taylor said, "is hard to dunk on."

Colorado, which took Kansas to overtime just weeks ago in Boulder, Colo., had no chance. The Buffaloes threw a pass off Morningstar's butt, threw one at a referee, who had camouflaged himself so well in the black-and-white stripes. They tried an alley oop, which somehow ended

up rolling off Burks' knee and out of bounds. Even when they finally did get a dunk, on a breakaway, Burks bumped his head.

"We got the ball to the rim several times," CU coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "But we needed to finish or make better decisions to find open people."

That is the nice way to say it.

It probably wouldn't have mattered, though, not Saturday. Kansas, for one of the only times all year, had everybody playing well at the same time.

Xavier Henry had his best Big 12 game with 24 points on 9-for-16 shooting. Aldrich had 17 points, 10 rebounds and 5 blocks. Taylor, back in the starting lineup, had 17 points and 6 assists. Sherron Collins had 13 points and 7 assists.

"I think that's probably as good as we've been as far as us having multiple guys on," Self said.

"It's just getting easy," Collins said.

The win was the 123rd of Collins' career, tying him with Raef LaFrentz, Billy Thomas and Topeka West product C.B. McGrath as the winningest players in Kansas history. Collins has been getting questions about this for a solid week, and he has generally answered them by saying how special it is and how much he owes to his teammates and coaches.

Saturday was no different. Collins was sitting at a table flanked by Taylor and Henry. They were talking about Henry's big day, but from Collins' perspective, they could have been talking about a big game by Brandon Rush, Darrell Arthur or Russell Robinson.

"That's how I got to it," Collins said. "Teammates like that."

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Jayhawks cruise past Buffs

No. 1 Kansas beats CU men by 20 in follow-up to OT game

By David Starcer on February 21, 2010

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In this file photo, Kansas Jayhawks' Sherron Collins (4) drives to the basket against Buffs' junior Cory Higgins (11) during the CU versus Kansas basketball game at Coors Events Center on Feb.3.

The Buffs fell to Kansas University again on Saturday when they played in Lawrence, Kan. (CU Independent file/Stephanie Davis)

So much for momentum.

Following their home victory over Oklahoma on Wednesday, the Colorado men's basketball team was unable to capture the elusive first road win of the season, falling to No. 1 Kansas 94-74 Saturday night.

Junior center Cole Aldrich had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks for the Jayhawks (26-1 overall, 12-0 Big 12), while freshman Xavier Henry led his team with 24 points, and added six boards of his own.

Freshman guard Alec Burks led the Buffs with 17 points and seven rebounds, while junior Marcus Relphorde poured in 16 for Colorado (12-14 overall, 3-9 Big 12), who trailed the entire the game.

After pushing the top-ranked Jayhawks to overtime in their first matchup of the season in Boulder, Colorado proved no match for a Kansas team that stretched their nation-best home winning streak to 57 games, which is five shy of their school record.

Two other records for the program are about to be broken as well. Kansas currently sits at 1,996 wins in their history,

and if they win their remaining four games they will reach the 2,000 win milestone this season.

Also senior guard Sherron Collins, who had 13 points and a team-high seven assists in the victory, won his 123rd game as a Jayhawk, tying him with three former players, including former first-round draft pick Raef LaFrentz, for the most wins by a player in program history.

As for Colorado, Burks, who missed CU's first game with Kansas due to a knee injury, led the Buffs in both scoring and rebounding for the 11th time this season. He also passed Donnie Boyce for third place all-time on the freshman scoring list with 421 points, now trailing only Chauncey Billups and Richard Roby.

With the loss, the Buffs slipped to 10th in the Big 12 standings, and will now head east to face division-rival Missouri at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Columbia, Mo.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer David Starcer at David.starcer@colorado.edu.

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By [Corey Thibodeaux](#)

Saturday, February 20, 2010

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The three starting guards for the Jayhawks were all jokes and smiles after Saturday's 94-74 victory against Colorado.

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Senior Sherron Collins is tied as the winningest player in Kansas basketball history. Sophomore Tyshawn Taylor had 17 points and six assists in a solid return to the starting lineup.

And freshman Xavier Henry is back to his early season high-scoring ways.

Photo Gallery

Kansas Men's Basketball vs. Colorado



Photos from the Jayhawks' 94-74 victory against Colorado Saturday afternoon in Allen Fieldhouse. Kansas moved to 26-1 on the season and remained perfect in the Big 12 at 12-0.

But Henry didn't even have an opportunity to respond when asked if his 24-point, six rebound performance was a relief from his previous woes.

"I'll answer it for him," Collins said. "Yes."

Taylor got a jab in too.

"He would have had 30 if he made some more threes," Taylor said.

There were a lot of good things that happened on offense for the Jayhawks. They made 54.7 percent of their shot attempts, had five players score in double figures and their 94 points were the most in the past 18 games.

"I think that's as good as we've been as far as having multiple guys on," coach Bill Self said.

This game was nothing like it was in Boulder, Colo. two and a half weeks ago. The Jayhawks led by as much as 27 Saturday and the Buffaloes didn't get a whiff of the Jayhawks, never getting within 10 in the second half.

Henry had the vote of confidence from his teammates to be the focal point of the offense. Early in the game, Collins gave up a couple of wide-open threes to get Henry the ball, who made four of his seven three-point attempts.

"When somebody gets going, we're not going to shy away from them, we're going to feed them," Collins, who finished with 13 points, said. "I know I can get open shots all the time, but he was hot so I tried to give him an open shot."

But Henry wasn't just putting up jumpers. He put his head down and drove a couple times and even posted up some defenders.

"I work on all ways of scoring," Henry said. "It's nothing that comes foreign to me. When you have

an open shot, you take it. If somebody's crowding you, go ahead and take it to the rim."

Since the game at Texas, Henry has magically flipped on his game. But Henry said he's performing well in areas other than shooting.

Henry's six rebounds led the Jayhawks after the first half. He came away with a lot of floor burns diving for loose balls. For those who normally watch Henry, it looked like this surge of energy was new, but Henry insists it was there all along.

"I've had my energy," Henry said. "It's just been shadowed by me not making shots I guess."

So what changed with Henry recently that caused this sudden turnaround in scoring? Self was befuddled to what the answer was. But with the way his freshman phenom is playing now, he doesn't care.

"I don't know if it was because he was a freshman or maybe he was just playing poorly at that particular time," Self said. "But in the last four games, he's been as good a player as we've had on our team."

Last week, Henry said his streak was simply a product of his shots falling in. After Saturday's game, he confessed that there is in fact a difference between focusing on what you are told and just playing basketball.

"When you're a player, you want to please the coach and do everything right," Henry said. "I had that in my head and I'm just trying to play more than I think."

— Edited by Jesse Rangel

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Posted on Sat, Feb. 20, 2010

Kansas spreads the love in routing Colorado

By J. BRADY McCOLLOUGH
The Kansas City Star

LAWRENCE | Everywhere you looked on Saturday afternoon at Allen Fieldhouse, you could feel the love.

It was there in the way Sherron Collins and Tyshawn Taylor embraced as they walked off the floor with a 94-74 victory over Colorado. Collins pulled Taylor in and touched the back of his head, a proper salute after Taylor returned to the starting lineup after nine games coming off the bench with 17 points and six assists.

It was there minutes later when Collins, Taylor and Xavier Henry sat together and reflected on what at least felt like a very prominent step in the right direction for a team that has been ranked No. 1 for all but three weeks of this season but still faced many questions from those wanting more.

Henry had poured in 24 points on nine-of-16 shooting, by far his best offensive outing in Big 12 play, and he was asked if it was a relief to have a game like that.

"I'll answer for him," Collins said. "Yes."

"He could of had 30 if he made some more threes," Taylor added.

Collins and Taylor butting in was only natural. They are the assist guys, always trying to help out a teammate. But when the topic of Collins tying KU's all-time wins record against Colorado with his 123rd career victory came up, it was Henry's turn to jump in.

"He is gonna be the winningest player, too," Henry said. "We just help him out every day and push him to the limit. He's gonna get it by far."

Collins appeared moved.

"That's why I get it," Collins said. "Teammates like that."

No. 1 KU, now 26-1 and 12-0 in the Big 12, did some impressive things offensively in moving one step closer to its sixth straight Big 12 regular-season title. The Jayhawks, who can clinch at least a share of the title with a win Monday against Oklahoma, had five players score in double figures for only the second time in league play (the other coming at Kansas State in an overtime game), shot 55 percent from the field and dished out 22 assists. Big man Cole Aldrich made six of eight shots for 17 points and contributed his usual 10 rebounds and five blocks.

"We all just clicked," Henry said. "That's the best feeling on a team that you can have, when everybody is happy, everybody is clicking."

Lately, the Jayhawks haven't played with that carefree, loosey-goosey attitude. The wins have come hard, even at home against usual pushovers Nebraska and Iowa State. Colorado presented an opportunity for one of those classic Phog afternoons, and KU took advantage of the Buffaloes, taking a 14-point lead to halftime and building it into a 27-point cushion with less than five minutes left.

Within that context, and with the love freely flowing among the players, it seemed the right time to float this question to KU coach Bill Self: Did the Jayhawks look more like the No. 1 team in the country on Saturday than at any point this season? Self could have taken the bait, but an in-depth study of Self's handling of media questioning over the years would indicate this was probably time for him to make sure there was no overreaction.

"No," Self said. "They got 74 in our own building. That's not very good. I think we played well, don't get me wrong. I thought the Temple game or something like that was a much more complete game. At K-State, we played better. At Texas, we played better. (Saturday) we had a stretch there where we were pretty efficient offensively, but we didn't knock anybody out like we should have. That should have been a knockout, and we didn't deliver it."

Of course, the fact remains the Jayhawks led by 27 late against a team that took them to overtime earlier this month. And it was pretty easy to see the difference.

Taylor hadn't started for KU since Jan. 17 against Texas Tech. Self moved him back to the starting lineup for this

game because that's where Taylor needs to be. More than Brady Morningstar, Taylor derives confidence from being a starter. Plus, the guy is just plain fast.

"A little more oomph," Self said.

Taylor's ability to create helped Henry break out for his third 20-plus point game of the season.

Taylor gave Collins a night off, and all Collins did was score 13 points and make seven assists.

"I was more fresh tonight than probably all season," Collins said. "It's getting easier."

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Men's Basketball

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010

'X' a factor again

Henry helps KU throttle Buffaloes

By Gary Bedore



Photo by Nick Krug

Kansas forward Xavier Henry is fouled by Colorado forward Casey Crawford on his way to the bucket during the second half, Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 at Allen Fieldhouse.



Kansas defeats Buffaloes, 94-74

The Jayhawks took down Colorado Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 at Allen Fieldhouse.

Audio clips

2010 KU-Colorado

Carl Henry sat stoically in his bleacher seat 20 or so rows above the visitor's basketball bench, watching intently as his son Xavier exploded for a game-high 24 points in Kansas University's 94-74 victory over Colorado on Saturday in Allen Fieldhouse.

Though he didn't show it on the outside — rarely cracking even a smile — Carl Henry, a former Jayhawk small forward, was feeling warm and fuzzy on the inside following Xavier's best overall performance in a dozen Big 12 games, all victories.

"I'm real pleased with his season. When things weren't going so well, he still hung in there and played. He hung in there. That's all you can ask," proud papa Carl said after watching Xavier hit nine of 16 floor shots, including four of seven threes.

"He's letting the game come to him," Carl Henry added.



Cole Aldrich (17 points, 6-for-8 shooting, four offensive rebounds, (17 points, 6-for-28 shooting, six assists, three turnovers) 69% 1432 votes

Undecided 2% 50 votes

KU vs. Colorado postgame

Coach Bill Self addresses the media following KU's victory against Colorado on February 20, 2010.



Bill Self full press conference

Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik postgame interview

Tyshawn Taylor discusses KU's ability to block dunks against Colorado

Tyshawn Taylor talks about the possibility of KU going 16-0 in conference play

"Basically, he isn't trying to force anything. When he does try to force it, it doesn't come out good."

Xavier Henry, who has scored in double figures in four straight games — he had 15 against Texas, 16 versus Iowa State and 12 against Texas A&M — appears officially to have put to rest talk of a slump that had the 6-foot-6 wing totaling just 31 points off 11-of-36 shooting (5-of-22 from three) in five games.

"I just tell him, 'Good game' after every game," Carl Henry said of good times and bad. "Every time he comes off the floor, I say, 'Good game.'"

Accentuating the positive certainly helped Xavier shake his personal skid.

"Everybody always encouraged me because they know I'm a positive kid," Xavier said. "They won't say anything to bring me down. My family just kept me thinking positively, and I kept doing the same things I was doing."

Henry, who stroked three quick threes in helping KU open an 11-7 lead over the Buffs, said he never felt

frustrated during his personal dog days of the Big 12 season.

"Not really, because I knew eventually it was going to fall," Henry said of his shot. "It happens to everybody. Everybody has off games. Mine just came three or four in a row. I worked harder every single day with our shooting coach, coach (Joe) Dooley. We got extra shots up and everything like that. They are starting to fall again."

KU coach Bill Self encouraged Henry to keep shooting when open during the rookie's dry spell.

"I think with shooters, they are a little quirky maybe," Self said. "You worry too much about your shot as opposed to worrying about just playing. There's some guys on your team that's easier to go in funks because they need to make shots to play well. Some guys, there's actually no pressure because they don't have to make shots to play well. Certainly there's more pressure making shots than any other part of a basketball game. With Sherron (Collins, 13 points on a day he tied Raef LaFrentz, Billy Thomas and C.B. McGrath as winningest KU player of all time) or with X, that just kind of comes with the territory.

"The last four games, he's been as good a player as we've had on our team," Self added of Henry.

The Jayhawks are certainly happy to see Henry emerge recently. He's an upbeat player who has fit in well.

"You can ask the guys. I'm always smiling. I always have a smile on my face," Henry said.

Tyshawn Taylor, who erupted for 17 points on a day five Jayhawks scored in double figures, had Henry grinning after the game.

"He coulda had 30 if he'd made some more threes," Taylor said.

"I'll answer that for him ... yes," senior team leader Collins cracked, butting in when a reporter asked Henry if his 24-point outing came as a relief.

To Xavier, the 24 points really seemed no big deal, considering he always has been a scorer — both playing for dad Carl's Athletes First AAU team and at Putnam City (Okla.) High School.

"I've been working on it," Henry said of taking the ball to the basket. "It's a different way of scoring. I work on all ways of scoring. Nothing comes foreign to me. When you've got a wide-open shot, take it. If somebody is crowding you, you go ahead and take it to the rim."

Ever the coach, Carl Henry was asked if his son should be proud of his play of late.

"He should," Carl said. "Actually, he should work a little bit harder."

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Men's Basketball

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010

CU coach lauds Jayhawks

Bufs' Bzdelik says Kansas 'exceptionally good'

By Jesse Newell



Photo by Nick Krug

Kansas forward Xavier Henry is fouled by Colorado forward Shane Harris-Tunks while going for a steal during the first half, Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 at Allen Fieldhouse.



Kansas defeats Buffaloes, 94-74

The Jayhawks took down Colorado Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 at Allen Fieldhouse.

Audio clips

2010 KU-Colorado

Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik had a simple explanation for the Buffaloes' struggles Saturday: They played a pretty darned good basketball team in No. 1 Kansas.

"I am not going to be one of those guys that just says, 'We didn't do this,' or, 'We didn't do that,'" Bzdelik said following CU's 94-74 loss at Allen Fieldhouse. "Let's give Kansas a lot of credit."

After taking KU to overtime in the teams' first meeting on Feb. 3, CU couldn't hang defensively with the Jayhawks in the rematch.

"I can't speak for them, but I think we had their attention," Bzdelik said. "The last game we played here (a 66-61 CU loss on Jan. 31, 2009) was really a one-possession game with just a few ticks left on the clock. We had a very competitive game at our place. I think the combination of the two ... I think that they respected us."



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The Jayhawks made 54.7 percent of their shots Saturday after shooting just 36.4 percent against the Buffs in Boulder.

"They are an exceptionally good basketball team," Bzdelik said. "They had a real bounce to their step today. They hit us hard, and we were kind of reeling after that."

Another significant difference in the two games was rebounding. The Buffs stayed close to the Jayhawks in Boulder, only getting outrebounded, 45-41.

The Jayhawks dominated that facet Saturday, beating CU on the boards, 40-25. That included 14 offensive rebounds for KU.

"You have to finish defensive possessions, and it was hard for us to even get them to miss one time, let alone to give them a second chance," Bzdelik said. "We didn't do a very good job putting bodies on people."

The undersized Buffaloes also had trouble figuring out how to get shots above or around KU's Cole Aldrich. The junior center finished with five blocks in 28 minutes.

"If anybody does get beat (defensively), they've got the eraser back there," CU guard Dwight Thorne II said.

Bzdelik also left impressed by KU's Tyshawn Taylor, who scored 17 points on 6-for-7 shooting in his first start since Jan. 16.

"I thought he played very hungry and desperate to show that he warrants maybe more time — what he thinks he should be getting, I'll say it politically correct," Bzdelik said with a grin.

"So I think he was a very hungry basketball player who is very talented, and that showed."

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