

Nebraska spoils CU's strong outing

Bufs make 15 treys, but suffer eighth loss in row

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

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LINCOLN, Neb. -- The Colorado women's basketball team turned in one of its best Big 12 performances of the season on Saturday.

Unfortunately for the Buffaloes, the effort was nullified by one of the best teams in the country.

Third-ranked Nebraska weathered a 3-point barrage by the Buffs and pulled away down the stretch for an 89-73 triumph in front of 12,747 at the Bob Devaney Center.

The loss extended CU's losing streak to eight games, matching the third-longest skid in program history. The Buffs fell to 12-13 overall and 2-10 in Big 12 play, and they have now lost 10 of their last 11.

Nebraska continued its best season in school history, improving to 25-0 and 12-0.

"They haven't (stopped fighting)," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said of her team on the KVCU post-game radio show. "We've had some tough games this year, but I'm very proud of them.

"They came in with a lot of energy. Chemistry was good and we hit open shots. But we need to match that intensity in every game we play."

Colorado made 15 of 27 3-point baskets, falling just one shy of the school record for most made in a game. Brittany Spears hit six on her way to leading all scorers with 26 points.

But on a day when CU's offense was clicking as well as it has in weeks, the Cornhuskers simply had too much firepower.

NU shot 50 percent from the field, including 61 percent in the second half. The Huskers entered the game with four starters scoring 12 or more points per game, and all eclipsed their averages. All-America candidate Kelsey Griffin led the way with 25 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

"I think she is one of the top 10 players in the country because of the difference she makes with her team," McConnell-Miller said.

CU never led in the second half, but the Buffs did plenty to keep things interesting.

After trailing by 12 with 13:57 to go, the Buffs had a pair of chances to cut the Nebraska lead to three. But both times CU players were called for charges, and NU's Cory Montgomery capitalized on the second with a 16-footer that made it 70-63.

Spears made it 70-65 with a layup with 8:32 to go, but a post-up by Griffin kicked off a 19-5 run that put away the Buffs.

Montgomery finished with 17 points and seven boards, while Yvonne Turner and Dominique Kelley scored 14 and 13 points, respectively, for NU.

Senior guard Bianca Smith, making her second start in a row, scored 18 points for CU, while center Courtney Dunn added 11. Guard Alyssa Fressle scored just four points but was a big reason for the Buffs' offensive success with eight assists and just one turnover.

Colorado shot 45 percent and came out firing from the start.

Spears hit four 3s and Smith added another as the Buffs led 15-9. Colorado still led 20-17 after a trey by Dunn with 12:50 before half. But two straight fast-break layups by Kelley gave NU a 21-20 advantage.

Then disaster struck for the Buffs when Spears picked up her third foul and was forced to sit the bench for the final 10:57 of the first half.

A 15-2 run by NU made it 40-27 before CU closed the gap 43-36 by halftime.

Despite their solid day, the Buffs continued to have no answer inside for a strong front line like the duo of Griffin and Montgomery. Nebraska outscored CU 36-16 in the paint and got 24 second-chance points.

Still, the Buffs walked away feeling almost rejuvenated in spite of their long skid.

"I think we recognized that we do have what it takes to compete in this conference and against top teams," Smith told KVCU. "We just have to come with the same intensity and same energy every night. This was a great game for us. There were a lot of positives."

Nebraska 89, Colorado 73

COLORADO (73)

Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT

Spears 27 10-17 0-0 7 1 3 26

Dunn 34 4-6 0-0 5 1 3 11

Fressle 35 2-6 0-0 6 8 3 4

Smith 35 5-16 4-4 7 2 2 18

Jeffery 33 2-8 2-2 3 3 3 7

M. Mlc-Pck 3 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Dale 4 0-0 0-2 0 0 0 0

Mullaney 23 3-5 0-0 0 0 3 7

Bailey 1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

MacFarlane 5 0-0 0-0 0 0 2 0

TOTALS 200 26-58 6-8 33 15 19 73

3-Point Goals: 15-27, .556 (Spears 6-7, Dunn 3-4, Smith 4-12, Jeffery 1-2, Mullaney 1-2).

Team Rebounds: 5.

Blocked Shots: 4 (Dunn 2, Fressle, MacFarlane).

Turnovers: 17 (Spears 4, Dunn, Fressle, Smith 3, Jeffery 5, Dale, Mullaney, MacFarlane).

Steals: 5 (Dunn 2, Fressle, Jeffery, Mullaney).

Technical Fouls: Team.

NEBRASKA (89)**Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT**

Griffin 31 10-14 5-10 12 6 1 25

Mntgmry 30 8-14 0-0 7 0 3 17

Moore 30 2-5 0-0 3 4 1 6

Turner 29 5-16 0-1 3 5 2 14

Kelley 24 3-5 7-10 4 5 1 13

Neals 20 2-5 0-0 0 2 1 6

Reeves 1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Kuhlmann 16 0-1 2-2 3 3 2 2

Periago 4 0-1 0-0 1 0 0 0

Redmon 15 2-3 2-2 2 0 1 6

TOTALS 200 32-64 16-25 37 25 12 89

3-Point Goals: 9-26, .346 (Montgomery 1-2, Moore 2-4, Turner 4-14, Kelley 0-1, Neals 2-4, Periago 0-1).**Team Rebounds:** 2.**Blocked Shots:** 6 (Griffin 2, Moore, Turner, Periago, Redmon).**Turnovers:** 9 (Griffin 2, Montgomery, Moore, Kelley 4, Redmon).**Steals:** 8 (Griffin 2, Montgomery, Turner 2, Kelley 2, Neals).**Technical Fouls:** None.

Colorado 36 37 -- 73

Nebraska 43 46 -- 89

Officials: Napier, Price, Forsberg**Attendance:** 12,747

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college basketball

Buffaloes hit 15 3s but lose

Women: No. 3 Neb. 89, CU 73

By Eric Olson
The Associated Press

Posted: 02/21/2010 01:00:00 AM MST

LINCOLN, Neb. — Brittany Spears made her first six 3-point attempts, and Colorado finished with a Devaney Sports Center-record 15, but it wasn't enough in an 89-73 loss to the nation's No. 3-ranked and still undefeated team.

Kelsey Griffin scored 18 of her 25 points in the second half to lead four Nebraska players in double figures, and the Cornhuskers (25-0, 12-0 Big 12) broke open the game with a 10-2 run after the Buffs (12-13, 2-10) pulled within 70-65.

"Who would think your opponent makes 15 3s and you win by 16?" Nebraska coach Connie Yori said. "That's pretty rare."

The Huskers set a school record for conference wins and can clinch a share of their first league title since 1988 if No. 11 Oklahoma loses today at Kansas State, or if they beat the Sooners on

the road Wednesday.

Griffin, who posted her 15th double-double, added 12 rebounds, six assists, two steals and two blocked shots. Cory Montgomery had 17 points, Yvonne Turner 14 and Dominique Kelley 12 for the Huskers.

Spears had 26 points and Bianca Smith 18 for CU, which lost its eighth consecutive game.

"I don't think the score is reflective of the passion and energy and the way my team battled tonight," Buffs coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said.

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Husker women keep rolling, finish off Colorado

By CURT McKEEVER / Lincoln Journal Star

Once upon a time — actually three times — a Nebraska women's basketball opponent came to the Devaney Sports Center and sank 14 three-point shots.

Each time had the expected result— a double-digit loss for the Huskers.

Well, listen to the latest fable that occurred at the Sports Center on Saturday afternoon:

Colorado, fueled by Brittney Spears going 6-for-7 on threes, made 15, the most ever against NU. But in a fitting example of how charmed life has been during this fairy tale season, third-ranked Nebraska still breezed to an 89-73 victory that left Kelsey Griffin among the astounded.

"I wouldn't have thought that at all," the Husker senior forward said when asked if she would have expected NU to still be unbeaten had she known the Buffaloes were going to hit 15 threes. "I don't know of a lot of teams that make 15 three-pointers and lose a game."

In an example of the lengths teams are willing to go trying to knock off NU, Colorado attempted 27 three-pointers — 12 more than it took during a 16-point loss to the Huskers in Boulder on Jan. 30.

CU hit 13 of its first 23 threes to find itself trailing by just five points with less than nine minutes remaining, but launched just four the rest of the way.

A bigger problem for the Buffs was contending with Griffin and fellow 6-foot-2 senior forward Cory Montgomery.

Griffin scored 18 of her 25 points in the second half, most of which came off second-chance opportunities that allowed her to finish with 12 rebounds and earn her 15th double-double of the season. Montgomery hit 8 of 14 shots to finish with 17 points.

And though they didn't match the explosiveness of Spears and Bianca Smith (who hit four threes while scoring 18 points), Nebraska guards Vonnie Turner and Dominique Kelley found various ways to solve Colorado's zone to score 14 and 13 points, respectively. It was the seventh time in 12 Big 12 games they and Griffin and Montgomery all scored in double digits.

"When you play Colorado you feel like you're going to have to score, because they're a good scoring team," Nebraska coach Connie Yori said. "We did a great job of moving the ball. Twenty-five assists against a zone, that's pretty rare."

Griffin led NU with six assists, while Turner and Kelley each had five and point guard Lindsey Moore four.

Leading 70-65 after Spears scored off a pick-and-roll, the Huskers produced a quick 10-3 run to leave the Buffaloes in their dust. Griffin started it by posting up for a basket, and after Spears missed her only three-point try, Turner came back at the other end to hit one from the top of the key.

Kelly Jo Mullaney answered with a three, but before Colorado could score again, Montgomery hit a

second-chance jumper, Kala Kuhlmann sank two free throws and Griffin one to make it 80-68.

The Huskers, just the third team in the history of the Big 12 to be 12-0 in league play, now head to No. 11 Oklahoma on Wednesday looking to clinch their first regular-season crown. NU could actually go into that game having clinched a share of the title if the Sooners lose at Kansas State today.

Yeah, that seems a bit much for a team picked by the coaches to finish sixth.

Then again, as Yori noted, "Who would think that your opponent makes 15 threes and you win by 16."

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Outranked

Women's basketball continues losing streak

By Marlee Horn on February 21, 2010

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In this file photo, freshman Chucky Jeffrey (23) works her way to the basket during the CU versus Nebraska women's basketball game at Coors Events Center on Jan. 30. The women's basketball team fell to Nebraska again on Saturday at the Bob Devaney Center in Lincoln, Neb. (CU Independent file/Stephanie Davis)

Slick, outside shooting wasn't enough to break the Colorado women's basketball team's losing streak.

The Buffaloes fell 89-73 to No. 3 Nebraska Saturday afternoon at the Bob Devaney Center in Lincoln, Neb.

The loss was their eighth in a row, their longest streak since the 2004-2005 season. Six of those eight were against ranked opponents, and the Buffs have lost 16 straight against ranked teams. The undefeated Huskers helped continue the trend.

Some Buffs put up impressive numbers, despite the loss.

Junior forward Brittany Spears led the way for the Buffs with 26 points. She also put up a career-high six 3-pointers.

Senior guard Bianca Smith also had a big night, with 18 points, season-high seven rebounds, and four 3-pointers. Her treys put her just seven shots away from tying Shelley Sheetz's all-time record of 252.

Overall, the team performed well with their outside game, making 55.6 percent of their 3-pointers, banking a season-high of 15.

Even with their strong outside game, the Buffaloes just didn't have an answer to the Huskers' inside game. The duo of Kelsey Griffin and Cory Montgomery put up 42 points and 19 rebounds for Nebraska. The team outscored the Buffs in the paint 36-16.

The Buffaloes hope to raise their 12-13 overall and 2-10 in Big 12 record as they head to Missouri on Tuesday.

Contact CU Staff Writer Marlee Horn at Marlee.horn@colorado.edu.

Posted in [Sports](#) | Tagged [CU Women's Basketball](#)

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Cornhuskers vs. Buffaloes

No. 3 Nebraska 89, Colorado 73

Feb. 20, 2010

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) -Nebraska coach Connie Yori looked at the statistics sheet and shook her head.

"Who would think your opponent makes 15 3s and you win by 16?" she said. "That's pretty rare."

That is rare, and so, too, is the kind of season third-ranked and unbeaten Nebraska is enjoying.

It continued with an 89-73 victory over Colorado on Saturday, with the Cornhuskers countering the Buffaloes' 3-point blitz with a balanced offensive effort led by star forward Kelsey Griffin.

Griffin scored 18 of her 25 points in the second half to lead four Nebraska players in double figures. Griffin, who posted her 15th double-double, added 12 rebounds, six assists, two steals and two blocks. Cory Montgomery had 17 points, Yvonne Turner 14 and Dominique Kelley 12 for the Huskers (25-0, 12-0 Big 12).

The Huskers set a school record for conference wins and can clinch a share of their first league title since 1988 if No. 11 Oklahoma loses Sunday at Kansas State, or if they beat the Sooners on the road Wednesday.

"Mentally, we're good," Griffin said. "February, regardless of your record, is a super-wearing month, a grind. Coach Yori and her staff have done a good job keeping everything fresh and fun, knowing we have a ton to work on. Never talking about record or addressing it has been huge. Really, we're not playing not to lose. We're just playing to play our best basketball."

Colorado (12-13, 2-10), which came to Lincoln off losses in seven straight games and in nine of their last 10, looked as if it was set to play its best game of the season.

Brittany Spears, who scored a game-high 26 points, made her first six 3-point attempts and Colorado finished with a Devaney Sports Center-record 15.

Spears sank four 3-pointers in the first five minutes to get Colorado out to a 15-9 lead, but the Buffs' season scoring leader sat out the last 10:57 of the half after charging into Lindsey Moore for her third foul.

"That's something that doesn't show up in the stat line at all," Yori said, "but it was one of the biggest plays in the game."

After Colorado tied it 25-all on Bianca Smith's 3-pointer, Nicole Neals, Turner and Moore hit consecutive 3s during a 15-2 run that put the Huskers up 40-27.

Colorado got within five points in the second half before Nebraska broke things open. Spears pulled the Buffs to 70-65, but Griffin scored inside and Turner hit a 3. After Kelly Jo Mullaney knocked down a 3, the Huskers went on a 10-2 run to make it 85-70. The Huskers won their 20th game by double digits.

"I don't think the score is reflective of the passion and energy and

Scoreboard

Final	1	2	T
Colorado	36	37	73
3 Nebraska «	43	46	89

Big 12

Team	Conf. W-L	Tot. W-L
Nebraska	16-0	32-2
Iowa St.	11-5	25-8
Oklahoma	10-5	27-11
Texas A&M	10-6	26-8
Baylor	9-6	27-10
Oklahoma St.	9-6	24-11
Texas	9-6	22-11
Texas Tech	5-10	17-14
Kansas	5-11	15-15
Kansas St.	5-11	14-18
Colorado	3-13	13-17
Missouri	1-14	12-18

Other games

PROV	53	Final	TX	44	Final	MA	41	Final
CT	85		TXAM	58		XAVIER	75	
ND	66	Final	WV	54	Final	PEPPER	45	Final
GTOWN	76		SFL	45		GONZAG	87	
OKST	69	Final	MO	42	Final	ORST	48	Final
BAY	80		IAST	55		STAN	82	

the way my team battled tonight," Buffs coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "It's hard to go through a season like this in the Big 12. It's tough to look up at the scoreboard after a game and feel like you've given your blood, sweat and tears for the University of Colorado and not come out with a victory."

Nebraska shot 60 percent in the second half and 50 percent for the game. The Buffs, who got four 3s and 18 points from Smith and three 3s and 11 points from Courtney Dunn, shot 55.6 percent on 3s but 45 percent overall.

Montgomery said the Huskers never felt their lead was safe.

"They shot the ball like crazy," she said. "We knew when we had a little bit of a lead that 3s are what could get them back in the game fairly quickly. They've been shooting lights-out 3-pointers. We had to get a hand up and contest every shot going down the stretch."

The Huskers started the week third nationally at defending 3-pointers, with opponents shooting 22.4 percent. But national 3-point leader Iowa State, which went 10 for 24 on Wednesday, and Colorado combined to go 25 of 51 against the Huskers (49 percent).

"We've got to get back in the gym and work on our defense," Griffin said. "I never would have believed it. That goes to show you how good a team Colorado is. Colorado might not be a team with the best record in our league, but yet they come out and do what they did tonight. I was out there trying to stop those 3-pointers, trust me, but they're just that good a 3-point shooters."

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