

CU Buff men look to share ball more

Colorado 8-0 when 4 or more players score in double figures

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/22/2010 10:13:22 AM MST

LAWRENCE, Kan. -- No. 1 Kansas is virtually unbeatable when seemingly the entire team is playing well.

The Jayhawks demonstrated that on Saturday, making Colorado looks more like the Washington Generals during a 94-74 thrashing at Allen Fieldhouse.

Xavier Henry (24 points in 29 minutes), Cole Aldrich (17 points, 10 rebounds), Tyshawn Taylor (17 points, 6-for-7 shooting), Markieff Morris (11 points, seven rebounds) and Sherron Collins (13 points, seven assists) did pretty much whatever they wanted, much to the delight of the crowd of 16,300.

"You have to finish defensive possessions," CU coach Jeff Bzdelik lamented after the Buffs allowed KU to shoot 54.7 percent from the field and out-rebound his team 40-25. "It was hard to get them to miss one, let alone give them a second chance."

The good news is that the Buffs are also unbeatable when Bzdelik gets significant contributions from role players. CU is 8-0 when four or more players score in double figures.

On Saturday, the usual suspects did most of the scoring -- Alec Burks (17 points), Marcus Relphorde (16) and Cory Higgins (13).

Casey Crawford (8), Austin Dufault (7), Dwight Thorne (6) and Levi Knutson (6) all chipped in, but only after the Jayhawks had already built a double-digit lead.

"We need to share the ball a little bit more. That's just the bottom line," point guard Nate Tomlinson said. "Guys are knocking down shots, but we just need to share the ball a little more."

The Buffs, especially the usual suspects, are knocking down some difficult shots. Bzdelik's offense is designed to produce easy shots for all positions.

"We've got to find people. When you drive by your initial defender and a help defender comes, then somebody is open. You have to find that person," Bzdelik said. "When we do, we're good. When we don't, we're like everybody else and you take a tough shot. You can't finish tough shots consistently. You just don't."

The Buffs shot a respectable 44.6 percent from the field but were just 11-for-28 (39.3 percent) shooting in the first half as KU built a 14-point cushion.

"We could have handled the ball better and played more as a team," Thorne said.

CU is 9-3 when shooting over 50 percent from the field as a team. During last Wednesday's 77-67 victory over Oklahoma, the Buffs shot exactly 50 percent (28-for-56) with four players scoring in double figures -- the usual suspects and Tomlinson (13 points), who didn't even take a shot against KU.

"We played with heart against Oklahoma, and I think we lost that (against Kansas)," Burks said. "We let the crowd get involved and we just didn't play as hard as we usually do."

The Buffs will have to play extremely hard, produce a balanced box score and perhaps come up with their best performance of the season to end their road woes this Wednesday at Missouri.

Close Window

Send To Printer