

After tonight's game the Buffs will have an opportunity to put some wins together with games against Iowa State, Nebraska and Texas Tech.

"This team is strong," Burks says of CU, which is coming off a 20-point loss at KU. "Every time we lose we fight back hard."

Big 12 Pct All Pct

Kansas 13-0 1.000 27-1 .964

Kansas St. 10-3 .769 23-4 .852

Missouri 8-4 .667 20-7 .741

Texas A&M 8-4 .667 19-7 .731

Texas 7-5 .583 21-6 .778

Baylor 7-5 .583 20-6 .769

Okla. St. 7-5 .583 19-7 .731

Texas Tech 4-9 .308 16-11 .593

Oklahoma 4-9 .308 13-14 .481

Colorado 3-9 .250 12-14 .462

Iowa St. 2-10 .167 13-14 .481

Nebraska 1-11 .083 13-14 .481

Tuesday's Game

Kansas State 83, Texas Tech 64

Wednesday

Colorado at Missouri, 5:30 p.m.

Nebraska at Iowa St., 6:30 p.m.

Texas A&M at Baylor, 7 p.m., ESPNU

Oklahoma St. at Texas, 7 p.m., ESPN2

Saturday's Games

Iowa St. at Colorado, 11:30 a.m.

Baylor at Oklahoma, 11:30 a.m.

Texas at Texas A&M, Noon, ESPN

Texas Tech at Nebraska. 2 p.m.

Kansas at Oklahoma St., 2 p.m., CBS

Missouri at Kansas St., 6 p.m.

Monday`s Game

Oklahoma at Texas, 7 p.m. ESPN

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CU Buffs men's preview: at Missouri

Camera staff
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/24/2010 12:08:53 AM MST

TODAY: Colorado travels to Columbia to take on Missouri at 5:30 p.m. at Mizzou Arena.

BROADCAST: **Television:** None; **Radio:** KKZN (760 AM) with Mark Johnson (play-by-play) and Charles Johnson (color).

STORY LINES: The Buffs (12-14, 3-9) are coming off a 94-74 loss at No. 1 Kansas on Saturday. ... CU's Alec Burks (16.8), a Grandview, Mo., import, leads all Big 12 freshmen in scoring and is fifth nationally. ... Cory Higgins leads the Big 12 in steals (2.3 per game) individually but Missouri leads the conference in that category as a team (11.1 spg). ... The Tigers (20-7, 8-4) are coming off a 74-59 win at Nebraska. ... Missouri is currently tied for third in the Big 12 standings after being picked to finish seventh in the preseason coaches poll. ... Seven players are averaging 7.5 points or more for the deep, athletic and balanced Tigers.

KEY STAT: CU has lost 35 consecutive Big 12 road games. Mizzou is 15-1 at home this season.

COACHES: Jeff Bzdelik is 33-56 in his third season at CU. Mike Anderson is 85-42 in his fourth season at Missouri.

PROBABLE STARTERS:

Colorado -- G Nate Tomlinson, 6-3, sophomore, 5.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg; G Alec Burks, 6-6, freshman, 16.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg; G Cory Higgins, 6-5, junior, 17.9 ppg, 3.8 rpg; G Marcus Relphorde, 6-7, junior, 10.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg; F Austin Dufault, 6-9, sophomore, 6.3 ppg, 3.3 rpg.

Missouri -- G Kim English, 6-6, sophomore, 14.6 ppg, 3.6 rpg; G Zaire Taylor, 6-4, senior, 8.5 ppg, 3.1 rpg; G J.T. Tiller, 6-3, senior, 8.3 ppg, 2.8 rpg; F Justin Safford, 6-8, junior, 8.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg; F Keith Ramsey, 6-9, senior, 5.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg.

SERIES: Missouri leads 97-52, including an 84-66 win in Boulder on Feb. 6.

UP NEXT: The Buffs return home on Saturday to play Iowa State at the Coors Events Center (11:30 a.m., Altitude).

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Longmont, Colorado
Wednesday, April 21, 2010

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Buffs holding on to postseason hopes

By Patrick Ridgell
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BOULDER — As we learned Monday from coach Jeff Bzdelik, Colorado men's basketball is not thinking about 2010-11. Not even close.

Bzdelik took exception to a question during the Big 12 coaches teleconference about what the program is playing for, and whether it's trying to set the tone for next year with its final games of this season. He expressed clear intentions that he wants to make something out of 2009-10. The Buffs (12-14, 3-9 Big 12) enter today's game at Missouri still believing they can.

"If we win all the games and make a nice run in the Big 12 Tournament, I don't see why we couldn't make the NCAA Tournament, to tell you the truth," senior guard Dwight Thorne said.

"That would take a lot of coming together, a lot of hard work, a lot of things going our way. But it can happen. If we win our next four games and continue to play well, I think postseason is going to happen."

CU has four games left, including tonight's at Missouri, where the Buffs will try to snap their 35-game Big 12 road losing streak. If they don't snap it tonight, they have one more chance this season — next Tuesday at last-place Nebraska.

The postseason NIT and CBI are watching the Buffs to see how they finish and whether they merit invitation. A strong finish would probably garner one. CU hasn't played in a postseason tournament since the 2006 NIT, the end of coach Ricardo Patton's next-to-last year in Boulder.

CU entered Tuesday one game behind Texas Tech, which hosted Kansas State on Tuesday night, for eighth place in the Big 12. The Buffs have home games remaining with Texas Tech and 11th-place Iowa State.

After being picked to finish last by league coaches in the preseason, eighth place wouldn't be too bad.

"There's still a lot of basketball left," sophomore forward Austin Dufault said. "There are four games plus the Big 12 Tournament. There's a lot of talk of us being in a postseason tournament. That's something we'd like to have. That hasn't happened around here for a while. It'd be great to get to 15, 16 wins."

Missouri (20-7, 8-4) has beaten CU seven straight times, including an 84-66 decision in Boulder on Feb. 6 and a 107-62 win last January in Columbia. The Buffs say having faced Missouri once this year provides familiarity with how it coaxes opponents play faster than they want. But the Buffs sound more concerned with themselves.

They admitted to being complacent on Feb. 6, a result of coming close to beating Kansas three days earlier and having enjoyed so much success at home.

CU men (12-14, 3-9) at Missouri (20-7, 8-4)

When/Where: 5:30 p.m. tonight at Mizzou Arena in Columbia, Mo.

TV/Radio: ESPN Full Court, ESPN360/KKZN 760 AM

The series: Missouri leads 94-54, 53-13 in Columbia. It has won the past seven meetings.

Leading scorers: CU — Cory Higgins (17.9 points per game); Missouri — Kim English (14.6 points per game)

Notes: CU has lost 35 straight Big 12 road games, and 27 straight road games against Division I teams. ... Alec Burks, with 421 points, needs 60 more to break CU's single-season freshman scoring record (480, Richard Roby). ... Missouri is 15-1 at home this season. It entered Tuesday trailing Kansas State by a game for second place in the Big 12. Tigers coach Mike Anderson said Missouri's 84-66 win Feb. 6 in Boulder was their "most efficient" game of the season.

Patrick Ridgell

Tonight, they say, complacency won't be a problem.

"We have to come out with more energy," Thorne said. "We didn't have any energy in that game. We all know it. We didn't play with any tenacity.

"We'll have a different mindset at Missouri. Last year we got slaughtered there, and I think that's in the back of everybody's minds."

Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog at www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell. He can be reached at pridgell@times-call.com.



Posted on Tue, Feb. 23, 2010

Missouri focusing on Colorado game and nothing else

By MIKE DeARMOND
The Kansas City Star

COLUMBIA | Most college basketball coaches break the season into segments. The non-conference games. The conference race. The postseason.

Missouri coach Mike Anderson breaks down the Tigers' season even further, into 24-hour segments.

Yes, Missouri is shooting for a top-four Big 12 Conference finish that will give it a first-round bye in the league tournament at the Sprint Center.

And of course the Tigers are building a resume worthy of gaining admission into the NCAA Tournament again.

But Anderson spends little time discussing tournament time with his Tigers.

"I don't talk about it at all," Anderson said. "They may amongst themselves. I'm a day-to-day guy, and all I want this team to do is to stay focused on the things they can control."

At 20-7 overall and tied for third in the Big 12 at 8-4, focusing on the next game at 6:30 tonight against Colorado at Mizzou Arena coincides with a view of the big picture for Missouri.

Win and the Tigers assure themselves of a winning record in Big 12 play. Given the national posture of the conference this season, that should be enough to assure them NCAA Tournament inclusion.

That thought has occurred to more than a few Missouri players.

"We know we're fighting for an NCAA Tournament bid," sophomore forward Laurence Bowers said. "We know what we're playing for."

But, following Anderson's lead, the players contend they have no problem compartmentalizing.

"We think about practice when we practice," Bowers said. "We think about that game when we play that game."

Alec Burks is front and center in the minds of the Tigers, who recall too well the freshman from Grandview pouring in 27 points in Mizzou's 84-66 victory Feb. 6 at Colorado.

"He ate us alive at Colorado," Bowers said. "I'd never even heard of him. But he scores in a lot of ways. Him being 6-6, 6-5, that's to his advantage."

"He's the one that really hurt us at Colorado."

Cory Higgins and Marcus Relphorde are concerns as well.

Higgins leads the Big 12 in steals per game in league games at 2.3, and scored 15 against MU in the first meeting this season. Relphorde has averaged 14.5 points and seven rebounds his last two games, but scored only two against Mizzou.

Colorado is 12-14 overall and just 3-9 in the Big 12 for any number of reasons — including ranking as the worst rebounding team in the league at minus 11.1 boards a game in Big 12 play.

Marcus Denmon and Kim English led Missouri in its earlier victory at Colorado, with Denmon scoring what was then a career-high 22 points and English adding 21. Keith Ramsey and Justin Safford each scored 10 points, and Bowers had nine.

The Colorado victory picked up Missouri's spirits after having dropped a home game for the first time since the 2007-08 season when the Tigers lost to Texas A&M.

Since then, the Tigers' only loss was by two points at Baylor.

The temptation is to look past Colorado toward a bigger test Saturday at Kansas State, where a second victory over the Wildcats could lead to a second-place finish in the Big 12 and all sorts of postseason possibilities.

But of course, that is something Anderson won't discuss with his players, other than to issue a stern warning not to.

Colorado at MU

•**WHEN/WHERE:** 6:30 tonight in Columbia

•**TV:** Metro Sports

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News Tribune

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Missouri expects tough test from Colorado tonight at Mizzou Arena

By Tom Loeffler
sports@newstribune.com

At 12-14 overall and 3-9 in the Big 12, you could understand if the Colorado Buffaloes were just playing out the string.

When asked as much during his weekly teleconference, you could also understand how the thought of it annoyed Jeff Bzdelik.

"Out of all due respect, I resent that statement that we don't have a whole lot to play for," the Colorado head coach said.

So apparently with plenty to play for, the Buffaloes will travel to Columbia to meet the Missouri Tigers (20-7, 8-4 Big 12) at 6:30 p.m. today at Mizzou Arena (FXSP-TV).

Read the full preview article in our newspaper or [e-Edition](#) for Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010.



Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik believes his team still has a lot to play for this season, starting with tonight's game against Missouri at Mizzou Arena. (AP photo)