



Smith sets a record with 254 career points.  
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



02/27/2010 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

## Smith Gets Record, But Buffs Blown Out

**BOULDER** - It didn't resemble how she would have scripted it, but Bianca Smith submitted a record-setting performance on Saturday at the Coors Events Center.

With a pair of first-half treys, Colorado's sharpshooting senior guard topped Shelley Sheetz (252) as CU's top three-point shooter. Smith, of Missouri City, Texas, finished with four three-pointers, giving her 255 for her career.

But Smith's output was as good as it got for the Buffaloes, who were soundly beaten by No. 12/15 Texas A&M, 95-61.

Smith's two second-half treys enabled her match her own school record of 80 in a season. She finished with a

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game-high 22 points before going to the bench with 1:15 to play.

"Shelley was a great player . . . I'm humbled to break her record; I never thought I'd have a chance at it when I first got here," Smith said. "Now I can focus on trying to get these next two 'W's'."

With two regular-season games remaining, CU slipped below .500 (13-14) and 3-11 in the Big 12 Conference, while A&M improved to 20-7, 8-6.

CU hosts Kansas State Wednesday (7 p.m.) before traveling to No. 15/13 Iowa State on Saturday, March 6 (1 p.m., MST) for the final regular-season game.

Aside from Smith, the only other Buffs player in double figures was Alyssa Fressle with 12. Leading scorer Brittany Spears was held to seven points after totaling 60 in her past two outings.

CU started efficiently against A&M, going ahead by five points, then just as quickly falling behind by a dozen. And after rallying to within a respectable 25-20, the Buffs hit the skids again.

By halftime, the Aggies' relentless pressure had forced 15 turnovers and the Buffs were facing a 20-point (45-25) deficit.

CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said once the Aggies "got on a roll, we couldn't battle with them. And once the frustration set in, it was a tough, tough night for the Buffs."

They were coming off an 80-79 overtime win at Missouri, their second road victory of the season, and were hopeful that momentum might push them to their first win against a ranked opponent in their 21 most recent tries.

Maybe next time or time after that . . . in the Big 12, playing ranked opponents is commonplace. The conference has had half or more of its members in the Top 25 for most of the season.

CU was mauled in the paint, outscored 40-24, in bench production, 35-11, and outrebounded, 37-22. McConnell-Miller reiterated that her program, which has become top-heavy with guards, lacks a productive inside presence.

That absence never was more apparent than Saturday, and McConnell-Miller acknowledged, "it's devastating us right now."

Three A&M frontcourt players - starters Damitria Buchanan, Adaora Elonu and reserve Danielle Adams - combined to make 18 of 21 field goal attempts. Their inside accuracy was a big reason A&M shot 63.6 percent (35-of-55) from the field.

Aggies coach Gary Blair noted his team shot and shared the ball (18 assists) extremely well. He also lent his support to McConnell-Miller, saying patience in large quantities is required to build a program in the Big 12.

Blair also congratulated Smith, who once attended his summer camps: "I was happy to see her get the record against us . . . She's one of the best catch-and-shoot shooters in the league. She wasn't a Big 12 player when she got here, but this staff has developed her."

In the second half, the Aggies - more athletic at most positions and relentless with their pressure defense - kept the Buffs at bay.

But with the lead at 59-33, CU's Meagan Malcolm-Peck and Chelsea Dale hit back-to-back three-pointers to cut the margin to 18 (59-41) with just over 12 minutes remaining.

That was close enough for the Aggies, who put the hammer down again and forged 30-plus point leads in the game's final 51/2 minutes. Their biggest lead was 36 points with 1:52 left.

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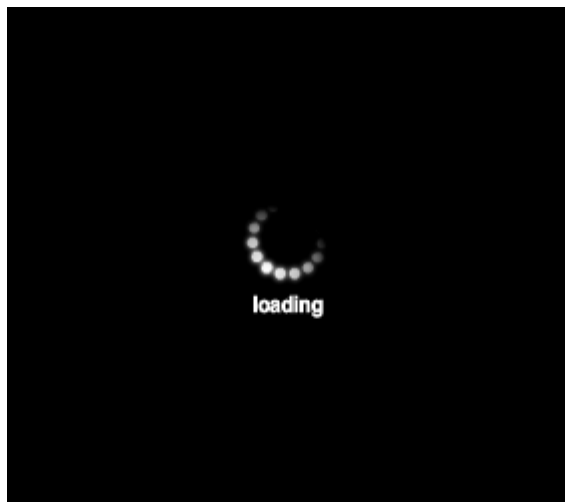


# Texas A&M throttles Buff women

## Aggies` Blair defends CU`s McConnell-Miller

By **Joshua Linden** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/27/2010 04: 44: 22 PM MST



[Click on any photo to see full gallery](#)

Colorado women`s basketball coach Kathy McConnell-Miller had to watch Saturday afternoon as her team suffered maybe its worst loss of the season against the 12th-ranked squad in the country.

Had she been there to listen in, her Texas A&M counterpart`s monologue to the media after the game might have at least given McConnell-Miller a little reassurance during a season that hasn`t gone as planned.

Texas A&M weathered a fast start by the Buffaloes and then cruised to an easy 95-61 triumph in front of 3,180 at the Coors Events Center.

The Buffs fell to 13-14 overall and 3-11 in Big 12 Conference play. The loss was the Buffs` 11th in 13 games and snuffed out the momentum CU had tried to get rolling with Tuesday`s overtime win at Missouri.

Afterward, Texas A&M coach Gary Blair urged for patience with

Kathy McConnell-Miller`s rebuilding process at CU.

"Do y`all know how bad Texas A&M was at women`s basketball before we got there?" asked Blair, who in his seventh season at Texas A&M clinched his fifth 20-win campaign in a row on Saturday. "Every team in the conference is ahead of us in win-losses over the history of the Big 12. And we just had five great years in a row, and we still can`t catch you. Hopefully I`ll eventually catch a few of you. But it just takes a little bit of time."

Blair was responding specifically to a story in Saturday`s Camera concerning McConnell-Miller`s job status as her fifth season draws near a close.

"Personally, I don`t think that article should have been written this morning on the day of the game," he said. "That wasn`t quite fair to the coach in my eyes or any other eyes of a coach because she is class and she cares and she is developing her team. Give her some patience instead of writing her off into the sunset. She deserves a break and she will get the job done. I guarantee you that."

After playing well in a loss at No. 3 Nebraska last week and rallying from 15 down to top Missouri, the Buffs appeared poised early to make life tough on the Aggies (20-7, 8-6) in Boulder.

Colorado was clicking offensively and led 11-7 roughly five minutes into the game. The Buffs trailed just 25-20 with 6:20 to go before halftime after a 7-0 spurt started by senior Bianca Smith breaking Shelley Sheetz`s CU career record for 3-point baskets made.

But the Aggies and their suffocating defense and superior interior play dominated from that point.

A&M closed the first half on a 20-5 run and never looked back.

"They maintained it and we did not," McConnell-Miller said of the fast start. "I think that once we started turning the ball over then we started second-guessing ourselves and frustration set in. And when you have a team like A&M and they sense that they attack even more."

Colorado committed 23 turnovers, including 15 in the first half, against an Aggie defense that was allowing just 59.8 points per game coming in. Led by Smith's 22-point effort, the Buffs shot just 40 percent from the field.

Texas A&M, meanwhile, had its way offensively, shooting nearly 64 percent from the field and leaving McConnell-Miller once again lamenting her team's lack of a strong interior presence.

Starting forwards Adaora Elonu and Damitria Buchanan scored 21 points and 14, respectively, while Aggie leading scorer Danielle Adams came off the bench to score most of her 19 points inside.

"Teams are just dominating," McConnell-Miller said. "I mean you take a look at Damitria Buchanan. She averages two points a game. She's 6-for-8. Elonu, she's 6-for-6. And then you've got Danielle Adams, 6-for-7. That's devastating statistically. They literally missed three shots between the three of them."

For the second straight game, CU starting center Courtney Dunn played limited minutes because McConnell-Miller said Dunn simply hasn't been "physically available to us for the amount of time that we wanted her."

Colorado got 12 points from Alyssa Fressle but aside from her and Smith the rest of the team struggled to score. CU forward Brittany Spears, who had averaged 26.3 per game in her last three outings, scored seven points on 3 of 10 shooting. Saturday's loss means the Buffs now likely need to either win their last two regular-games or make a deep run into the Big 12 tournament to have a shot at earning a postseason bid.

CU hosts Kansas State on Wednesday and then travels to face Iowa State on Saturday.

"We're getting beat up," McConnell-Miller said. "And how we fight and how we battle and how we persevere is gonna be the character of our program."

#### **Texas A&M 95, Colorado 61**

#### **TEXAS A&M (95)**

#### **FG FT Reb**

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

Bchnan 25 6-8 2-2 6-8 2 2 14

Elonu 25 6-6 9-11 1-7 2 2 21

Carter 32 0-3 0-0 0-1 2 1 0

White 25 4-8 0-0 1-3 0 1 9

Smith 28 7-11 2-3 0-8 6 3 16

Bellock 4 2-2 0-0 0-1 0 0 4

Windhm 7 1-3 0-0 0-0 1 0 2

Baker 6 0-0 0-0 0-1 1 0 0

Adams 16 6-7 6-9 1-2 1 4 19

Ashmre 1 0-1 0-0 1-1 0 0 0

Collins 4 0-1 0-2 0-0 0 1 0

Pratcher 7 0-1 0-0 0-1 0 0 0

Assarian 8 0-0 0-0 1-2 0 2 0

Colson 12 3-4 3-4 0-1 3 2 10

Totals 200 35-55 22-31 12-37 18 18 95

**Percentages:** FG .636, FT .710.

**3-Point Goals:** 3-10, .300 (Colson 1-2, Adams 1-2, White 1-3, Pratcher 0-1, Carter 0-2).

**Team Rebounds:** 1.

**Blocked Shots:** 1 (Smith).

**Turnovers:** 18 (Smith 5, Elonu 4, White 3, Adams 2, Pratcher, Buchanan, Bellock, Baker).

**Steals:** 14 (Colson 5, Windham 2, Elonu 2, Adams 2, Buchanan 2, White).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

## COLORADO (61)

### FG FT Reb

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

Spears 29 3-10 1-2 1-4 3 1 7

Dunn 16 0-3 0-0 0-2 0 3 0

Fressle 38 6-10 0-0 3-5 2 3 12

Smith 33 6-16 6-6 1-3 2 4 22

Jeffery 32 3-5 3-4 0-0 2 2 9

MMcm-Pk 17 1-5 1-2 1-2 1 4 4

Seabrook 5 0-0 0-1 1-1 0 0 0

Dale 15 2-2 0-1 1-1 0 1 5

BMcm-Pk 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Mullaney 8 0-0 2-2 0-0 0 1 2

McFarln 6 0-2 0-0 1-2 0 0 0

Totals 200 21-53 13-18 10-22 10 19 61

**Percentages:** FG .396, FT .722.

**3-Point Goals:** 6-22, .273 (Smith 4-12, Dale 1-1, [M.Malcolm](#)-Peck 1-2, Jeffery 0-1, Fressle 0-1, Spears 0-2, Dunn 0-3).

**Team Rebounds:** 2.

**Blocked Shots:** 0.

**Turnovers:** 23 (Fressle 9, Spears 5, [M.Malcolm](#)-Peck 3, Jeffery 2, Smith 2, Dale, Dunn).

**Steals:** 10 (Smith 3, Fressle 3, Spears 2, Dunn, Jeffery).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

**Texas A&M 45 50--95**

**Colorado 25 36--61**

**A --** 3,180.

**Officials --** Wesley Dean, Teresa Dahlem, Michol Murray.

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## Smith sets career 3-point mark

**By Joshua Linden**stein Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/28/2010 12:09:51 AM MST

Bianca Smith said she was humbled Saturday by the fact that she was able to break Shelley Sheetz's Colorado career record for 3-pointers.

Smith just plans to enjoy the achievement later.

"Shelley Sheetz is a great player," Smith said after hitting four 3-pointers in the Buffaloes' 95-61 loss to Texas A&M, giving her 255 for her career. Sheetz finished with 252. "I'm actually glad that now it's behind me. I can focus now on trying to get these next two (wins)."

Smith's four treys Saturday also helped her tie her own single-season mark at CU for 3-pointers made at 80.

But the senior from Houston said more important than the record right now is helping the struggling Buffs (13-14, 3-11 Big 12) finish her senior season strong and earn a postseason berth.

"I think once we're completely done, whether it's through postseason or whatever, and I'm able to sit down and let everything sink in, I'll be more able to really enjoy it and actually look at it and realize the accomplishment I made," she said.

### Blair monologue

Texas A&M coach Gary Blair spent several minutes Saturday afternoon explaining why CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller shouldn't be written off in five seasons as head coach -- his main point being the difficulty of building a Big 12 program.

A&M suffered losing seasons in the first seven years of the conference before he arrived. After going 9-19 his first season in College Station, the Aggies turned in a 16-15 campaign and have since notched five straight 20-win seasons, including this one.

Blair said CU's new practice facility, which is scheduled to be completed next year, will give the Buff basketball programs a major boost. The Aggies got a new 68,000-square foot facility in 2008.

"When you get the new facilities built here, you do not realize how much that helps with recruiting," Blair said. "We've had ours now for a year and a half, and it is huge."

### Notable

Colorado dropped its 21st in a row against ranked foes. ... CU's lead in the series with A&M dropped to 10-8, with the Aggies winning their seventh straight. ... The 95 points allowed Saturday were the most by CU since a 103-76 loss to Iowa State in 2005.

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## Aggies too strong inside for Buffs

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 02/28/2010 01:00:00 AM MST



Texas A&M's Adaora Elonu, right, steals a pass intended for CU's Chucky Jeffery. (David Zalubowski, The Associated Press)

BOULDER — The Colorado women's basketball program, like its male counterpart, is in a desperate recruiting search for a center who can match up with the dominant post players that

every other team in the Big 12 Conference seems to have.

Never was that more evident than during Saturday's 95-61 trouncing by No. 12 Texas A&M. The Aggies (20-7, 8-6 Big 12), as deep and athletic up front as any team in the conference, outscored Colorado in the paint by a 40-20 margin.

Colorado (13-14, 3-11) was coming off an overtime win at Missouri, but any carryover momentum vanished when Texas A&M powered to quick leads of 18-11, 25-13 and 43-22.

"We don't have a post presence, and it's devastating us right now," said CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller, 65-85 in her fifth season. "At this point, we're out there trying to find the best 'big' we can."

Senior guard Bianca Smith provided Colorado's lone bright spots, becoming the program's all-time 3-point scorer en route to a game-high 22 points. Smith needed two 3s to pass CU legend Shelley Sheetz, who made 252 3-pointers from 1991-95. Smith broke the mark with 7:32 left in the first half and finished with four 3-pointers.

"Shelley Sheetz was a great player, and I'm humbled," Smith said.

Texas A&M coach Gary Blair told the media that CU needs to remain patient with McConnell-Miller.

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"Kathy is class. She will get it done," Blair said.  
"It takes time in this league."

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Longmont, Colorado  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Publish Date: 2/28/2010

## CU coach draws praise after women walloped

By Patrick Ridgell  
© 2010 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Texas A&M walloped the Colorado women's basketball team 95-61 on Saturday. Then things got interesting.

After his team embarrassed the Buffs, Texas A&M coach Gary Blair lobbied to save the job of CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller. CU (13-14, 3-11 Big 12) fell to 65-85 under McConnell-Miller, who's in her fifth season. Her contract runs through 2012-13.

"You have to be patient," Blair said. "I want you Colorado writers and media to start thinking Nebraska was 15-16 last year — now look at what they're doing now. It takes time in this league to build a program. It always starts with recruiting.

"Kathy is going to get it done."

Nebraska, ranked No. 3, entered Saturday 26-0, 13-0 in the Big 12. Coach Connie Yori, in her eighth season, entered 2009-10 at 121-97 in Lincoln.

Patience probably isn't McConnell-Miller's biggest problem. Her's is talent — or, more specifically, CU's lack of an interior presence to score against, and handle, what the Buffs face in the Big 12. CU has had it under McConnell-Miller, especially when Jackie McFarland was here. Not now.

While losing Saturday for the ninth time in 10 games, CU was outscored in the paint 40-24 by the 12th-ranked Aggies (20-7, 8-6), and was out-rebounded 37-22. Starting center Courtney Dunn scored no points and grabbed two rebounds in 16 minutes. McConnell-Miller said Dunn simply can't play as many minutes as coaches want her to.

"When we had (a post presence), we did not have strong experienced guards to be able to balance that," the coach said. "Now we have strong, balanced guards that can score, shoot — and we don't have an interior presence."

CU will lose two of its 14 players, all on scholarship, to graduation following the season. One is guard Bianca Smith, who set the program's record for career 3s Saturday, hitting four to up her total to 255. The other is Dunn, who's leaving despite having another year of eligibility remaining. CU signed three incoming freshmen in November.

Whitney Houston's future with the program remains unannounced. She took a leave of absence Jan. 9 and has not returned. She's in school and expected to graduate in May, but is not practicing with the team.



Texas A&M forward Adaora Elonu, front right, is fouled as she goes up for a shot by Colorado center Courtney Dunn, front left, and guard Chucky Jeffery during their game Saturday in Boulder.

David Zalubowski/AP

### TEXAS A&M 95, COLORADO 61

TEXAS A&M (20-7, 8-6) — Buchanan 6-8 2-2 14, Elonu 6-6 9-11 21, Carter 0-3 0-0 0, White 4-8 0-0 9, Smith 7-11 2-3 16, Bellock 2-2 0-0 4, Windham 1-3 0-0 2, Baker 0-0 0-0 0, Adams 6-7 6-9 19, Ashmore 0-1 0-0 0, Collins 0-1 0-2 0, Pratchar 0-1 0-0 0, Assarian 0-0 0-0 0, Colson 3-4 3-4 10.

COLORADO (13-14, 3-11) — Spears 3-10, 1-2 7, Dunn 0-3 0-0 0, Fressle 6-10 0-0 12, Smith 6-16 6-6 22, Jeffery 3-5 3-4 9, M. Malcolm-Peck 1-5 1-2 4, Seabrook 0-0 0-1 0, Dale 2-2 0-1 5, B. Malcolm-Peck 0-0 0-0 0, Mullaney 0-0 2-2 2, MacFarlane 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 21-53 13-18 61.

Halftime — Texas A&M 45-25.

If Houston does not return in 2010-11 for what would be her final season of eligibility, CU would have only 14 on scholarship, one shy of the NCAA limit. McConnell-Miller said CU has no scholarships to offer in the spring — “at this point,” she added. McConnell-Miller said she and her coaches are always recruiting and searching for talent.

Even if CU can sign another post player this spring, it’ll be challenged to find one good enough to contribute right away in the Big 12, meaning McConnell-Miller will need help from within her program in 2010-11. That’s assuming she’s its coach next year.

3-point goals — Texas A&M 3-10; CU 6-22 (Smith 4-12, M. Malcolm-Peck 1-2, Dale 1-1, Spears 0-2, Dunn 0-3, Fressle 0-1, Jeffery 0-1). Fouled out — none. Rebounds — Texas A&M 37 (Buchanan 8, Smith 8); CU 22 (Fressle 5). Assists — Texas A&M 18 (Smith 6); CU 10 (Spears 3). Total fouls — Texas A&M 18; CU 19. Technicals — none. A — 3,180.
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McConnell-Miller said that her program, under her guidance, has not met expectations for wins and losses.

“Nobody’s happy with the wins and losses, first and foremost myself,” she said. “But I do think there’s a strong foundation. I think the players continue to get better; we continue to battle.

“We’re in a very difficult league. It’s difficult to make a jump. If you just look at some of the coaches in the conference that have come in and their progression, unless you inherited a program in the top 20, you’re not jumping in there real fast.”

Read Patrick Ridgell’s [CU sports blog](#). He can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).



## Texas A&M women rout Colorado 95-61

**Associated Press -**

Web Posted: 02/28/2010 12:00 CST



Texas A&M forward Adaora Elonu (right) steals a pass intended for Colorado guard Chucky Jeffery in the first half Saturday. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Texas A&M's Adaora Elonu was battling a stomach virus, but it was Colorado that felt ill on Saturday.

Elonu scored a career-high 21 points, Danielle Adams had 19 and No. 12 Texas A&M routed Colorado 95-61 on Saturday.

Tanisha Smith had 16 points and Damitria Buchanan added 14 for the Aggies (20-7, 8-6), who are battling Baylor and Oklahoma State for fifth place in the Big 12 Conference. Texas A&M moved a half game ahead of the Bears and Cowboys, who play Sunday.

Bianca Smith led Colorado (13-14, 3-11) with 22 points and Alyssa Fressle had 12.

Elonu's previous career high was 17 against Stephen F. Austin on Dec. 2, 2008. She passed that with a 15-foot jumper that gave the Aggies a 74-47 lead with 8:53 left in the game.

"Adaora played with a stomach virus today and possibly had her best game of the year, so I'm going to have

her keep that stomach virus a little longer," Texas A&M coach Gary Blair said.

Buchanan scored 12 of her points in the second half and said she was inspired by Elonu's effort.

"Seeing how easy it was for her to score and seeing how hard she was working made me want to go out there and make every game special," she said.

The Aggies took control of the game early. Colorado led 11-7 with 14:32 left in the first half when Texas A&M went on an 18-2 run over the next 6:24 to take a 25-13 advantage. Adams scored five of her 13 first-half points during the run, and Texas A&M led 45-35 at half.

The Aggies quickly increased their lead to 57-31 in the first five minutes of the second half and led by as many as 36 late in the game.

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