

Baylor's Griner gets in Buffs' heads

Bears freshman overwhelms CU

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

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WACO, Texas -- Colorado women's basketball coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said she reminded her players in the post-game locker room on Saturday night that Brittney Griner was going to be in the Big 12 Conference for three more years. They better get over the intimidation of facing her.

The 6-foot-8 Baylor freshman turned in her second triple-double of the season to lead the 15th-ranked Bears to a 76-42 trouncing of the Buffs at the Ferrell Center.

Griner scored 24 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and tied her own school record with 11 blocks before leaving the game for good with 3:36 left to play.

She dominated on both ends of the floor -- owning the lane so much on the defensive end that the Buffs rarely challenged inside and struggled to their worst shooting night in nearly five years.

"Unfortunately we just shied away from her," McConnell-Miller said on the KKZN post-game radio show. "I just thought her presence in the paint took us away from what we were trying to do."

The loss was Colorado's largest of the season and fourth straight. The Buffs (12-9, 2-6 Big 12) have now lost six of their last seven and 17 in a row against ranked opponents heading into Wednesday's home game against No. 17 Texas. Their last road win over a Big 12 South Division opponent came Jan. 7, 2004, 20 tries ago. Saturday's game didn't start out so ominously as some other Big 12 trips have this season. CU led 10-9 five minutes in after a layup by Brittany Spears.

But the outside shots stopped falling and, after a few early blocks by Griner, the Buffs quit trying to go inside nearly as often.

The Buffs went scoreless for separate stretches of 6:25 and 6:52 over the final 14:57 of the first half as Baylor took a 33-15 lead into the break.

"Our team definitely looked a little scared to go against her and drive to the basket," CU center Courtney Dunn told KKZN.

Consequently, the Bears (17-5, 4-4) outscored the Buffs 46-10 in the paint.

The Buffs shot 23.6 percent (13 of 55) from the field, including 7 of 21 from 3-point range. Their 42 points were a season low and their 17 first-half turnovers a season high.

Griner, who also had three steals, proved just as tough to stop as she was to score against. Between Dunn, freshman Melissa MacFarlane and sophomore Julie Seabrook, the Buffs threw plenty of size at her. But Griner made 10 of 19 field-goal attempts and scored 11 of 15 points for Baylor at one point to push the Bears' lead to 54-23.

"Later in the game I kind of figured out how to guard her but she was still tall enough to shoot over me," Dunn said. "So there was really nothing I could do about it."

Any chance the Buffs had of making a game of it went out the window when they made just two field goals in the first nine minutes of the second half.

Spears led CU with nine points and six rebounds but shot just 3 of 14 from the field. Reserve guard Bianca Smith, the Buffs' second-leading scorer entering the game, had just one point and was 0 for 13 from the field.

Dunn had nine points and four rebounds, and Chucky Jeffery added eight points, five assists and five steals for the Buffs.

Forward Morghan Medlock added 13 points and nine rebounds for Baylor, which out-rebounded CU 45-30.

The Bears were without injured former Legacy High standout Melissa Jones, the team's second-leading scorer and one of its team leaders. But it hardly mattered with the stronghold Griner had on the Buffs' minds.

"I think if we can just eliminate the awe of Brittney Griner I think things will change considerably," McConnell-Miller said.

Notable

The last time the Buffs had a worse shooting outing was a 13 for 56 effort at Texas on Feb. 23, 2005. ... Jeffery's five steals matched a career high. ... MacFarlane played a career-high 12 minutes before fouling out with 11 minutes to go. ... The single-digit scoring outing was just the second of the season for Spears. ... Baylor won its sixth in a row over CU and leads the all-time series 10-8.

Baylor 76, Colorado 42

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

MMlcmP 14 1-2 0-0 1-1 0 3 3

Spears 33 3-14 2-4 2-6 1 0 9

Dunn 26 3-9 1-1 1-4 1 1 9

Fressle 22 1-4 0-0 0-1 0 2 3

Jeffery 34 3-6 2-2 1-4 5 1 8

Smith 25 0-13 1-2 0-2 0 1 1

Blythe 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Seabrook 8 0-0 1-2 0-0 0 1 1

Dale 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

BMlcmP 2 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 0 0

Mullaney 20 2-5 2-2 0-1 0 3 8

McFrIne 12 0-2 0-0 0-2 0 5 0

Totals 200 13-55 9-13 11-30 8 18 42

Percentages: FG .236, FT .692.

3-Point Goals: 7-21, .333 (Dunn 2-4, Mullaney 2-4, [M.Malcolm](#)-Peck 1-1, Fressle 1-2, Spears 1-5, Jeffery 0-1, Smith 0-4).

Team Rebounds: 8.

Blocked Shots: 1 (Spears).

Turnovers: 22 (Jeffery 6, Fressle 5, Spears 4, MacFarlane 2, Dunn 2, [M.Malcolm](#)-Peck, [B.Malcolm](#)-Peck, Dale).

Steals: 8 (Jeffery 5, Fressle, Mullaney, Spears).

Technical Fouls: None.

BAYLOR

FG FT Reb

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

Medlock 26 6-9 1-2 3-9 0 2 13

Griner 34 10-19 4-8 2-10 1 0 24

Wshngtn 23 4-6 0-0 2-4 1 2 9

Condrey 21 1-2 2-2 3-5 4 1 4

Griffin 29 2-9 3-3 1-3 8 1 7

Hayden 17 2-5 3-4 0-2 1 2 7

Madden 18 1-2 0-0 1-4 2 2 3

Zachrsn 7 0-1 2-2 0-0 0 0 2

Field 11 2-2 0-0 1-2 0 3 4

Palmer 5 0-0 0-2 0-1 2 1 0

Chandler 9 1-1 1-2 0-0 0 1 3

Totals 200 29-56 16-25 13-45 19 15 76

Percentages: FG .518, FT .640.

3-Point Goals: 2-6, .333 (Madden 1-2, Washington 1-2, Zachariason 0-1, Condrey 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 5.

Blocked Shots: 12 (Griner 11, Washington).

Turnovers: 17 (Hayden 4, Griffin 2, Medlock 2, Chandler 2, Washington 2, Madden, Griner, Field, Zachariason, Palmer).

Steals: 10 (Griffin 3, Zachariason 3, Griner 3, Hayden).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 15 27--42

Baylor 33 43--76

A -- 7,350.

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Unbearable loss

Women's basketball loses on road

By Marlee Horn on February 7, 2010

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Brittney Griner and the Baylor Bears proved too much for the Colorado women's basketball team to handle on the road at the Ferrell Center in Waco, Texas.

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The 76-42 loss on Saturday night was the team's fourth straight. The Buffaloes fell 12-9 overall, 2-6 in Big 12 play.

All of the Buffs' bouts against ranked opponents have handed them losses, and the face-off against No. 15 Baylor (17-5, 4-4) was no different.

While senior center Courtney Dunn and junior forward Brittany Spears each put up nine points, it wasn't enough to come close to Baylor's star freshman Brittney Griner's stats. The 6-foot-8 center recorded her second career triple-double with 24 points, ten rebounds and 11 blocks.

Head coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said she knew just how much of an impact Griner made on the game.

"She really changed the complexion of everything tonight, particularly what we were trying to do," said McConnell-Miller. "I just feel like our players were tentative and went away from her quite a bit as opposed to taking it and sticking with what we do. They continued to shy away whether it was fear of getting their shot blocked or not able to have success."

Colorado managed to get off to a good start, leading 10-9 with 14:57 remaining in the first half, but the lead didn't last long.

An 18-5 Baylor run made it impossible for the Buffs to gain the upper hand before the first half buzzer sounded. The lady Bears led 33-15 at the half.

The second half didn't get much better for CU. The team's only true inch-for-inch match against Griner—6-foot-7 freshman center Melissa MacFarlane—fouled out with 11:01 left in play.



Junior Sociology major Brittany Spears (22) pushes down the court against Iowa State's Kelsey Bolte during the CU versus Iowa State basketball game in Coor's Events Center on Jan. 16, 2009. (CU Independent file/Stephanie Davis)

Despite being fouled out after her 12-minute appearance, McConnell-Miller said she was still proud of the young player's showing.

"I thought she played a great game tonight," McConnell-Miller said. "She gave us good minutes, and got a little more confidence in her."

The Bears outscored the Buffs by 16 points in the second half, and were out-boarded 45-30 overall due largely in part to the double team combination of Griner and Morghan Medlock.

The Buffaloes will see if they can change their luck when they return home to face No. 23 Texas at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

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

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Lady Bears hop on Griner's back for 76-42 romp

By Brice Cherry Tribune-Herald staff writer

Sunday February 7, 2010



The Baylor Lady Bears are far from a one-woman team, but they've got one woman you can certainly build a team around.

That lady, obviously, is Brittney Griner.

Griner proved more than Colorado could handle, recording her second career triple-double to vault the 15th-ranked Lady Bears past the Buffaloes, 76-42, Saturday night at the Ferrell Center.



Baylor post Brittney Griner, who recorded her second triple-double of the season with 24 points, 10 rebounds and 11 blocks, shoots over Colorado's Courtney Dunn.

Rod Aydelotte/Waco Tribune-Herald

Asserting herself defensively from the start, Griner rejected 11 shots to go with 24 points and 10 rebounds, notching the 15th triple-double in Big 12 history.

"Look how far Brittney Griner has come since she's been here," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "I can only imagine when

she becomes a senior like Morghan Medlock. The thing that will always help Brittney Griner is that she has the most wonderful disposition to be coached. She doesn't think she's a prima donna or the next best thing to sliced bread. She just comes out here and wants to get better every day."

For Baylor (17-5, 4-4), it was a significant win, allowing the team to get back to .500 midway through conference play. "This may end up being the most important game of our season," Mulkey said.

Griner blocked a pair of shots in a six-second span in the first half, and stuffed one Colorado shooter without even leaving her feet, delighting the partisan crowd of 7,350.

Mulkey said Colorado's offensive strategy allowed Griner to play kind of a free safety role, roaming around to swat or alter shots.

Griner said she sensed the Buffaloes' tentativeness after a while.

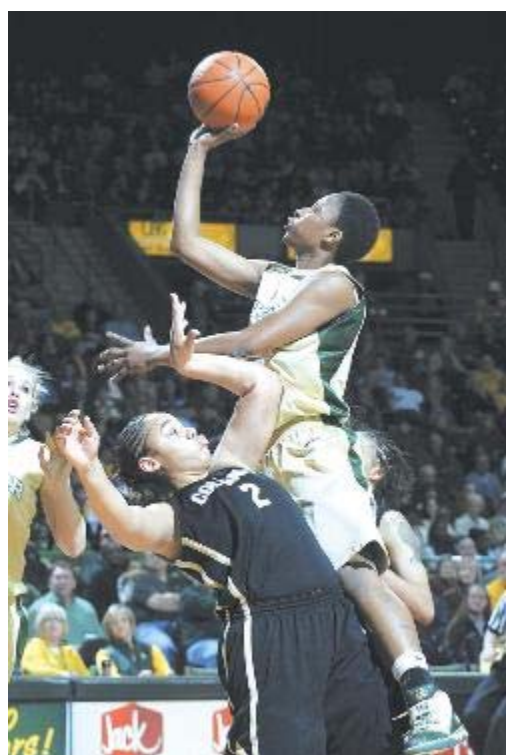
"They really didn't want to come in," said Griner, who also tallied a career-high three steals. "When some of the guards would come in, they'd turn around and throw it right back out real quick."

Griner was no less impressive offensively. After dropping in a free throw at the 11:01 mark of the second half, Griner had singlehandedly outscored Colorado's team, 24-23, prompting a "Brittney's winning!" cheer from the BU band.

But she also had plenty of help. Medlock scored five of BU's first nine points and finished with 13 points and nine boards, denting double figures in scoring for the first time in Big 12 play.

"I thought Morghan Medlock set the tone for the game," Mulkey said. "The first play was run for her, and she's getting back in the groove and playing better and has put some games together that has allowed her to get just back to being Morghan."

Shanay Washington chipped in nine points for Baylor on 4-of-6 shooting. Kelli Griffin had a rough shooting night, hitting just 2 of 9, but finished with seven points, eight assists and three steals.



Colorado defender Bianca Smith reels backward as Baylor freshman Shanay Washington puts up a shot in the paint.

Rod Aydelotte/Waco Tribune-Herald

In the game's early stages, Colorado used the 3-point shot to hang around. Alyssa Fressle and Brittany Spears both knocked

down 3-point bombs in the first few minutes for the Buffaloes, and when Spears scored in transition at the 14:57 mark, the Buffs actually led, 10-9.

But then the Lady Bears floored the accelerator, increasing the pace on their fast-break game. Over the next four minutes, Baylor broke off a 14-0 run, capped off by a herky-jerky runner off the glass from Washington.

The play turned sloppy near the end of the first half, but Baylor managed to increase its lead. When Medlock crashed the boards for a putback to beat the first-half buzzer, Baylor upped its lead to 18 at 33-15.

Baylor's defense was fierce, forcing 17 first-half turnovers and harassing Colorado's top two scorers on the season, Spears and Bianca Smith, into a collective 3-for-27 shooting performance.

No Colorado player cracked double figures, as Spears and Courtney Dunn led the team with nine points each.

Baylor returns to the court Wednesday at No. 13 Oklahoma.

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