

# CU women unable to dig out of big hole in road loss

## Texas Tech puts together two 16-0 runs en route to victory

Camera staff report  
Boulder Daily Camera

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LUBBOCK, Texas -- The road remained harsh for the Colorado women's basketball team on Tuesday night.

The Buffs fell behind big early and never recovered in a 74-61 loss to Texas Tech at United Spirit Arena.

The defeat was the Buffs' eighth in a row on the road and 18th in a row on the road against Big 12 Conference South opponents.

It also continued the road futility among all three of CU's major athletic programs. The football team has lost 11 straight true road games, while the men's hoops team has dropped 22 in a row on the road against Division-I opponents.

Texas Tech (13-3, 1-1 Big 12) put together a pair of 16-0 runs on Tuesday and led by as many as 25 early in the second half.

Colorado (11-4, 1-1) managed to cut the deficit to nine when Courtney Dunn hit a layup to make it 53-44 with 8:54 to play. But the Red Raiders quickly pushed their lead back to 18 and were never threatened again. "They did respond and I like the way they played together," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said of her players on KKZN AM 760's postgame show. "I liked what they did. But I think there's some lessons learned with being on the road and how they respond."

Texas Tech outplayed the Buffs in every facet of the game in the first half, including the transition game where the Raiders beat CU time and again in building their lead.

The Raiders' first 16-0 run gave them a 16-2 advantage. CU rallied to make it 18-12, but that's when Tech began its second 16-0 barrage that carried over into the early second half and gave TTU a 43-19 lead. Colorado didn't score for 7:08 during that stretch.

The Buffs shot just 18 percent (6 of 34) from the field in the first half as Texas Tech blanketed CU's top two scorers, Brittany Spears and Bianca Smith.

"I thought Bianca responded and I think Brittany Spears has a little way to go with that," McConnell-Miller said of Spears, who had just three points on 1-for-7 shooting in 24 minutes. "When teams come out and they key in on you, you've got to find ways to get open and get shots in your offense and not force."

McConnell-Miller said her two starting freshmen, Chucky Jeffery and Meagan Malcolm-Peck were also tentative early in their first Big 12 road game. The pair, a big part of CU's success this season, combined for just 10 points.

"I felt they were initially just trying to exist out there and not make mistakes as opposed to playing their game," McConnell-Miller said.

Jordan Murphree scored 21 points and Ashlee Roberson added 18 to lead four Red Raiders in double figures.

Smith came off the bench to lead CU with 18 points. Guard Alyssa Fressle added 12. And Dunn had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the first double-double of her career.

Down 51-26 early in the second half, CU went on a 13-0 run to make it 51-39, and then shaved three more points off the lead. But it was too little too late for the Buffs, who host Iowa State at 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Coors Events Center.

"This was heading toward a 30, 40-point loss, and we got it down to I think nine it was," Bianca Smith told KKZN. "We were able to come back and fight, and I think that says a lot about our resilience as a team."

**Texas Tech 74, Colorado 61****COLORADO (61)****Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT**

Spears 24 1-7 0-0 7 2 4 3

Dunn 36 4-9 2-3 11 3 2 10

Fressle 30 4-11 3-7 3 4 4 12

M. Mlc-Pck 27 2-7 0-0 1 0 2 5

Jeffery 22 1-6 3-4 2 1 3 5

Smith 30 5-14 4-4 6 1 2 18

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

Dale 3 0-2 0-0 1 0 0 0

B. Mlc-Pck 2 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Mullaney 22 3-8 0-2 3 1 3 8

MacFarln 2 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

TOTALS 200 20-64 12-20 35 12 21 61

**3-Point Goals:** 9-28, .321 (Spears 1-4, Dunn 0-3, Fressle 1-3, M. Malcolm-Peck 1-4, Jeffery 0-1, Smith 4-9, Dale 0-1, Mullaney 2-3).

**Team Rebounds:** 1.

**Blocked Shots:** 3 (Dunn, M. Malcolm-Peck, Jeffery).

**Turnovers:** 14 (Spears 3, Dunn 4, M. Malcolm-Peck, Jeffery 2, Smith, Seabrook, Mullaney, team).

**Steals:** 9 (Dunn, Fressle 3, Jeffery 2, Smith 2, Mullaney).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

**TEXAS TECH (74)****Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT**

Roberson 35 6-12 5-6 10 2 3 18

Mallard 30 7-15 2-2 9 2 2 16

Murphree 31 6-12 8-8 7 2 2 21

Martin 28 2-5 6-8 1 5 1 11

Smalls 33 2-6 0-0 10 3 3 4

Brown 14 0-2 0-0 2 0 0 0

Barncastle 11 1-3 0-0 1 0 2 2

Ashton 4 0-1 0-0 0 0 0 0

Hyde 3 1-1 0-0 0 0 2 2

Kimbrow 2 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Bknkmp 9 0-0 0-0 2 1 0 0

TOTALS 200 25-57 21-24 45 15 15 74

**3-Point Goals:** 3-9, .333 (Roberson 1-2, Murphree 1-2, Martin 1-2, Smalls 0-1, Barncastle 0-2).

**Team Rebounds:** 3.

**Blocked Shots:** 7 (Roberson, Mallard 4, Murphree, Bokenkamp).

**Turnovers:** 18 (Roberson 4, Mallard 2, Murphree 3, Martin 2, Smalls, Barncastle 2, Hyde 2, Kimbro, team).

**Steals:** 3 (Roberson, Martin 2).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

Colorado 19 42 -- 61

Texas Tech 37 37 -- 74

**Officials:** Kantner, Hall, Roberts.

**Attendance:** 6,587.

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## Inside Sports

A look at the world of sports from the inside, from Gazette sports editors and copy editors

### [Area excitement in women's sports](#)

January 11th, 2010, 6:29 pm - [Post a Comment](#) - posted by [joconnell](#)

The 2010 U.S. Olympic Women's Ice Hockey Team meets Finland on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m., at the Colorado Springs World Arena. It is the last official game for the American women before the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, with Team USA's first game taking place on Feb. 14 against China. Tickets are priced at \$12 and \$7 and you can order them now at [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com) or by calling 866.464.2626 or 719.576.2626 or stopping by the World Arena box office.

Hockey Weekend Across America is Jan. 29-31. And in celebration, area youth are invited to try hockey for free Jan. 30 at noon at the World Arena. U.S. Women's National Team members Karen Thatcher and Jenny Potter will be in attendance at the clinic. More details to come.

Meanwhile, Sierra graduate Chucky Jeffery was named Big 12 freshman of the week for the CU women's basketball team.

Jeffery averaged 15.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 6.5 assists and 5.0 steals in Colorado's wins over Yale and Missouri. She tied a career-best with 19 points, connecting on all seven of her field-goal attempts against Yale. Jeffery also registered a personal and team season-best nine assists to go along with seven rebounds, five steals and two blocked shots. Jeffery made her Big 12 Conference debut by scoring 12 points and equaling a career-best eight rebounds and five steals in the win over Missouri. She hit 5-of-10 from the floor and also dished out four assists.

Between the big women's hockey game, Jeffery's play at CU, and other women and girls performing at college, high schools and in other arenas, the local scene is full of top-notch performances.

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## Poor shooting hurts CU

Women's basketball succumbs to Texas Tech

*By Marlee Horn on January 13, 2010*

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The Colorado Buffaloes women's basketball team is no doubt working on their shooting this week.

The Buffaloes couldn't quite come back from a poor start and an even worse shooting performance against Texas Tech to lose 74-61 to the Lady Raiders on Tuesday at the United Spirit Arena in Lubbock, Texas.

The Buffaloes (11-4, 1-1 Big 12 Conference) shot a season-low 31.3 percent, including a 6-of-34 shooting display in the first half.

Texas Tech (13-3, 1-1) led by as many as 25 early in the second half after stringing together a pair of 16-0 runs.

Although senior center Courtney Dunn achieved her first career double-double with 10 points and a career-high 11 rebounds, other Buffs weren't quite as successful as the Lady Raiders managed to limit leading scorer Brittany Spears to just three points.

Senior guard Bianca Smith led the way for the Buffaloes with 18 points.

Colorado will return to the Coors Event Center at 4:30 p.m. Saturday as they host the Iowa State Cyclones.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Marlee Horn at [Marlee.Horn@colorado.edu](mailto:Marlee.Horn@colorado.edu).

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



In this file photo from last year, guard Bianca Smith takes one of her 10 3-pointers for the Buffs in a 75-73 win Nebraska Cornhuskers on Jan. 31, 2009. (CU Independent file/Molly Maher)

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You are here: [Home](#) -> [Women's Basketball](#) -> Lady Raiders cruise past Buffaloes

## Lady Raiders cruise past Buffaloes

By [David Just](#) on January 12th, 2010 [8 Comments](#) [Printer-Friendly](#)



Texas Tech wasted little time getting back on track in the Big 12 on Tuesday night.

The Lady Raiders jumped out to a 16-2 lead and ran away from Colorado in a 74-61 victory in their conference home opener at United Spirit Arena.

After a disappointing effort from the team's seniors in a loss against Oklahoma on Saturday, the Lady Raiders rebounded nicely Tuesday in more ways than one.



Texas Tech head coach Kristy Curry talks to her team during a time out against Colorado Tuesday night at United Spirit Arena. (Photo by Geoffrey McAllister/Lubbock Avalanche-Journal)



Texas Tech's Jordan Murphree, left, is fouled while shooting over Colorado's Brittany Spears Tuesday night at United Spirit Arena. (Photo by Geoffrey McAllister/Lubbock Avalanche-Journal)

Jordan Murphree, who scored only two points on a pair of free throws Saturday, scored nine of her 21 in the first half despite playing with a sore back. She shot 50 percent from the floor, 8-for-8 from the free-throw line, and added seven rebounds for Tech (13-3, 1-1 in Big 12).

Senior Ashlee Roberson scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season. Tilmila Martin added 11 points and dished out five assists.

"I think all the seniors came out and played very well today," Roberson said of the seniors' turnaround. "It's a young team, but the (freshmen) are doing a great job of following and we're doing a great job of leading."

The star of the game might have been the Lady Raiders' defense, which forced 18 turnovers and held Colorado to 31 percent shooting. The Buffs shot only 17.6 percent in the first half.



Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said junior Brittany Spears, who entered the game averaging nearly 20 points, was forced out of the game by Tech's defense. Spears scored only three points, a season low. She had scored in double digits in all of Colorado's previous games this season.

McConnell-Miller played Spears only five minutes in the second half because she felt the matchups were better without her.

"That was a coach's decision," McConnell-Miller said of keeping Spears off the floor. "When Spears was on the floor we were one shot and done, or one pass and done, and we just did not execute the way we needed to against Texas Tech. You're on the road and if you make a pass and a shot you can go down 20 really quick, and that's what happened."

Colorado (11-4, 1-1) responded well after being down 37-19 at halftime. The Buffs narrowed the gap to nine points with nine minutes to go and missed opportunities to make it closer.

Tech regained control and was up 20 with three minutes to go in the game.

"A team is going to have their runs and that was their run," Murphree said. "We dug deep and got it back to 20 points. Basketball is a game of runs and we just needed to match that run that they had."

The Lady Raiders shot 43.9 percent from the floor, which was their best shooting performance since beating North Dakota in the first round of a tournament at Tulane on Dec. 28. Tech was spectacular from the free-throw line as well, shooting 21-of-24.

Curry had wanted to see the pressure taken off Kierra Mallard in the post and the team seemed better for it. Mallard finished with four blocks.

"She ran so hard in transition and got great help," Curry said. "Look at her blocked shots...I thought we put her in a position to be more successful tonight."

Mallard scored 16 points and hauled in nine rebounds. On the whole, the Lady Raiders were a force on the glass, grabbing 45 rebounds, including 10 from 5-foot-6 guard Monique Smalls, a career high.

To comment on this story:

david.just@lubbockonline.com | 766-8736

courtney.linehan@lubbockonline.com | 766-8735



## Comments

- **TallMike** said:



Seniors have to come through and lead the team. I just saw a hs game w/3 seniors who



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# Early push helps Lady Raiders handle Buffs

By Jose Rodriguez

Staff Writer

**Published:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010

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According to Colorado head coach Kathy McConnell-Miller, Tuesday's game between her Buffaloes and the Lady Raiders was decided way before she could do anything about it.

"I thought the game was decided in the first six minutes," she said. "I thought Texas Tech came out extremely focused. Their defensive pressure took us out of it, I thought we settled consistently, got on our heels, did not execute and that is a focus of ours."

The 74-61 win helped Tech (13-3, 1-1 in Big 12 Conference play) extend its unbeaten streak at home this season and, probably more importantly, bounce back from a loss to Oklahoma to open conference play. Tech is 11-0 at home.

Colorado (11-4, 1-1) struggled shooting in the first half at 17.6 percent. The Buffaloes only amassed 19 points in the first half.

The Lady Raiders knew going into the game that stopping Colorado guard Brittany Spears would give them a chance to take over and the theory proved to be right.

Spears had three points on 1-of-7 shooting from the field. She is sixth in the conference inscoring.



Riannon Rowley

Texas Tech's Jordan Mupfree guards Colorado's Meagan Malcolm-Peck during Tech's 74-61 win Tuesday at the United Spirit Arena.

"I thought we got off to a really good start," Tech head coach Kristy Curry said. "I thought the kids bought into the game plan initially and played really hard. I thought when we went to our man it was just as good as our zone and it was just a great effort from our kids tonight defensively."

The intensity on defense provided many opportunities for Tech's offense.

The trio of Ashlee Roberson, Jordan Murphree and Kierra Mallard combined for 55 of the team's 74 points. Roberson also hauled in 10 rebounds for a double-double.

Despite having Spears on the bench for a majority of the second half, the Buffaloes pulled within nine points toward the end of the game.

Murphree said that was something the team expected to see eventually and handled well.

"I just think knowing that a team is going to have their run and that was their run," she said. "I think we dug deep and got it back up to 20 points. We just needed to match the run that they had and I think we did a good job of doing that."

Colorado missed two fast-break buckets that could have closed the gap to seven points.

The nine-point deficit is the closest the Buffaloes got to regaining the lead.

"We come back and really work on executing offensively, making more than one pass before we shoot it, understanding that everybody has got to have a lot of energy behind whatever we're doing on both ends of the floor," she said. "It's just a credit to the kids, all of them, they did a great job tonight."