

CU Buffs return to scene of last Big 12 road win

CU won at Okla. St. on Jan. 21, 2006

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/20/2010 12:02:30 AM MST

STILLWATER, Okla. -- Jeff Bzdelik was coaching at the Air Force Academy. Dwight Thorne was a senior in high school. Alec Burks was 14.

Richard Roby scored 27 points, including the decisive basket in overtime, to lead the Buffs to a thrilling 80-78 victory over Oklahoma State right here in Stillwater.

The date was Jan. 21, 2006.

It's hard to believe, but that was the last time the Colorado men's basketball program celebrated a Big 12 road victory.

CU has since lost 30 consecutive conference road games entering tonight's tilt against Oklahoma State at Gallagher-Iba Arena (7:05 p.m., ESPNU).

The Buffs (10-7, 1-2) -- who have also dropped their last 22 true road games against Division I opponents since a win at Colorado State during Bzdelik's first season at CU -- believe they are prepared for anything after opening up Big 12 play against three ranked opponents (No. 1 Texas, No. 25 Baylor and No. 10 Kansas State).

"I've never really looked at the road as a place where you can't win," said Marcus Relphorde, the Big 12 rookie of the week, who has averaged 19.7 points and five rebounds for the Buffs over the last three games. "I know we've had trouble on the road this year and in the past. Hopefully we can keep working hard and pull out some victories."

Last season the Cowboys (13-4, 1-2) cruised to a 76-55 win in Boulder. James Anderson scored 30 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in that game as Oklahoma State out-rebounded CU 38-23.

"We just have to play him solid. He's one of those players who is going to try and get his points," Austin Dufault said of Anderson, who leads the Big 12 in scoring this season. "We can't let any other players have an all-star night on us. We have to make sure we don't over-focus on him and let somebody else get loose on us."

CU's leading scorers against the Pokes last season were Levi Knutson (19 points) and Casey Crawford (14 points). Those are career-high numbers in the Big 12 for both role players.

Bzdelik's star, Cory Higgins, only had nine points in 33 minutes. The junior guard will likely have to match Anderson and receive some help from Relphorde and Burks in order for the visitors to prevail tonight.

"Our players from last year know that we've got some great newcomers. That gives everyone a lot more confidence. It's all about talent," Bzdelik said. "You always need to get reinforced by winning to boost that confidence level. Having success against Baylor was a big boost, but one game doesn't make a season."

The Buffs were still trying to figure out a game plan for Oklahoma State during practices on Monday and Tuesday.

CU has started 6-11 freshman Shane Harris-Tunks in Big 12 play to add some size to the lineup. Bzdelik's team is still getting out-rebounded 40.3 to 25.0 in conference play.

The Cowboys (37.4 rpg) are ninth in the Big 12 in rebounding for the entire season while the Buffs are last (29.1 rpg).

"How do we solve that problem?" Bzdelik said after the 87-81 loss to Kansas State on Saturday. "It falls on me to recruit."

Finding a way for Dufault to return to his freshman form would also help. Since the sophomore forward started coming off the bench in conference play he has averaged 2.0 points and 1.0 rebounds.

"I need to just stay after it, remain confident, and keep working hard in practice every day trying to get better," Dufault said. "Whatever needs to be done on the court, I have to step up and do it. Everybody has peaks and valleys throughout a season. One of these days, I'll get it going again."

CU is third in the Big 12 in field goal percentage (.492) and first in free throw percentage (.762) while Oklahoma State is last in field goal percentage (.434) and sixth in free throw percentage (.696).

"There's no question they're making that natural progression. Jeff has done a great job putting this team together with some good talent," Cowboys coach Travis Ford said. "They're opening it up more offensively and they have new players who have added depth."

"I've watched them on tape. They're just not the same team they were last year."

Television clarification

The Big 12's investigation into why Saturday's CU-Kansas State game was not available to Comcast customers in Boulder is over. A conference official was told that Comcast had made the decision this fall to show a girls high school basketball game on Channel 5, which serves as Altitude 2 on occasion, and informed Altitude of the decision.

Altitude failed to inform ESPN Regional that the game would not be available on Altitude2 (Channel 5) in Boulder, otherwise ESPN Regional would have worked to find another outlet to broadcast the game.

CU sports information director Dave Plati said all remaining games this winter have been doubled-checked by all three entities and a Buffs blackout in Boulder should not happen again.

Big 12 Championship

tickets on sale

The Big 12 Conference has announced that a limited number of tickets for the 2010 Big 12 men's basketball championship, scheduled for March 10-13 at the Sprint Center in Kansas City, Mo., will be available to the public.

Fans may participate in an online drawing process for the opportunity to purchase tickets. Through the random online drawing, fans will have the opportunity to purchase two all-session tickets. To register visit sprintcenter.com between 4 p.m. Thursday and 3:59 p.m. Sunday.

Close Window

Send To Printer

CU men's preview vs. Oklahoma State

Camera staff
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/19/2010 11:55:24 PM MST

TONIGHT: Colorado returns to the road to take on Oklahoma State at Gallagher-Iba Arena at 7:05 p.m.

BROADCAST: Television: ESPNU with Carter Blackburn (play-by-play) and LaPhonso Ellis (analyst); **Radio:** KKZN (760 AM) with Mark Johnson (play-by-play) and Charles Johnson (color).

STORYLINES: The Buffs (10-7, 1-2) are coming off an 87-81 loss to No. 10 Kansas State, which went on to upset No. 1 Texas in its next game on Monday. ... Cory Higgins scored 30 points and is now 20th on CU's all-time scoring list with 1,125 points. ... The Buffs have shot 50 percent or better in all three Big 12 games. ... The Cowboys (13-4, 1-2) are 9-0 at home but 0-2 on the road in conference play. ... Oklahoma State features the Big 12's top scorer in James Anderson (21.6 ppg).

KEY STAT: CU's last road victory in the Big 12 was on Jan. 21, 2006, in Stillwater (80-78, overtime). Since that win over Oklahoma State the Buffs have lost 30 consecutive conference road games.

COACHES: Jeff Bzdelik is 31-49 in his third season at CU. Travis Ford is 36-16 in his second season at Oklahoma State.

PROBABLE STARTERS:

Colorado -- G Nate Tomlinson, 6-3, sophomore, 6.3 ppg, 2.8 rpg, G Alec Burks, 6-6, freshman, 16.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, G Cory Higgins, 6-5, junior, 18.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, G Marcus Relphorde, 6-7, junior, 11.5 ppg, 3.5 rpg, F Shane Harris-Tunks, 6-11, freshman, 2.4 ppg, 2.0 rpg.

Oklahoma State -- G Obi Muonelo, 6-5, senior, 12.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg, G Ray Penn, 5-9, freshman, 8.1 ppg, 1.8 rpg, G James Anderson, 6-6, junior, 21.6 ppg, 5.8 rpg, F Matt Pilgrim, 6-8, junior, 6.9 ppg, 6.2 rpg, F Marshall Moses, 6-7, junior, 10.9 ppg, 9.4 rpg.

SERIES: Oklahoma State leads 59-47.

UP NEXT: The Buffs play Texas A&M on Saturday in College Station (11:30 a.m., Altitude).

Close Window

Send To Printer



January 19, 2010

Oklahoma State Cowboys come home to hopefully end shooting woes

By Justin Hite
Stillwater NewsPress

STILLWATER — After two sub-par performances away from Gallagher-Iba Arena, Oklahoma State forward Marshall Moses couldn't wait to get back home. Well, he's more anxious just to get back on the court.

"I'm ready to play at home," he said. "I just love our fans and the energy they bring us, especially after losing games. Our fans really bring us up, when you hear the crowd cheering and you get back to your own place instead of being on the road so much.

"We do need a road win and I'm anxious to get back on the road, too, but I'm happy to be at home for the next game."

He'll get that chance at 7 p.m. tonight against a Colorado team that hasn't won on the road in the Big 12 in almost four years — since the last time the Buffaloes won in GIA.

For the complete analysis see Wednesday's NewsPress.

Stillwater NewsPress 211 W. Ninth Stillwater, OK 74076