

CU men fall at Oklahoma State

Buffaloes' Big 12 road losing streak extended to 31

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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STILLWATER, Okla. -- If we were talking about the Denver Broncos, the solution would be easy:

Fire the defensive coordinator!

But this is the bizarre world of Colorado basketball. And Jeff Bzdelik isn't interested in scapegoats.

The Buffs head coach made it clear who he's looking to in the locker room to turn things around defensively after CU's 90-78 loss to Oklahoma State on Wednesday at Gallagher-Iba Arena.

"They have to commit to defense and it starts with our upperclassmen. It really does," Bzdelik said after his team allowed the Cowboys to shoot 55.4 percent from the field while out-rebounding the generous visitors 38-23. "To contain the ball, to communicate ... everybody should be moving every time the ball moves. We work on it."

James Anderson -- the Big 12's leading scorer (21.6 ppg) entering the game -- finished with 26 points and eight rebounds. The junior guard, who is already in the top 10 on OSU's all-time scoring list, has scored at least 20 points in seven of the last nine games.

Marshall Moses finished with 20 points and 18 rebounds. CU's starting forwards, Austin Dufault and Marcus Relphorde, combined for 14 points and eight rebounds.

Anderson was 7-for-14 from the field, despite an off night behind the arc (1-for-6). Moses was 8-for-9 shooting, or more specifically dunking.

"I accept it with open arms," Dwight Thorne, CU's only senior, said of Bzdelik's postgame challenge. "If he's looking for upperclassmen to step up and accept leadership roles more than we are right now, I'll be the first one to do it."

The Cowboys (14-4, 2-2) were 1-for-7 behind the arc in the first half before Obi Muonelo splashed a couple of unguarded 3-pointers to give his team a 10-point cushion. A trey by Anderson gave OSU a 50-35 lead with 16:33 remaining.

Keiton Page made a 3-pointer to increase the lead to 17 points, and Moses gave OSU its largest lead (61-43) lead with 11:48 remaining after an easy put-back.

Muonelo finished with four 3-pointers and 18 points. Page added 14 points, three steals and two assists.

"We need to stop the ball," Dufault said. "They're a good 3-point shooting team. I think we were flying out at shooters a little too much, even though we lost them a couple times. We just need to contain the ball and not allow easy drives and kicks."

CU answered with a late run and cut the deficit to 70-61 on a 3-pointer by Thorne with 6:20 remaining. That's as close as the defenseless Buffs could get in a wire-to-wire win for OSU.

"It's a will and a want-to and we have to lead by example," junior Cory Higgins said of recovering from the defensive meltdown. "It's not telling the underclassmen what to do, it's showing them."

The Cowboys led 37-30 at the intermission despite committing 10 of its 13 turnovers in the first half. OSU was averaging 11.1 turnovers entering the game, which was the lowest mark in program history.

The Buffs (10-8, 1-3) -- who were even more generous with 12 turnovers in the first 20 minutes -- fell behind 11-0 before Relphorde finally got the visitors on the board with 16:07 remaining, CU's longest drought without a basket to begin a game this season.

"We got off to a very bad start. Just seconds into the game we throw the ball away," Bzdelik lamented. "What we focused on heading into this game was not turning the ball over and defending with discipline. We had major breakdowns in both those areas early on in the game then periodically throughout the game. You can't do that."

Casey Crawford came off the bench and provided an offensive spark. The 6-9 junior hit back-to-back 3-pointers to bring CU to within 22-18 with 6:48 remaining, and his old-fashioned three-point play made the score 27-23 with 5:10 left.

A reverse layup by Anderson, who had 13 points at the break, gave the Pokes a nine-point lead in the final minute.

OSU's Ray Penn was dribbling the ball and waiting for the clock to wind down on the final possession of the half when Burks lost patience with that plan, stole the ball and dunked on the other end to cut the deficit to seven points.

The Cowboys had a 18-9 advantage on the boards in the first half. Moses (eight rebounds) nearly matched CU's total by himself as OSU enjoyed a 7-0 edge in second-chance points.

The Buffs finished with four players scoring in double figures, led by Burks' 24 points on 8-for-13 shooting. But by the end of regulation, CU was held to 45.6 percent shooting as a team, outscored 44-30 in the paint, and allowed 17 points off 14 turnovers.

The loss, of course, extended the Buffs' brutal road streaks:

A 31-game road losing streak in the Big 12 dating back to Jan. 21, 2006 (at Oklahoma State, 80-78 in overtime).

A 23-game road losing streak against Division I opponents dating back to Dec. 22, 2007 (at Colorado State, 73-70).

"The road woes ... if we're that weak mentally, then that's not good," said Bzdelik, who is tired of the tired trend.

CU will play at Texas A&M at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Okla. St. 90, Colorado 78

COLORADO (78)

FG FT Reb

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

Dufault 19 4-6 0-0 1-5 0 3 10

Tmlinsn 16 0-2 0-0 0-1 3 0 0

Rlphrd 27 2-9 0-0 0-3 2 1 4

Burks 35 8-13 8-10 2-5 0 0 24

Higgins 35 3-10 6-7 2-4 2 3 13

Thorne 25 5-7 3-4 0-1 1 5 15

Hrs-Tnks 12 0-2 0-0 1-1 0 3 0

Knutson 5 1-1 0-0 0-0 0 1 3

Crawfrd 21 3-6 1-1 0-2 0 4 9

Hrnbackle 4 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Eckloff 1 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Totals 200 26-57 18-22 6-23 8 20 78

Percentages: FG .456, FT .818.

3-Point Goals: 8-21, .381 (Thorne II 2-2, Crawford 2-4, Dufault 2-4, Knutson 1-1, [C.Higgins](#) 1-3, Eckloff 0-1, Tomlinson 0-1, Burks 0-1, Relphorde 0-4).

Team Rebounds: 1.

Blocked Shots: 1 (Burks).

Turnovers: 14 (Tomlinson 4, Relphorde 3, [C.Higgins](#), Harris-Tunks, Eckloff, Burks, Crawford, Thorne II, Dufault).

Steals: 7 ([C.Higgins](#) 3, Burks 3, Dufault).

Technical Fouls: None.

OKLAHOMA STATE (90)

FG FT Reb

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

Moses 33 8-9 4-4 3-18 2 4 20

Muonelo 27 7-16 0-0 1-2 2 0 18

Page 37 4-8 4-4 0-2 2 2 14

Penn 34 2-5 0-0 0-0 6 2 5

Andrsn 38 7-14 11-13 2-8 4 2 26

Sidorakis 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Gulley 9 0-1 0-0 1-1 1 4 0

Pilgrim 7 1-1 0-0 1-4 0 3 2

Frnklin 13 2-2 1-1 0-1 1 4 5

Totals 200 31-56 20-22 9-38 18 21 90

Percentages: FG .554, FT .909.

3-Point Goals: 8-21, .381 (Muonelo 4-7, Page 2-5, Penn 1-3, Anderson 1-6).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 0.

Turnovers: 13 (Moses 3, Anderson 2, Page 2, Penn 2, Pilgrim 2, Franklin).

Steals: 5 (Page 3, Franklin, Anderson).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 30 48--78

Oklahoma St. 37 53--90

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CU Buff Dufault returns to starting lineup

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/21/2010 12:03:38 AM MST

STILLWATER, Okla. -- Since the Buffs traveled to Austin they lost Dufault.

But on Wednesday night, Austin Dufault looked to have it together again, like the steady forward who had started every game of his Colorado career until being asked to come off the bench at Texas on Jan. 9.

The sophomore was back in the starting lineup and finished with 10 points and five rebounds for CU during a 90-78 loss to Oklahoma State at Gallagher-Iba Arena.

In the three previous Big 12 games, Dufault averaged a meager 2.0 points and 1.0 rebounds.

"We were down early, and I just tried to do anything to help us get back in it," Dufault said. "It sucks to play well in a loss. I'd rather have played bad and we won."

Shane Harris-Tunks, the 6-foot-11 freshman coach Jeff Bzdelik inserted into the starting lineup to help the Buffs match up better with the likes of Dexter Pittman and Ekpe Udoh, did not score and had one rebound in 12 minutes off the bench against the athletic Cowboys.

CU, which was dominated 44-27 on the boards by Kansas State during Saturday's loss, lost the battle of the boards 38-23 this time.

OSU's James Anderson and Marshall Moses combined for 46 points and 26 rebounds on 15-for-23 shooting.

"They really rebounded the ball well on the defensive end and got the ball up quick," Dufault said. "We had trouble finding guys and keeping guys from being able to step into rhythm shots or just driving to the basket."

Bench production

Casey Crawford scored all nine of his points in the first half to give the Buffs a boost off the bench. The junior forward scored 14 points during CU's 76-55 loss to Oklahoma State in Boulder last season, his career high in Big 12 play.

Levi Knutson led the Buffs with 19 points in previous game against the Pokes, but the junior guard only played five minutes this time and finished with three points.

Dwight Thorne finished with 15 points on 5-for-7 shooting as CU's bench outscored OSU's reserves 27-7.

Young Pokes

Bzdelik likes to point out the fact that CU only has one senior this season. In other words, this is still a young team that's probably a year away from really doing any damage in the standings.

But Oklahoma State is actually the youngest team in the Big 12 with an average age of 19 years, 11 months and 25 days. CU is next on the list at 20 years, two months and 20 days.

The most experienced team in the conference is Texas Tech, which recruits a lot of junior college players and averages 20 years, 11 months and 14 days.

Notable

Oklahoma State leads the all-time series 60-47, including a 9-6 edge in Big 12 play. ... CU shot 45.6 percent from the field

after shooting over 50 percent in its first three Big 12 games. LaPhonso Ellis, a key member of the Denver Nuggets in the 1990s, was the color analyst on ESPNU's broadcast. ... The Buffs will practice today and Friday at the Coors Events Center before traveling to College Station for another road game on Saturday against Texas A&M.

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Bufs corralled by Cowboys

Men's basketball conference losing streak hits 31 games

By David Starcer on January 21, 2010

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The Colorado Buffaloes men's basketball team needs to get off to good starts if they want to win away from Boulder.

In Stillwater, Okla., Wednesday, they did the exact opposite.

CU fell into an early 11-0 hole and never recovered as they lost to the Oklahoma State Cowboys 90-78 at Gallagher-Iba Arena.

The loss marked the 31st straight Big 12 Conference road



Freshman guard Alec Burks attempts a shot at the basket during CU's game against Kansas State on Jan. 16, 2010 at the Coors Events Center. The Buffs lost to the Wildcats 87-81. (CU Independent file/Charlie Sievers)

defeat for Colorado, whose last conference road win came against these very same Cowboys when they won 80-78 on Jan. 21, 2006. The loss also stretched CU's road losing streak against Division I opponents to 23 games and dropped them to 10-8 overall and 1-3 in conference play.

Meanwhile, OSU remained perfect (10-0) at home with the victory and improved to 14-4 overall, 2-2 in the Big 12.

Junior guard James Anderson, who averaged 21.6 points per game entering the contest, led the Cowboys with 26 points and junior forward Marshall Moses added 20 points and 18 rebounds. The Buffaloes were outrebounded 38-23, the fourth straight game they've been outrebounded by at least 10.

Freshman guard Alec Burks, who leads all Big 12 freshmen in scoring, led CU with a career-high 24 points while senior guard Dwight Thorne II added 15 off the bench. Burks remains the only true freshman in D-I to score in double figures in every game this season.

The Buffaloes will next head to College Station, Texas to face the Texas A&M Aggies at 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer David Starcer at David.starcer@colorado.edu.

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cu basketball

Anderson spurs Cowboys to win

Oklahoma St. 90, Colorado 78

By Murray Evans
The Associated Press

Posted: 01/21/2010 01:00:00 AM MST

Updated: 01/21/2010 01:48:57 AM MST



Oklahoma State's James Anderson, right, goes up for a shot Wednesday as Colorado's Casey Crawford tries to defend. (Bryan Terry, The AP)

STILLWATER, Okla. — Marshall Moses had 20 points on 8-of-9 shooting and matched his career high with 18 rebounds Wednesday night, and Oklahoma State never trailed while beating Colorado 90-78.

James Anderson, the Big 12 Conference's leading scorer, scored 26 points and fueled a 10-2 run early in the second half that gave Oklahoma State (14-4, 2-2) a 15-point lead. Anderson, who went 11-for-13 from the free-throw line, has scored in double figures in 32

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THE DENVER POST

games in a row, matching the third-longest streak in school history.

Alec Burks led Colorado with a career-high 24 points. Colorado (10-8, 1-3) has lost 31 straight conference road games since Feb. 5, 2006, when the Buffaloes won at Oklahoma State, and dropped 23 in

CU Basketball

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- **Visit** Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports .

Oklahoma State, coming off road losses to Oklahoma and Baylor, jumped to an 11-0 lead as the Buffaloes opened the game with five turnovers and five missed shots. Colorado cut the margin to 27-24 at the 4:46 mark but Oklahoma State led 37-30 at halftime.

"We got off to a very bad start," Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "Just seconds into the game we throw the ball away. All we focused on heading into this game was not turning the ball over, defending with discipline and we had major breakdowns in both those areas early on in the game and periodically throughout the game.

"You can't do that."

a row on the road against NCAA Division I foes, dating to December 2007.

Burks remained the only true freshman in Division I to score in double figures in every game this season.

Oklahoma State outrebounded the Buffaloes 38-23 to move to 10-0 this season at home.

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January 20, 2010

OSU Cowboys snap 2-game Big 12 skid by beating Colorado

NewsPress Staff

Stillwater NewsPress

STILLWATER — A little home cooking was all the Oklahoma State Cowboys needed to shake their recent slump.

James Anderson led four Cowboys in double figures with 26 points in a 90-78 win over the Colorado Buffaloes Wednesday night at Gallagher-Iba Arena before an announced crowd of 11,244.

The win snapped a mini two-game losing streak for the Cowboys (14-4 overall, 2-2 Big 12).

Anderson's 26 points included an 11 of 13 night from the free throw line. The junior also had 8 rebounds and 4 assists.

Marshall Moses also had a monster game for Oklahoma State with 20 points and 18 rebounds. Moses was 8 of 9 from the field. Obi Muonelo hit 4 of 7 3-pointers to score 18 points and Keiton Page chipped in 14 for the Cowboys.

OSU led by seven at halftime at 37-30, then pulled out to a double-digit lead in the second half.

Alec Burks scored 24 points to lead Colorado (10-8, 1-3).

See Thursday's NewsPress for the complete analysis of the game.

Stillwater NewsPress 211 W. Ninth Stillwater, OK 74076