

# CU Buff men roll to victory over Nebraska

## Buffaloes avoid dropping into Big 12 basement

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/27/2010 10:19:49 PM MST

The Buffs doubled their win total in Big 12 play from last season.

"What a lofty goal," Jeff Bzdelik said with a sardonic smile. "Better not stop there. Seriously."

Perhaps this was just the beginning for a program on the rise?

Colorado continued to be a formidable foe at the Coors Events Center on Wednesday night, making Nebraska look very uncomfortable during a 72-60 victory in front of 7,108 satisfied customers.

The Buffs (11-9, 2-4 Big 12) avoided the conference cellar -- where they finished last season with a brutal 1-15 record in Big 12 play -- leaving the cold-shooting Cornhuskers (12-8, 0-5) alone at the bottom of the standings.

"I felt coming into this game that if we got them down early we could keep them down," Cory Higgins said.

CU led 31-21 at the intermission, which felt like a 20-point lead considering how inept Nebraska is offensively. The Huskers -- who were averaging 58.3 points in Big 12 games -- were 7-for-19 (36.8 percent) from the field with 13 turnovers and six assists through 20 minutes of play.

Nebraska was 4-for-10 from behind the arc in the first half but 1-for-7 from 3-point distance in the second half.

"They had hit a barrage of threes against Kansas," Bzdelik said. "We really wanted to take away their 3-point production."

Offensively, Alec Burks set the tone with a layup to open the scoring. The super freshman splashed an open 3-pointer from the corner to make the score 23-13 with 3:22 remaining.

Field goals by Marcus Relphorde gave the Buffs their largest first-half lead of 13 points on two occasions (28-15 and 31-18).

"I think there is a lot of progress from the start of the season until now," said Burks, who finished with 21 points with four assists and one turnover. "I think we are moving in the right direction to get more wins in the Big 12."

The Buffs led by 20 points (59-39) after a pair of free throws by Burks with 8:45 remaining.

How did that feel?

"Those are rare, obviously," Bzdelik said of comfortable CU conference wins during this rebuilding process.

Nebraska, true to coach Doc Sadler's personality, didn't surrender and went on a 15-6 run capped with a Eshaunte Jones hoop to make the score 65-54.

"Colorado was the aggressor tonight," Sadler said after his team gave up almost 12 more points than its Big 12-leading scoring defense (60.4 ppg) had been entering the game. "We turned the basketball over 13 times in the first half. That's being not ready to play."

Higgins, who scored nine of his 11 points in the second half, answered the visitors' last gasp with a tough jumper to boost the lead back up to 13 points with just over three minute remaining.

"I was trying to get it going the whole game," Higgins said. "I guess I like to come through down the stretch."

CU returns to action on Saturday at Iowa State. The Cyclones are 12-8 overall and 1-4 in the Big 12 after an 89-84 loss at Oklahoma State on Wednesday.

## **Colorado 72, Nebraska 60**

### **NEBRASKA**

#### **FG FT Reb**

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

Diaz 20 2-4 0-0 3-4 0 3 4

Rchrdsn 27 1-7 3-4 0-1 0 0 5

Henry 29 1-4 0-0 0-1 4 3 2

Jeter 23 2-3 1-2 0-5 2 3 5

Andersn 27 2-6 3-4 2-6 3 4 9

Jones 21 3-7 0-0 1-1 1 3 8

Holley 8 3-4 2-2 1-4 0 0 8

Stdngnr 12 3-5 8-9 3-4 0 2 14

Ubel 8 1-2 0-0 0-1 0 1 2

Gallegos 22 1-6 0-0 0-1 0 2 3

Hnks-Cle 3 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 1 0

Totals 200 19-48 17-21 10-30 10 22 60

**Percentages:** FG .396, FT .810.

**3-Point Goals:** 5-17, .294 (Anderson 2-3, Jones 2-6, Gallegos 1-3, Standhardinger 0-1, Jeter 0-1, Richardson 0-3).

**Team Rebounds:** 1.

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

**Turnovers:** 16 (Henry 3, Standhardinger 3, Holley 2, Jeter 2, Ubel 2, Gallegos 2, Anderson, Richardson).

**Steals:** 6 (Anderson 2, Jeter 2, Richardson, Henry).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

### **COLORADO**

#### **FG FT Reb**

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

Dufault 17 1-3 1-2 0-1 0 5 3

Tmlinsn 34 2-5 4-4 2-6 5 1 10

Rlphrd 29 3-5 2-3 1-4 0 1 9

Burks 34 5-10 9-13 1-3 4 2 21

Higgins 32 4-9 3-3 0-6 1 3 11

Thorne 13 1-3 2-2 0-2 0 2 5

H-Tunks 5 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Knutson 23 3-4 0-0 0-3 2 1 8

Crawford 13 2-4 0-0 0-0 0 3 5

Totals 200 21-43 21-27 5-26 12 19 72

**Percentages:** FG .488, FT .778.**3-Point Goals:** 9-24, .375 (Knutson 2-3, Tomlinson 2-5, Burks 2-6, Thorne II 1-2, Relphorde 1-2, Crawford 1-3, Dufault 0-1, [C.Higgins](#) 0-2).**Team Rebounds:** 1.**Blocked Shots:** 1 ([C.Higgins](#)).**Turnovers:** 11 ([C.Higgins](#) 3, Tomlinson 3, Relphorde 2, Burks, Crawford).**Steals:** 10 ([C.Higgins](#) 3, Relphorde 2, Tomlinson 2, Burks, Dufault, Crawford).**Technical Fouls:** None.**Nebraska 21 39--60****Colorado 31 41--72****A --** 7,108.**Officials --** Ed Hightower, Darron George, J.B. Caldwell.

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# NU`s defense no problem for Buffs

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/28/2010 12:01:51 AM MST

These Blackshirts were no match for the Buffs.

Colorado shot 48.8 percent from the field during a 72-60 victory over Nebraska on Wednesday at the Coors Events Center.

The Cornhuskers entered the game with the Big 12`s best scoring defense (60.4 ppg).

"Jeff (Bzdelik) had his team twice as ready as I had my team," Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said. "It falls back on my shoulders. I didn`t have them ready to compete."

This wasn`t the first defense that didn`t have an answer for CU freshman Alec Burks, who finished with 21 points and appears to be getting stronger as the season gets older.

"I am very young, so I have great legs under me," said Burks, who is projected as the No. 4 overall pick in the 2011 NBA draft at [nbadraft.net](http://nbadraft.net). "And they don`t wear down on me too much."

The Buffs were shooting .489 and averaging 77.2 points in conference play. Defensively, CU had been allowing a Big 12-worst 83.6 points until running into the hapless Huskers offense (58.3 ppg in conference).

## Grin and bury it

Marcus Relphorde, who sustained a bruised hip during the 67-63 loss at Texas A&M on Saturday, played through the pain. The junior forward started and finished with nine points and four rebounds in 29 minutes.

"I give Marcus a lot of credit," Bzdelik said. "He played through it, and I`m really proud of him."

Keegan Hornbuckle did not suit up. Bzdelik said an MRI on the freshman`s injured right shoulder showed a mild but painful sprain and no structural damage.

## Off the pine

Levi Knutson and Casey Crawford, two juniors who have been quiet this season, both made contributions off the bench to spark the Buffs.

Knutson took a charge and finished with eight points, three rebounds, two assists and no turnovers in 23 minutes. Crawford added five points and a steal.

The tandem was a combined 3-for-6 from behind the arc.

## Notable

Nebraska leads the all-time series 76-69, but the Buffs broke a three-game losing streak against the Huskers and have won four of the last five played in Boulder. ... The last time Nebraska started conference play 0-5 was in 1989-90 and 1988-89, both under Danny Nee. ... The Buffs wore their gold uniforms. ... CU is 10-1 at the Events Center, matching the home start to the 2005-06 season after 11 games.

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## Woelk: CU has chance to manufacture solid week

By Neill Woelk Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/28/2010 12:06:01 AM MST

The Colorado Buffaloes did what good teams are supposed to do in the Big 12 on Wednesday night.

They took care of business on their home floor.

Not that it's safe to declare that these Buffs are a good Big 12 team. In a conference that boasts four teams in the top 25 and three others receiving votes, the Buffs are still much closer to the bottom than the top. Their conference record still reads 2-4.

But today, they can look down on a couple of teams in the standings. They are an improving team. And, they are good enough not to waste an opportunity when it presents itself. The Buffs jumped on Nebraska early Wednesday night and kept the Huskers down for the rest of the game. Colorado led by 10 points at the half and never let the margin get back into single digits.

Again, that's what good teams do -- and thus, they'll head to Iowa State on Saturday with a little momentum as they search for a rare conference road win.

"We're taking baby steps forward," allowed Jeff Bzdelik, who has yet to win a conference road game as the Buffs' head coach. "Everything was a little bit better tonight, and that's important.

"But the most important thing is that we won."

Yes, any win is nice, particularly for a team that won just one conference game a year ago. They've now doubled that total. ("A lofty goal," Bzdelik said wryly.)

But the way the Buffs won on Wednesday has to be encouraging for CU fans.

Freshman Alec Burks was his usual sensational self, finishing with 21 points, four assists and three rebounds. Junior Cory Higgins had 11 points, six rebounds and three steals. Point guard Nate Tomlinson had 10 points, six rebounds and five assists, and the Buffs also got 18 points off the bench, including eight from Levi Knutson.

It's that kind of balance that could make them a pain for anyone in the conference from this point on.

Did we mention the Buffs' road woes? Nobody on the team has experienced a conference road win. The last time CU won on the road (2006), Buff senior Dwight Thorne was a senior in high school.

Not that any of them need reminding. Asked if he was sick of hearing about the streak, Higgins grimaced and said, "I can't get any sicker. We need to stop knocking and bust the door open."

Saturday's game at Iowa State will present the opportunity for a little door busting. The Cyclones are 1-4 in conference play and are a team in turmoil, thanks to defections, suspensions and injuries.

Simply, this week could prove to be a very good week for the Buffs -- if they can continue to take care of business.

Burks simply shrugs at the lengthy conference road losing streak. He hasn't been around for the majority of it, and it's clear he's not intimidated by the numbers -- just like he's not intimidated by any of the teams he's faced thus far.

"We've shown a lot of progress from the start of the season to now," he said. "I think we're moving in the right direction."

Higgins was even more direct.

"We got a big win here, and hopefully we can carry that momentum to Saturday at Iowa State, which is a very winnable game for us," he said.

That's not a statement that will apply to many conference road games for the Buffs. Saturday will present an opportunity not only for a road win, but an opportunity to put together back-to-back conference wins. With a date with No. 2 Kansas on the immediate horizon, every little bit of confidence and momentum can only help.

"It's a process as we build this thing," Bzdelik said. "I've been very fortunate that the administration and fans have been so patient.

"But I also know it's about winning now. I feel good about the future."

Wednesday night, the Buffs played well against a team that has had the lead or been tied with seven minutes left in all of its previous Big 12 games. They took care of business.

Now they need to take that attitude on the road.

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cu basketball

## Freshman Burks scores 21 points as CU Buffs whip Nebraska 72-60

By Irv Moss  
*The Denver Post*

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



CU freshman guard Alec Burks works for a shot against Nebraska freshman forward Brandon Ubel on Wednesday night at the Coors Events Center. Burks scored a game-high 21 points. (Joshua Buck, Longmont Times-Call )

BOULDER — The main thing was not to fall into the hole.

With enough recent memories of being in the Big 12 Conference cellar, the Colorado Buffaloes stayed above ground the whole way Wednesday night in defeating Nebraska 72-60 in the Coors Events Center.

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THE DENVER POST

The Buffaloes needed a victory over the Cornhuskers to keep from slipping into a tie with them at the bottom of the conference standings.

With 9-of-24 shooting from 3-point range and a pesky defense that forced 16 Nebraska turnovers, coach Jeff Bzdelik's Buffaloes (11-9, 2-4 Big 12) led by as many as 20 points with 8:45 left in the game.

The Buffs were 1-15 in the conference last year.

"What we really wanted to do was take away their 3-point

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production," Bzdelik said. "That was the focus of ours. We had some good defensive possessions.

We failed to finish some of those, but we're getting better."

The Cornhuskers (12-8, 0-5) never got going fast enough to pull out of even a shallow depression until late in the second half, when they reduced the deficit to 10 points with 59 seconds remaining.

But down the stretch of the second half, junior guard Cory Higgins picked up his game with seven straight points for the Buffs, giving them a 13-point lead with 3:11 to play. Higgins finished with 11 points, and guard Nate Tomlinson added 10.

"I started to play more aggressively," Higgins said of the burst. "No matter what we did, we didn't want to be in that basement. We've been in there the last two years, and we're going to do everything to get out of it."

Freshman guard Alec Burks kept up his torrid scoring with 21 points, maintaining his standing of being the only true freshman in NCAA Division I to have double figures in scoring in every game this season. The streak reached 20.

The Buffs shot 48.8 percent from the floor against Nebraska's defense, which came into the game ranked No. 1 in the conference at 60.4 points a game.

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Longmont, Colorado  
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Publish Date: 1/28/2010

## Buffs roll past Cornhuskers

By Patrick Ridgell  
© 2010 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — The Colorado Buffaloes had just beaten a Big 12 rival Wednesday at home, even leading by as many as 20 points in the second half, and guess what they got to discuss afterward?

Their road losing streak.

It could be seen as a sign of progress that a home conference win over Nebraska, by a 72-60 score, prompted yawns and shrugs from observers who have seen CU's men's basketball team lose with great frequency in recent years. Or it could be 32 straight road defeats in league games is so bad it obscures all else.

Still, the Buffs (11-9, 2-4 Big 12) did win easily, improving to 10-1 at home, snapping a three-game losing streak and trapping Nebraska (12-8, 0-5) alone in the Big 12 cellar, from which it could have escaped Wednesday. CU has doubled its Big 12 win total from last year.

Don't expect coach Jeff Bzdelik to turn cartwheels anytime soon.

"What a lofty goal," Bzdelik sarcastically replied to a question about the second Big 12 win.

"It better not stop here."

The Buffs took a 20-point lead with 9 minutes and 1 second remaining. Nebraska abandoned its normal deliberate style from there and, as Bzdelik said, began "putting their heads down and driving" to narrow the margin. But the Cornhuskers didn't threaten to make it a game.

Nebraska is struggling in the Big 12, but it has defeated two teams that beat CU — Tulsa and Oregon State. It won at USC and led Kansas at halftime on Jan. 13.

"Jeff (Bzdelik) had his team ready twice as much as I did," Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said.

At least one Buff sounded like he expected an easy win.

"We felt coming into this game ... if we got them down early, we can keep them down," CU's Cory Higgins said. "We just had to match their energy. ... I think we did that tonight."



Colorado's Alec Burks, right, challenges Nebraska's Brandon Ubel on Wednesday at Coors Events Center. View a slideshow from the game at [www.timescallmedia.com](http://www.timescallmedia.com). **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

### COLORADO 72, NEBRASKA 60

NEBRASKA (12-8, 0-5)

Diaz 2-4 0-0 4, Richardson 1-7 3-4 5, Henry 1-4 0-0 2, Jeter 2-3 1-2 5, Anderson 2-6 3-4 9, Jones 3-7 0-0 8, Holley 3-4 2-2 8, Standhardinger 3-5 8-9 14, Ubel 1-2 0-0 2, Gallegos 1-6 0-0 3, Hankins-Cole 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-48 17-21 60

COLORADO (11-9, 2-4)

Dufault 1-3 1-2 3, Tomlinson 2-5 4-4 10, Relphorde 3-5 2-3 9, Burks 5-10 9-13 21, Higgins 4-9 3-3 11, Thorne 1-3 2-2 5, Harris-Tunks 0-0 0-0 0, Knutson 3-4 0-0 8, Crawford 2-4 0-0 5. Totals 21-43 21-27 72.

Halftime—CU 31-21. 3-point goals—

“(Winning easily) just shows our growth from the last two years to this year. We’re a much better team, and we showed that tonight.”

Freshman Alec Burks led the Buffs with 21 points. He has scored in double-digits in every game. The Buffs held Nebraska to 39.6 percent shooting and only one 3 after halftime but, again, lost the rebounding battle, which is another wart they can’t hide.

Next, they travel to Iowa State for Saturday night’s game. The Cyclones (12-8, 1-4) lost at Oklahoma on Wednesday, and are still dealing with the sudden departure of third-leading scorer Lucca Staiger, who last week bolted to play pro ball in his native Germany.

Nebraska 5-17 (Anderson 2-3, Jones 2-6, Gallegos 1-3, Richardson 0-3, Jeter 0-1, Standhardinger 0-1); CU 9-24 (Burks 2-6, Tomlinson 2-5, Knutson 2-3, Crawford 1-3, Thorne 1-2, Relphorde 1-2, Dufault 0-1, Higgins 0-2). Fouled out—Dufault (C). Rebounds— Nebraska 30 (Anderson 6); CU 26 (Tomlinson 6, Higgins 6). Assists— Nebraska 10 (Henry 4); CU 12 (Tomlinson 5). Total fouls— Nebraska 22; CU 19. Technicals— none. A—7,108.

To some, it might have smacked of bravado when Higgins declared Iowa State a “very winnable” game for the Buffs. Maybe it shouldn’t have.

But it’s clear whatever positive accomplishment CU posts, there’s a big, dark cloud hovering. That’s the road losing streak. The Buffs are sick of discussing it.

“I can’t get any sicker of it, basically,” Higgins said.

TIP-INS: Keegan Hornbuckle (shoulder) did not dress for the game. Bzdelik said Hornbuckle’s MRI revealed a minor sprain. He needs rest. The coach gave no time line for Hornbuckle’s return. ... Marcus Relphorde (hip pointer) started and played 29 minutes. He scored nine points. Bzdelik complimented Relphorde’s toughness. ... CU has been out-rebounded in 11 straight games. ... Bzdelik cited the crowd again, which numbered 7,108, saying the student body was “awesome.” ... Levi Knutson scored eight points off the bench, hitting a season-best two 3s.

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).

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## CU guards drive home their point

Tomlinson and Burks both effective in home win

*By David Starcer on January 28, 2010*

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The only thing missing from the Colorado vs. Nebraska men's basketball game was Ralphie leading the team onto the court.

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But after seeing the outcome Wednesday at the Coors Events Center, the men in pads would probably give up the Ralphie entrance to be where the hoopsters are now.

Another packed student section watched CU top Nebraska 72-60 and improve to 10-1 at home this season. They also saw point guards Alec Burks and Nate Tomlinson continue their efficient play.

The duo accounted for nine of the team's 12 assists (five for Tomlinson and four for Burks), and both were in the positive column with their assist-to-turnover ratio. It was evident after the game how important that stat is to winning.

"We just can't turn the ball over," head coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "We're a pretty good team offensively in terms of our efficiency. We're ranked nationally in a lot of categories.

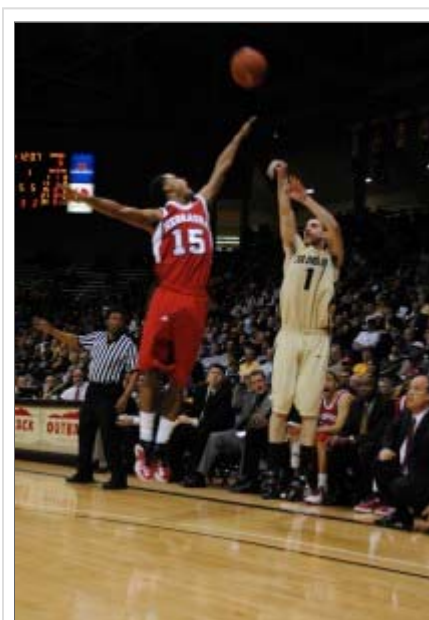
"If you turn the ball over, you waste those possessions."

On the flip side, the Huskers committed 16 turnovers and sent Colorado to the foul line 27 times. The Buffs made 21.

"Colorado was the aggressor tonight," Nebraska head coach Doc Sadler said. "We turned the ball over 13 times in the first half. That's being not ready to play."

Burks scored a game-high 21 points and was 9-of-13 from the charity strike. He remains the only true freshman in the country to score in doubles figures in every game this season.

But Tomlinson's well-rounded night (10 points, six rebounds and five assists) may have been the best indicator of a winning formula that the team should continue to follow.



Sophomore guard Nate Tomlinson pulls up for a 3-pointer during CU's 72-60 win over the Nebraska Cornhuskers on Wednesday in the Coors Events Center. (CU Independent/Ben Jarvis)

“This team needs me to be aggressive if we want to reach our highest point,” said Tomlinson, who leaned against the Buffs’ locker room door and sighed in relief after bouncing back from three consecutive scoreless games.

Colorado had a 20-point cushion at one point and despite a late rally by Nebraska, they kept Big Red out of striking distance. By not falling prey to the Huskers’ swarming press the last five minutes, the gold-clad Buffs made a big statement to the school’s faithful and showed signs of increasing maturity for a young team.

“We’ve given up a lead a couple times and were lucky to get away with it in a couple games earlier in the year,” Tomlinson said. “We didn’t let it get back to single digits, so that’s a credit to our guys.”

*Contact CU Independent Staff Writer David Starcer at [David.starcer@colorado.edu](mailto:David.starcer@colorado.edu).*

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## Bufs too much for Huskers

Men's basketball gets much needed win

*By Mark McNeillie on January 28, 2010*

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The men's basketball team avoided the familiar territory of the bottom of the Big 12 Conference.

The Colorado Buffaloes (11-9, 2-4 Big 12) beat Nebraska 72-60 Wednesday in front of 7,108 at the Coors Events Center to avoid occupying the Big 12 basement. The Bufs never trailed, breaking a three-game losing streak to Nebraska (12-8, 0-5) and a three-game losing streak overall.

"It was huge for us," junior guard Cory Higgins said. "We wanted to get back in our own arena so we could gain some momentum."

Freshman guard Alec Burks scored a game-high 21 points, shooting 5-of-10 from the floor and 9-of-13 from the foul line. Burks is the only true freshman in the country to score in double digits in every game this season.

"I think it shows a lot of progress from the start of the season to now," Burks said. "I think we're moving in the right direction to get more wins in the Big 12."

Higgins helped with 11 points and six rebounds while sophomore guard Nate Tomlinson added 10 points, six rebounds and had a game-high five assists.

Nebraska freshman forward Christian Standhardinger led the Cornhuskers with 14 points and was the only Cornhusker in double figures. Nebraska's leading scorer, senior guard Ryan Anderson, had nine points and six rebounds.

Although the Cornhuskers outrebounded Colorado 30-26, even that could not assist their cold offense, which shot 39.6 percent.

"Where we struggled was effort," Nebraska head coach Doc Sadler said. "Colorado was the aggressor tonight."



Freshman guard Alec Burks drives past the Huskers defense Wednesday. Burks led CU in scoring for the third game in a row with 21 points. The Bufs defeated rival Nebraska in the Coors Events Center 72-60. (CU Independent/Molly Maher)

The Buffs scored the game's first four points and built their lead to as much as 13 with 2:11 left in the first half thanks to a 10-2 run. Although Nebraska held Higgins to two first-half points, production from players such as Burks and junior forward Marcus Relphorde allowed the Buffs to maintain their lead.

In the second half, Higgins and Burks both scored nine points and the Buffs stretched their lead to as much as 20. Nebraska rallied to within 11 with 1:26 left, but freshman guard Ray Gallegos passed up an open 3-pointer and was called for traveling on his way to the basket.

CU knocked down 5-of-6 free throws to ice the game.

"We're taking baby steps forward," Colorado head coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "That's a good thing. We just need to keep getting better."

The Buffs now travel to Ames, Iowa to face the Iowa State Cyclones at 7 p.m. Saturday. CU looks to break a 32-game Big 12 road losing streak and a 24-game road losing streak to Division I opponents.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Mark McNeillie at [Mark.mcneillie@colorado.edu](mailto:Mark.mcneillie@colorado.edu).

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## Huskers lose to Colorado in Boulder

By *BRIAN ROSENTHAL / Lincoln Journal Star*

Nebraska's losing streak reached five games Wednesday night with a 72-60 men's basketball loss to Colorado at the Coors Events Center in Boulder, Colo.

The Huskers (12-8, 0-5 Big 12 Conference) trailed by 10 points at halftime and never got closer. It's the first time in five Big 12 games Nebraska hasn't led or been within single digits in the second half.

Nebraska, which never led, had more turnovers (11) than points (eight) in the game's first 15 minutes, and finished with 13 turnovers in the first half.

"I thought the first 20 minutes is the first time in several years that we didn't compete. They were definitely the team that was the aggressive basketball team," Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said on his postgame radio show.

"This basketball team doesn't have the luxury of not being ready to play, and that's my fault. I did not have this basketball team ready to play in the first half tonight. I thought at times, in the second half, we got after it pretty good, but that's too late. We've got to be ready from the opening tip."

Christian Standhardinger scored 14 points, all in the second half, to lead Nebraska. The freshman forward helped the Huskers cut a 20-point Colorado lead to 11 with 2:55 remaining in the game.

"If we did what we did in the second half," Sadler said, "if we'd have done that in the first half and been aggressive, we may have had a few more points."

Freshman Alec Burks scored 21 points to lead Colorado (11-9, 2-4). The Buffaloes shot 48.8 percent from the field, including 9-of-24 on three-pointers, and improved to 10-1 at home.

Ryan Anderson scored nine points and Eshaunte Jones and Myles Holley scored eight apiece for the Huskers, who shot 39.6 percent, including 5-of-16 on three-pointers.

Nebraska shot 81 percent on free throws (17-of-21) and outrebounded Colorado 29-25.

Despite the slow start, Nebraska trailed only 18-13 when Colorado got hot from three-point range and stretched its lead to 13.

The Buffaloes led 31-21 at halftime and quickly extended the lead to 16 in the second half to take control.

Nebraska's last 0-5 start in conference play was in 1989-90, when the Huskers were 0-5 before defeating Kansas State in Lincoln. They finished 3-11 in the Big Eight Conference that season and were 10-18 overall.

The Huskers host Oklahoma (12-8, 3-3) on Saturday.

"As I've told the team, we either going to step across the line and get in their face, or they're going to step across the line and get in ours," Sadler said. "We'll find out a lot about this basketball team on Saturday, and what I really believe is I think we're going to like what we see."



Published Jan 27, 2010

Published Wednesday January 27, 2010

## Bufs' win drops Huskers to 20-year low

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WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER



CLIFF GRASSMICK/BOULDER DAILY CAMERA

Colorado's Cory Higgins, right, defends Nebraska's Ray Gallegos during a college basketball game Wednesday in Boulder, Colo.

• [Box Score](#)

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BOULDER, Colo. — The Nebraska men's basketball team is off to its worst start in conference play in 20 years.

The Huskers' 72-60 loss at Colorado on Wednesday night dropped them to 12-8 overall and 0-5 in the Big 12. The last time NU lost its first five league games was in 1989-90, a Danny Nee team that finished 10-18.

Unlike the Huskers' first four Big 12 losses that were close deep into the second half, this game was almost all Colorado (11-9, 2-4).

In the first half, Nebraska committed nine turnovers in the first 10 minutes and 13 by halftime.

"The first 20 minutes was the first time in several years that we didn't compete," NU coach Doc Sadler said on his postgame radio show.

"(Colorado) definitely was the aggressive basketball team."

Those miscues and NU's cold shooting helped Colorado slowly stretch its lead from 6-4 to 13-6 to 18-10 to 23-13 to 31-18 before Ryan Anderson's 3-pointer just before half cut the gap to 31-21.

"This team doesn't have the luxury of not being ready to play," Sadler said. "And that's my fault. I did not have them ready to play the first half."

The Huskers started the second half missing 7 of 8 shots — dropping them to 29.6 percent at the time — and fell behind by 16 points, 42-26.

NU forward Myles Holley scored six quick points off the bench to help cut the gap to 11. But Colorado went up by 20 at 59-39 with 8:45 to go on two free throws from guard Alec Burks.

Burks, the only true freshman to score in double figures in every game this season, led all scorers with 21 points.



Nebraska freshman Christian Standhardinger sparked a late rally.

He scored 12 of his team-high 14 points in the 5½ minutes after the deficit grew to 20 to bring NU back to 67-56 with 2:55 to go.

Colorado outshot Nebraska 48.8 percent to 39.6 percent, and had four more 3-pointers and four more free throws.

The Huskers play next at home Saturday at 12:30 p.m. against Oklahoma (12-8, 3-3), which used 38 points from freshman point guard Tommy Mason-Griffin on Wednesday night to beat Iowa State 89-84.

Sadler said he hasn't seen much of Oklahoma yet, but is more focused on his team.

"We'll find out a lot about this team come Saturday," he said.

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