

Numbers not pretty in loss for CU Buff women

McConnell-Miller`s squad gives up 47 points in first half

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/27/2010 08:43:36 PM MST

LAWRENCE, Kan. -- There were plenty of candidates for ugliest statistic of the night for the Colorado women`s basketball team on Wednesday.

Finalists for the dishonor included:

Kansas out-rebounding CU 27-7 in the first half, including 14-4 on the offensive glass.

Guard Danielle McCray out-scoring the Buffs 18-17 at one point as KU led 40-17.

And KU`s 47 first-half points being the most allowed by the Buffs in four years.

All of those numbers proved too much to overcome as the Buffs fell 75-64 at Allen Fieldhouse.

The road loss dropped the Buffs to 12-7 overall and 2-4 in Big 12 play, while KU rose to the same records.

"It was a very bad first half," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said on KKZN`s post-game radio show. "That was not Colorado basketball. That was not the way we needed to execute our game plan. That first half was as ineffective in so many areas as I`ve seen in a long time."

One week after snapping an eight-game road skid at Kansas State, the Buffs resumed their struggles away from home. CU, which trailed Texas Tech on the road by 18 at the half two weeks ago, played out a similar script Wednesday.

The Buffs went nearly four minutes without scoring before cutting a 7-0 deficit to 13-10 on a three-point play by Brittany Spears. That`s when KU went on a 27-7 run that finished with a McCray 3-pointer that made it 40-17 with 3:43 left before halftime.

The Jayhawks -- led by McCray`s 29-point, 16-rebound effort -- hit 18 of 35 from the field in the first half and had 13 second-chance points.

McConnell-Miller said the rebounding was obviously disturbing, but she was also disappointed with the overall rotation by the defense.

"We were out of position too often," she said.

After trailing by as many as 24 in the second half, Colorado whittled the deficit down to 71-60 with three minutes to play. But by then it was too late.

Carolyn Davis added 10 points and 10 rebounds, and Sade Morris had 11 points for the Jayhawks, who entered having lost five of their last six games after a 10-2 start.

Spears led the Buffs, playing all 40 minutes and racking up 21 points, seven rebounds, six blocks and three steals. Chucky Jeffery had 12 points, and Bianca Smith added 11 for CU.

If there was a positive, McConnell-Miller said it was that the Buffs didn`t fold in the second half and actually out-scored the Jayhawks by nine over the final 20 minutes.

The coach also commended Spears on her play.

"That was probably the best game I've seen her play in a long time, the most complete game," McConnell-Miller said.

Notable

Smith, who entered the game with 999 career points, became the 23rd Buff to notch 1,000 for her career when she hit a 3-pointer late in the first half. ... Colorado hosts sixth-ranked Nebraska at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Coors Events Center.

Kansas 75, Colorado 64

COLORADO (64)

Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT

M. Mlc-Pck 14 0-4 0-0 2 0 3 0

Spears 40 7-18 6-6 7 0 3 21

Dunn 22 1-4 5-8 3 0 1 7

Fressle 37 3-10 0-0 3 2 4 7

Jeffery 33 5-10 2-3 7 3 5 12

Smith 24 4-11 0-0 1 1 0 11

Seabrook 15 3-4 0-0 4 1 0 6

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

Mullaney 10 0-0 0-0 0 2 1 0

MacFarlane 4 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

TOTALS 200 23-61 13-17 29 9 17 64

3-Point Goals: 5-15, .333 (Smith 3-5, Spears 1-4, Fressle 1-2, Malcolm-Peck 0-2, Dunn 0-1, Jeffery 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 9 (Spears 6, Dunn 2, Jeffery).

Turnovers: 15 (Jeffery 8, Fressle 2, Malcolm-Peck, Spears, Smith, Mullaney, MacFarlane).

Steals: 10 (Spears 3, Jeffery 3, Fressle 2, Smith, Seabrook).

Technical Fouls: None.

KANSAS (75)

Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT

Sutherland 32 4-7 1-2 7 0 0 9

Davis 26 5-8 0-0 10 1 1 10

Jacobs 24 0-0 4-4 4 6 2 4

McCray 38 11-25 3-4 16 4 3 29

Morris 27 5-14 1-3 1 1 2 11

Codio 11 1-1 0-0 3 1 0 3

Engelman 20 3-4 0-0 1 0 1 7

Boogaard 10 1-3 0-0 0 0 3 2

Brown 12 0-0 0-4 2 0 1 0

TOTALS 200 30-62 9-17 49 13 13 75

3-Point Goals: 6-13, .484 (McCray 4-11, Codio 1-1, Engelman 1-1).

Team Rebounds: 5.

Blocked Shots: 4 (Sutherland, Davis, Morris, Engelman).

Turnovers: 17 (McCray 7, Jacobs 4, Boogaard 3, Davis 2, Engelman).

Steals: 5 (Morris 2, McCray, Engelman, Brown).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 27 37 -- 64

Kansas 47 28 -- 75

Officials: Kantner, Cross, Small.

Attendance: 3,012.

Close Window

Send To Printer

- [News](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Speak Out!](#)
- [Multimedia](#)

- [Subscribe](#)

CU can't quell Kansas

Women's basketball loses two in a row

By Marlee Horn on January 28, 2010

Share

Another rough start was too much for the Buffs to overcome.

1

tweet

retweet

The Colorado Buffaloes women's basketball team lost their second consecutive game as they fell to the Kansas Jayhawks 75-64 Wednesday at Allen Fieldhouse. Both teams are now 12-7 overall and 2-4 in the Big 12 Conference.

Colorado was out-rebounded 27-7 in the first half and made just 38.5 percent of its shots to help give KU a 47-27 lead at halftime. Against Oklahoma State last Sunday, the Buffs trailed 13-4 in the opening minutes.

Despite being down by as much as 24 points in the second half, the Buffaloes managed to cut the deficit to 11 with three minutes left to play. However, it was as close as they got.

Junior forward Brittany Spears led CU with 21 points, seven rebounds and a career-high six blocked shots.

Senior guard Bianca Smith scored 11 points and became the 23rd player in Colorado history to record 1,000 career points with a 3-pointer late in the first half.



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)

The Buffaloes return home to face No. 6 Nebraska at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Coors Events Center.

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

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

Copyright © 2010 CU Independent

Photo Gallery

Kansas Women's Basketball vs. Colorado



Photos from Wednesday night's game against Colorado at Allen Fieldhouse. Senior guard Danielle McCray scored a double-double, grabbing 16 rebounds and scoring 29 points in the Jayhawks' 75-64 victory against the Buffaloes.

They always say, a return to Allen Fieldhouse is the best medicine for a cold streak.

Kansas defeated Colorado 75-64 Wednesday in a game that was just as much team rehabilitation as it was a must-win conference test. After dropping five of its past six games, four of which were on the road, the once nationally ranked Jayhawks were in shambles.

A date at the fieldhouse with the Buffaloes was the perfect cure.

"We needed it bad," freshman forward Carolyn Davis said. "We were struggling and losing confidence in each other."

Senior guard Danielle McCray finally got back on track after two of the worst performances of her career. After scoring just 6 points in a 53-42 loss January 20th at Iowa State and 7 points in a 81-69 loss January 23rd at then No. 13 Oklahoma, McCray got her much-needed bounce back. She finished with 29 points and 16 rebounds, a season high for any Jayhawk.

"She hit some tough shots early," coach Bonnie Henrickson said.

Yet under her impressive stat-line were seven costly turnovers that often resulted in a Colorado layup on the other end.

"I didn't protect the ball," McCray said. "I'm going to be in the gym before anyone, just ball handling."

Despite the occasional carelessness, McCray led a first half demolition. She ousted the Buffaloes on the glass with her fearlessness and strength and worked hard to find ways to score both inside and outside.

With McCray seemingly back to her old form, Kansas looked like the team that was once in the AP top 25 rankings.

Video

Coach Henrickson Postgame



Kansas women's basketball coach Bonnie Henrickson answers questions from the media following the Jayhawks 75-64 victory over Colorado.

"I let Sade down in the Oklahoma game," McCray said. "I needed to step up."

With just under five minutes to go in the first half, junior guard Brittany Spears ended a 12-0 Kansas run that was aided by a three minute Colorado scoring drought.

But Kansas fired right back. Freshman guard Monica Engelman and McCray hit consecutive long range jump-shots and that meant back to the drawing board for Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller.

"They were shooting the heck out of the ball," McConnell-Miller said.

After shooting 18-of-35 from the field, Kansas led 47-27 at the half. Yet as they have done time and time again, Kansas came out of the locker room with little if any energy at all.

Video

Danielle McCray Postgame



Danielle McCray led the Jayhawks with 29 points and 16 rebounds in a 75-64 victory over the Colorado Buffaloes Wednesday night.

“We relaxed because of the lead,” McCray said.

The Buffaloes chipped a 24-point lead all the way down to 12. Kansas was even out-scored 37-28 in the second half.

“We changed in the second half,” McConnell-Miller said. “We defended a little bit better and we came out with some more energy and passion.”

But Colorado’s defense was soft all night, rarely showing the ferocity and strength needed to slow a potent Kansas front-court.

Davis was the main beneficiary. She played aggressively once again, absolutely owning the paint on her way to her first career double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

“She’s got good footwork,” Henrickson said of Davis. “She naturally catches it, gets her inside foot down and uses a drive leg on the outside.”

Led by Davis, Kansas out-rebounded Colorado 49-29 in what seemed like a one-sided battle for the boards.

“Colorado really wasn’t blocking us out that much,” Davis said. “But at the same time we were going hard, sending three or four people to the boards at a time.”

With the win, the Jayhawks moved to 12-7 overall for the third season in a row and ascended their Big 12 record to 2-4.

The team’s transformation will be tested when the Jayhawks head to Columbia, Mo. to take on the Tigers Saturday at 5 p.m

“It’s going to be a different flow,” Henrickson said. “They’re as good at home as we’ve been at home. We’ve got to step up to the challenge.”

Edited by Allyson Shaw

Stories

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Jayplay](#)

Media

- [Videos](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Galleries](#)
- [Audio](#)
- [Documents](#)

LJWorld.com

Slump busted: McCray carries KU past Buffs

KU women defeat Colorado, 75-64



[Kevin Anderson](#)

Kansas senior Danielle McCray (4) looks for the throw in the second half, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010 at Allen Fieldhouse. [Enlarge photo](#)

January 27, 2010, 9:06 p.m. Updated: 28 January 2010, 12:00 a.m.

Danielle McCray has never played a basketball season without suffering a mid-season slump.

"It always comes," McCray said. "I'm glad it came now, instead of at the end of the season."

McCray bounced back from her two worst games of the season to fuel Kansas University to a 75-64 victory over Colorado on Wednesday night in Allen Fieldhouse.

The 5-foot-11 senior All-America candidate scored 29 points and matched her career-high with 16 rebounds — a far cry from her last two outings, when she scored 13 points combined.

"Hey, I needed to step up," McCray said. "I haven't been doing that."

McCray compiled 19 points and eight rebounds during a first-half blitz that left the Buffaloes in a 47-27 halftime hole. During that decisive 20 minutes, Kansas posted a stunning 27-7 advantage on the boards, with 14 coming on the offensive end.

"They were picking them up and putting them back," Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said.

McCray, who had been 0-for-9 from three-point range in the last two games — both on the road and both defeats — was 4-for-8 from beyond the arc during that first-half salvo.

For good measure, McCray added four assists. The only glitch in her game was turnovers — seven of them.

"She's got to handle the ball better than that," KU coach Bonnie Henrickson said. "That's the disappointing thing."

Kansas was 1-for-January going into this one, loser of five of its last six and facing basically a do-or-die situation.

"I told our seniors it's the biggest game of their careers," Henrickson said. "I told them, 'You've got to win and get on a run.'"

Kansas struggled through a similar January funk last year, but caught fire in February and earned a berth in the WNIT, eventually finishing as national runner-up.

This year, however, the avowed goal is the NCAA Tournament, and a loss Wednesday night may have quashed that postseason possibility.

"We came in with the feeling that if we don't win," senior Sade Morris said, "we're not going to the (NCAA) tournament."

That siege mentality among the seniors seemed to help LaChelda Jacobs, too. The Jayhawks' point guard by default since Angel Goodrich's knee injury, Jacobs was impressive during the big first half with four assists and no turnovers.

But Jacobs couldn't maintain and coughed the ball up four times in the second half before Henrickson replaced her.

"She couldn't get out of her own way," Henrickson said of Jacobs, "and she imploded on me."

Not that she was the only one. The Jayhawks certainly lost either their momentum or their mojo or both during the last 20 minutes, allowing Colorado to slice a deficit that had grown to as many as 24 points to as few as 11 with under a minute remaining.

In retrospect, it was fortunate for the Jayhawks that they had compiled that huge first-half advantage because they missed five straight free throws — four by Marisha Brown — in the last two minutes.

"Marisha's not that bad a free-throw shooter," Henrickson said. "I don't know what that was."

Kansas (12-7 overall, 2-4 Big 12) will travel Saturday to Missouri in an attempt to capture its first conference road win.

"We have to commit to playing 40 minutes," Henrickson said, "because we know Missouri will do that on Saturday."

Originally published at: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2010/jan/27/ku-women-defeat-colorado-75-64/>