

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

iowa state 64, colorado 63

Missed layup stops Buffs

Marcus Relphorde can't convert a final shot as CU suffers its 33rd consecutive Big 12 road loss.

By **Luke Meredith**
The Associated Press

Posted: 01/31/2010 01:00:00 AM MST



Colorado's Casey Crawford grabs a rebound as the Cyclones' Craig Brackins closes in Saturday night in Ames, Iowa. (Charlie Niebergall, The Associated Press)

AMES, Iowa — Colorado's Marcus Relphorde missed a layup at the buzzer, and Iowa State held on to beat the Buffaloes 64-63 on Saturday

night.

Craig Brackins had 27 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Cyclones (13-8, 2-4 Big 12), but he threw the ball away on an inbounds pass with nine seconds remaining. That gave Colorado (11-10, 2-5) a golden opportunity to break a 33-game road losing streak in Big 12 play, but Relphorde's shot bounced off the rim.

Cory Higgins had 21 points to lead Colorado.

Colorado freshman Alec Burks left the game with an apparent knee injury early in the first half and didn't return. Burks entered Saturday averaging 17.2 points and five rebounds.

Iowa State snapped a three-game

CU Basketball

- [View](#) slide show of former CU men's basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik .
- [View](#) slide show of CU women's basketball coach Linda Lappe .
- [Visit](#) the CU Stats Page for men's boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more .
- [Visit](#) the CU Stats Page for women's boxscores, Big 12 standings, player pages and more .
- [Visit](#) Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports .

Advertisement

Kodak

IF YOU'RE NOT PRINTING ON A KODAK ESP ALL-IN-ONE PRINTER, CHANCES ARE
YOU'RE PAYING TOO MUCH FOR INK.

FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU'RE OVERPAYING FOR INK AT PRINTANDPROSPER.COM

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics**

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

losing streak, but the Cyclones did all they could to give it to Colorado down the stretch.

With 24 seconds remaining, Higgins drove to the rim and converted a tough three-point play to cut Iowa State's lead to 62-61. Higgins hit another layup after a pair of Cyclones free throws, and Colorado trapped Scott Christopherson in the corner, forcing ISU to call a timeout.

After Brackins' inbound pass went awry, Colorado's Austin Dufault scooped up the loose ball. The Buffs didn't have much time to get the play they wanted, and Relphorde missed the potential game-winner.

Relphorde had 11 points and Casey Crawford added 10 off the bench for the Buffs, who fell for the fourth time in five games.

For the first 24 minutes, it looked as though Colorado might cruise to its first Big 12 road win since 2006.

Iowa State got off to another bad start against the Buffaloes, falling behind 18-4. The Cyclones committed seven turnovers in the first eight minutes, and four Buffs hit 3-pointers to help push the lead to 14.

Iowa State rallied, but CU still held a 31-25 advantage at halftime.

Advertisement

 UNIVERSITY of SAN FRANCISCO	End-to-End Training as It Should Be: 100% ONLINE!	
	Earn Your Master Certificate in Internet Marketing	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ SEO & Paid Search→ Online Branding→ Web Analytics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Internet Law→ Media Buying→ Social Media
	 1-800-268-9943 USanFranOnline.com/FD	

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**

All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

JANUARY 31, 2010, 9:52 AM

Bzdelik hopeful Burks injury not season-ending

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Regarding the knee injury suffered Saturday night by Colorado freshman phenom Alec Burks during the one-point loss at Iowa State, CU head coach Jeff Bzdelik sounded optimistic during his post-game radio spot that the injury was not serious enough to be season-ending.

Bzdelik said no ligament damage was suspected. Bzdelik guessed that there could be a cartilage issue, but Burks, a 6-foot-6 guard, told the Boulder Daily Camera after the game that CU trainer Larry Willock said the injury to his left knee might be a “pull” or a bruise.

Bzdelik said an MRI would be performed today.

CU basketball sports information staffer Andrew Green said today that the MRI results would not be known until Monday.

Burks was injured two minutes and 21 seconds into game and did not return. He entered the weekend averaging 17.2 points, the best among Big 12 Conference newcomers.

Colorado (11-10, 2-5 Big 12) hosts Kansas (20-1, 6-0) Wednesday night. The Jayhawks were ranked No. 2 in the polls entering the weekend but are expected to move up to the top spot of the polls, with Kentucky's loss to South Carolina last week.

More from All Things Colorado Sports

- [Rumor mill: CU's Boyle considering Rohn, Prioleau for staff](#) ^[1]
- [kayaking helmetcam video of the grand canyon's lava falls](#) ^[2]
- [Rachael Flatt Denver Post Fan Mail](#) ^[3]
- [CU's Cory Higgins not an AP Big 12 honorable mention](#) ^[4]
- [History not on CU's side in Texas Tech basketball rematch](#) ^[5]

All Things Colorado Sports Recommends

- [Kyrylo Fesenko of the Utah Jazz actually provides the Denver Nuggets with some problems](#) (All Things Nuggets)
- [Utah Jazz reserve Kyle Korver talks about charges drawn on the Denver Nuggets](#) (All Things Nuggets)
- [Denver Nuggets guard Chauncey Billups talks about the Utah Jazz and CU coach Tad Boyle](#) (All Things Nuggets)

Recommend Us On 

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS COLORADO SPORTS

CU Buffs lose Burks, fall to Iowa State

Burks injures knee in opening minutes of loss

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/30/2010 07:21:02 PM MST

AMES, Iowa -- The Buffs can't even seize a road victory when the home team is doing its best to give it away.

Leading by one point in the final seconds with possession of the ball, Craig Brackins and Diante Garrett acted like they had never run an in-bounds play before.

"DG faked me out man," Brackins would explain later. "He was cutting and then he pointed back and then came forward, so that's why I threw it. He wasn't trying to fake me out, but I felt bad."

The turnover -- Iowa State's 21st miscue of the game -- landed in Levi Knutson's hands. He passed the ball to Austin Dufault who alertly found Cory Higgins.

Colorado's best player, who had cut the deficit to 62-61 and 64-63 with clutch baskets in the final 23 seconds, was double-teamed and passed the ball to Marcus Relphorde.

The Buffs were out of timeouts, so Relphorde aggressively drove the paint looking to win the game.

"It wasn't anything designed, but I definitely thought I had a good look," Relphorde said. "It just didn't go in. Tough shot."

The ball bounced on the rim a couple of times but wouldn't go down for the visitors as the buzzer sounded.

Iowa State 64, Colorado 63.

That's 33 consecutive Big 12 road losses for the bad-luck Buffs, who fell to 11-10 overall and 2-5 in conference play.

"True Colorado fans should be extremely proud of the way this team is developing," third-year coach Jeff Bzdelik said after the most heartbreaking of his 26 single-digit losses at CU. "They have a great collective will and spirit to compete. They're growing and maturing. I'm extremely proud of our men."

"But we're all hurting." Alec Burks was literally hurting. Adding injury to insult, the Buffs' star freshman left the game two minutes and 21 seconds after it started with a left knee injury.

Perhaps all wasn't lost here for Bzdelik's team. CU trainer Larry Willock told the Camera he doesn't believe Burks sustained a torn ACL or any type of ligament damage.

An MRI will be performed on Burks' knee today to make sure.

"(Willock) said I bruised something on the side of my leg," Burks said. "I've got real bad tendinitis in my leg. He said he thought I pulled something."

Instead of being stunned by the loss of Burks, CU responded with a brilliant start on the scoreboard.

After allowing an easy bucket in the paint to open the game, the Buffs -- who scored nine points in the first half here against Iowa State in a 70-42 loss last season -- answered with a 12-0 run capped with a steal and slam dunk by Relphorde.

Dwight Thorne and Casey Crawford knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers to give the visitors an 18-4 lead with 12:15 remaining.

"It's tough to see one of your teammates down," Dufault said. "You have to hope he's going to be all right and focus on the game."

The Cyclones (13-8, 2-4) finally began to get the ball into the hands of their NBA talents -- Brackins and Marcus Gilstrap -- who combined for 11 points during a 21-6 spurt to give Iowa State its first lead (25-24) with 3:51 remaining.

Crawford splashed a shot from behind the arc to end a drought of 5:04 for CU, which scored the final seven points of the half to take a 31-25 advantage into the intermission.

"The problem that we've had on the road is getting off to good starts and we got off to such a good start," Relphorde said. "We just couldn't sustain it. But we were still in the game at the end."

CU only shot 33.3 percent from the field before the break, but Iowa State shot 32.0 percent.

The Buffs scored the first six points of the second half to make it a 13-0 run. A free throw by Relphorde gave CU a 37-25 lead with 17:56 remaining.

Brackins, who also had 10 rebounds as the Cyclones dominated the glass 52-26, scored 10 quick points and tied the score 39-39 with 12:25 left. A layup by Garrett gave Iowa State its second lead (41-39) and capped a 10-0 run with 11:13 remaining.

"Our guards did a great job of finding me," said Brackins, who scored 22 of his 27 points in the second half. "I was aggressive, but if it wasn't for them hitting me down in the post it would have never happened."

A dunk by Brackins gave Iowa State a 60-55 lead with 1:49 left, but Relphorde answered immediately with a 3-pointer. After Higgins scored with 16.2 seconds left, Bzdelik called CU's final timeout and set the defense.

Right on cue, Brackins gave the ball back to the Buffs and forced the crowd of 11,877 to hold its collective breath.

"We got what we wanted -- a turnover and a scramble situation to see if we could get one more bucket," Bzdelik said.

More times than not, Relphorde makes that shot and the Buffs fly home celebrating a rare road triumph.

But it wasn't to be on CU's worst shooting night (34.4 percent) of the season.

"We fought to the end and had a chance to win it," said Higgins, who led the Buffs with 21 points, including 11 in the final seven minutes. "Just didn't go in."

Iowa St. 64, Colorado 63

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Tmlnsn 24 1-5 0-0 0-1 4 5 3

Rlphrd 30 4-12 2-4 0-4 2 3 11

Burks 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

CHiggins 34 7-17 6-8 0-1 3 3 21

Dufault 31 3-6 0-0 1-7 1 4 8

Thorne 34 3-12 0-0 1-2 2 3 8

Hrs-Tnks 4 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Knutson 24 0-4 2-2 2-6 3 3 2

Crawford 17 4-7 0-0 2-3 0 3 10

Totals 200 22-64 10-14 7-26 15 24 63

Percentages: FG .344, FT .714.

3-Point Goals: 9-26, .346 (Dufault 2-3, Crawford 2-4, Thorne II 2-7, [C.Higgins](#) 1-2, Tomlinson 1-3, Relphorde 1-5, Knutson 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 0.

Turnovers: 4 (Relphorde, Harris-Tunks, Tomlinson, [C.Higgins](#)).

Steals: 12 (Tomlinson 4, Dufault 2, Knutson 2, [C.Higgins](#) 2, Thorne II, Relphorde).

Technical Fouls: None.

IOWA ST.

Gilstrap 33 2-7 2-2 4-13 1 3 7

Garrett 31 3-6 4-4 1-3 5 2 10

Crstprsn 27 0-7 2-2 0-3 2 3 2

Brackins 38 11-21 5-8 2-13 1 2 27

Hamilton 29 2-2 6-8 5-12 0 1 10

Buckley 8 0-0 0-0 0-1 1 1 0

Colvin 23 1-4 1-2 0-1 5 2 3

Dendy 11 2-2 1-2 0-3 0 1 5

Totals 200 21-49 21-28 14-52 15 15 64

Percentages: FG .429, FT .750.

3-Point Goals: 1-12, .083 (Gilstrap 1-4, Colvin 0-1, Brackins 0-3, Christopherson 0-4).

Team Rebounds: 3.

Blocked Shots: 12 (Hamilton 5, Brackins 3, Dendy 2, Gilstrap 2).

Turnovers: 21 (Gilstrap 7, Garrett 5, Brackins 3, Christopherson 2, Hamilton 2, Dendy, Colvin).

Steals: 2 (Dendy, Brackins).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 31 32--63

Iowa St. 25 39--64

A -- 11,877.

Officials -- Mark Whitehead, Kipp Kissinger, K.C. Ely.

Close Window

Send To Printer

CU Buffs' Burks will undergo MRI today

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/30/2010 11:42:54 PM MST

AMES, Iowa -- Alec Burks walked out of the visitors locker room at Hilton Coliseum with Shannon Sharpe.

However, Colorado's talented freshman shooting guard doesn't expect to be joining the promising point guard on the end of the bench.

Burks sustained a painful left leg injury in the early moments of Colorado's soul-crushing 64-63 loss to Iowa State. An MRI will be performed on the 6-6 guard's knee today.

"We'll see what it says and find out from there," Burks said. "You always worry in the back of your mind about what it could be, but I just hope it's not that serious."

CU's training staff doesn't believe Burks sustained a torn ACL or any type of season-ending injury. Sharpe had to have microfracture surgery after injuring his knee during the first practice of the season in October, putting his college playing career on hold for a year.

The two other members of Jeff Bzdelik's impressive freshmen class have also been banged up this season.

Forward Keegan Hornbuckle did not suit up for the third consecutive game due to a sprained shoulder. Center Shane Harris-Tunks has played through a painful finger injury sustained at the Maui Invitational.

Marcus Relphorde, the junior college transfer who scored 11 points on Saturday but missed a potential game-winning hoop at the buzzer, is playing with a badly bruised hip.

"Injuries are a part of the game," Bzdelik said. "We offer no excuses."

Burks was averaging 17.2 points this season and had been the only freshman in the nation to score in double figures in every game until Saturday.

NBA scouts were already taking note of the 6-6 guard from Grandview, Mo., and nbadraft.net projected Burks as the No. 4 pick in the 2011 NBA draft.

Strengths and

weaknesses

Iowa State, despite losing sharpshooter Lucca Staiger, entered the game second in the nation in 3-point percentage (.426). Scott Christopherson was 27-for-51 (52.9 percent) behind the arc.

On Saturday, the Cyclones were 1-for-12 from behind the arc.

"It was a conscious effort to stick to guys who shoot three-point buckets and try to contain (Craig) Brackins," Dwight Thorne said. "We did a good job on threes, but Brackins played like a pro tonight."

Brackins scored 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Marquis Gilstrap also had 13 rebounds and Justin Hamilton added 12 rebounds as Iowa State dominated the boards 52-26.

CU made up for that glaring weakness by committing a season-low four turnovers and scoring 21 points off 21 turnovers by the Cyclones.

Thorne, who was 9-for-11 (81.8 percent) from 3-point distance in Big 12 play prior to the game, was 2-for-3 on Saturday.

House of horrors

The Buffs are 1-13 at Hilton Coliseum in Big 12 play and 1-18 dating back to 1992. CU's only win was a 54-52 overtime triumph on Jan. 22 2005.

Iowa State has a 76-67 lead in the overall series and a 15-13 edge since the formation of the Big 12.

Notable

Cory Higgins moved into 17th place on the school's all-time scoring list with 1,189 career points. ... Nate Tomlinson (four assists, one turnover) has led the team in assists the last seven games. ... CU has not out-rebounded the opponent in the last 12 games. ... Both coaching staffs wore tennis shoes to show their support for Coaches vs. Cancer.

Close Window

Send To Printer