

Buffaloes give away too many freebies

Gophers make 30 of 34 free throws

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/23/2009 12:03:32 AM MST

MINNEAPOLIS -- As coach Kathy McConnell-Miller tries to return the Colorado women's basketball team to a traditional top-25 program, one stumbling block has been lack of success on the road.

Entering her fifth season, the Buffs have gone 8-36 in road games under McConnell-Miller.

But Sunday's performance at Minnesota might give the Buffs some confidence after they overcame a first-half deficit to lead midway through the second half before falling short in the end.

Colorado suffered its first loss of the season with the 87-78 setback in the final game of the Golden Gophers' Basketball Classic.

"Everybody is disappointed we lost," said CU junior Brittany Spears, who led the Buffs with 27 points and 13 rebounds. "But we played hard against a quality team. The free throws separated us so it could have gone either way."

Free throws tell a big part of the story.

Minnesota (3-1) made 30 of 34 freebies, while Colorado (2-1) was 12 of 13 from the line.

But other "little things" came in to play in the last minute for the Buffs.

Kelly Jo Mullaney's jumper with 1:08 left in the game cut Minnesota's lead to three, 81-78.

On Minnesota's next possession, the Buffs were unable to get the rebound off Ashley Ellis-Milan's jumper and Kiara Buford was there for the putback to push the Gophers' lead to 83-78 with 38 seconds to play.

Colorado turned the ball over on its last two possessions while Minnesota made its last four free throws to pull out the win.

Bianca Smith's 17 points and Whitney Houston's 10 came off the bench for CU.

Houston played in her first game back since suffering a concussion last week.

Minnesota 87, Colorado 78 COLORADO (78)

Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT

M. Mlc-Pk 28 1-4 0-0 1 1 5 2

Spears 39 10-20 3-8 13 4 4 27

Dunn 15 1-2 0-0 1 0 3 3

Fressle 16 3-5 0-0 0 4 3 8

Jeffery 14 1-3 0-0 1 0 1 2

Smith 28 4-9 6-7 2 1 3 17

Houston 26 5-10 0-2 0 3 2 10

Seabrook 4 0-0 0-0 1 0 0 0

Mullaney 29 3-4 2-2 2 2 4 9

MacFrIne 5 0-0 1-2 3 0 0 1

Totals 200 28-57 12-13 24 15 25 78

Percentages: FG 49.1, FT 92.3.

3-point field goals (10-27): Malcolm-Peck 0-2, Spears 3-8, Dunn 1-2, Fressle 2-3, Smith 3-8, Houston 0-2, Mullaney 1-2.

Blocked shots (5): Malcolm-Peck 3, Spears, Smith.

Turnovers (13): Spears 4, Dunn, Fressle 2, Jeffery, Smith, Houston 4.

Steals (11): Spears 4, Fressle 2, Jeffery 2, Smith, Houston, Mullaney.

MINNESOTA (87)

Player MIN FG FT R A F PT

Ohm 14 1-4 0-0 1 0 1 3

Voigt 38 5-6 2-2 5 1 2 13

E-Milan 33 5-10 9-9 4 2 3 19

McCoy 35 0-5 2-4 5 6 4 2

Buford 29 6-9 11-11 7 3 0 24

Antoine 28 3-9 2-2 3 3 1 10

Cotton 11 3-3 3-3 0 1 2 11

Harper 7 2-3 1-1 1 1 2 5

Loberg 2 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Mastey 3 0-1 0-2 1 1 0 0

Totals 200 25-50 30-34 32 18 15 87

Percentages: FG 50.0, FT 88.2.

3-Point Goals (7-16): .Ohm 1-4, Voigt 1-2, McCoy 0-1, Buford 1-2, Antoine 2-4, Cotton 2-2, Mastey 0-1.

Blocked Shots (1): Ellis-Milan.

Turnovers (14): Ohm, Voigt, Ellis-Milan 3, McCoy 3, Buford 2, Antoine, Cotton, Harper 2.

Steals (6): Ellis-Milan 2, McCoy, Buford, Antoine 2.

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 41 37 -- 78

Minnesota 45 42 -- 87

Officials -- Trammell, Roberts, Napier.

Attendance -- 3,652.

Close Window

Send To Printer