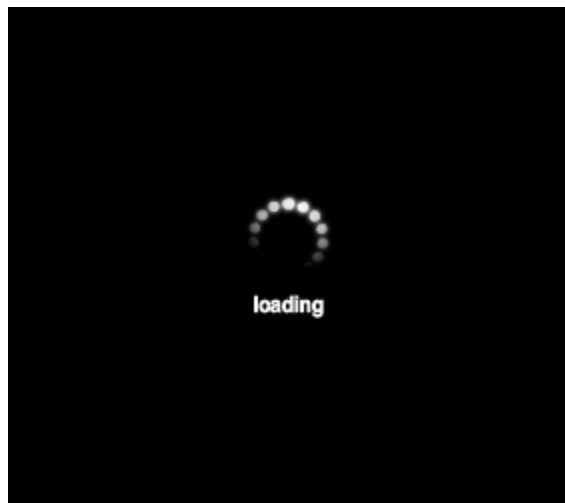


# Freshman Chucky Jeffery lifts CU with game-winning layup

## Bufs win their tourney for first time since 2003

**By Joshua Linden**stein Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

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Chucky Jeffery thinks she hit one game-winning shot as a sophomore in high school. Beyond that, she can't really recall any specifically.

Watching Jeffery hit the game-winner for the Colorado women's basketball team on Saturday night, one couldn't help but get the feeling that the freshman from Sierra High School will make many more such memories as a Buffalo.

Tied at 65 with Harvard in the closing seconds, the freshman coolly drove to the basket and rolled in a layup with 4.7 seconds left to give the Buffs a 67-65 triumph in the championship game of the Omni Hotels Classic at the Coors Events Center.

The heroics came in Jeffery's fifth collegiate game and capped a final four minutes in which she scored eight of her career-high 14 points.

"She is special," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "She's grown up her whole life playing against guys. Her mentality is, 'What's this? Give me the ball. I can score. I can do this.'"

"When she is on the floor, she is a difference maker, and I'm excited to have her."

That Jeffery was even taking the final shot said plenty about what the coaching staff thinks of the prized recruit from their heralded freshman class.

Forward Brittany Spears is leading the team in scoring with 19 points per game, and senior Bianca Smith had a hot hand Saturday, coming off the bench to hit six 3-pointers and score 22 points.

McConnell-Miller said she didn't want the team to settle for a 3 on the final shot, and wanted someone to get to the basket so there was a chance to go to the free-throw line on a miss. With Spears being guarded by a bigger defender, that left Jeffery, who was guarded by Crimson point guard Brogan Berry.

"It's just real exciting, being a freshman and the coaches trusting me enough to put the ball in my hands to make the last shot," Jeffery said. "It feels really good. It's so exciting."

"I like the pressure."

After Jeffery gave the Buffs (4-1) a 65-63 lead with a minute left on a drive to the bucket, Harvard freshman Victoria Lippert tied the game with a pair of free throws with 34 seconds left.

That left about a 3 or 4-second differential between the game and shot clocks when CU got the ball.

The Buffs called timeout and drew up a play where Spears and Smith would be spotted up on the right side for Jeffery to hit if she didn't have her own shot.

The play was similar to one the Buffs ran just before halftime where Jeffery scored, but went to the basket too soon,

allowing Harvard to hustle down the floor and hit a 3 at the buzzer. The second time, Jeffery was told to wait longer, and Berry had to settle for a 35-footer at the buzzer that bounced off the rim.

"I've known from the first day she stepped on campus that she was going to do special things here," Smith said. "When we played pickup, she was right there in the thick of things. So tonight I knew when coach Miller put the ball in her hands for the last shot, I knew Chucky was going to come through for us."

McConnell-Miller said she'd been challenging Jeffery all week in practice to raise her level of play. Each time Jeffery does something positive, the coach keeps raising the bar.

"She's not going to let up, and I don't plan to let up either," Jeffery said.

Colorado trailed early in both halves Saturday, including a nine-point deficit in the second. But Kelly Jo Mullaney hit a 3 to put the Buffs up 1 with 9:30 to play, and Jeffery scored eight of the final 10 points for CU.

Harvard center Emma Markley had 24 points to lead all scorers, and Lippert added 14 for the Crimson (3-3). Spears had 11 points and 11 rebounds, and Mullaney added nine points for the Buffs.

### Notable

CU improved to 4-1 for the first time since the 2003-04 season. ... The tournament title was the first time the Buffs have won their own holiday tournament since that season as well. ... Harvard was without head coach Kathy Delaney-Smith, who missed the trip to Colorado to tend to a family emergency. ... Spears, who had 20 points in a semifinal win over Georgia Southern Friday, was named tourney MVP. Jeffery and Smith also made the all-tourney team.

### Colorado 67, Harvard 65

#### HARVARD (65)

#### Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT

Markley 30 10-15 4-8 7 0 4 24

Berry 38 1-6 2-4 4 9 1 4

Matera 28 3-6 0-0 2 1 3 8

Lippert 32 5-9 2-2 2 0 2 14

Aleman 31 1-3 1-2 11 3 2 4

Hagedorn 5 1-2 0-0 0 0 0 2

Rowland 15 3-6 0-0 2 0 0 8

Louie 2 0-1 0-0 0 0 0 0

Wheeler 19 0-2 1-2 3 1 1 1

Totals 200 24-50 7-16 31 14 13 65

**3-Point Goals:** 7-16 (Lippert 2-3, Rowland 2-3, Matera 2-4, Alemany 1-1, Berry 0-2, Hagedorn 0-1, Wheeler 0-2.)

**Blocked Shots:** 4 (Markley 4).

**Turnovers:** 15 (Alemany 4, Markley 3, Berry 2, Matera 2, Lippert 2, Hagedorn, Rowland).

**Steals:** 3 (Matera 2, Markley).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

### COLORADO (67)

**Player MIN FG FT Rb A PF PT**

Spears 39 4-16 2-2 11 3 3 11

[B.MlclmPck](#) 2 0-1 0-0 0 0 0 0

Dunn 13 1-1 0-0 2 1 2 2

Fressle 10 0-2 0-0 1 0 0 0

Jeffery 33 6-9 2-4 5 4 2 14

[M.MlclmPck](#) 36 3-7 0-0 6 1 4 7

Smith 30 7-13 2-2 4 0 1 22

Houston 8 1-3 0-0 2 1 1 2

Seabrook 2 0-0 0-0 0 0 2 0

Mullaney 27 3-7 2-2 0 4 1 9

Totals 200 25-59 9-25 31 14 16 67

**3-Point Goals:** 9-25 (Smith 6-11, Mullaney 1-2, M. Malcolm-Peck 1-3, Spears 1-7, B. Malcolm-Peck 0-1, Houston 0-1).

**Blocked Shots:** 2 (Jeffery, Spears).

**Turnovers:** 10 (Jeffery 2, M. Malcolm-Peck 2, Houston 2, Spears, Dunn, Smith, Mullaney).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

Harvard 32 33 -- 65

Colorado 33 34 -- 67

**Officials** -- Jules Gallien, Joe Cunningham, Michael Price.

**Attendance** -- 2,096.

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