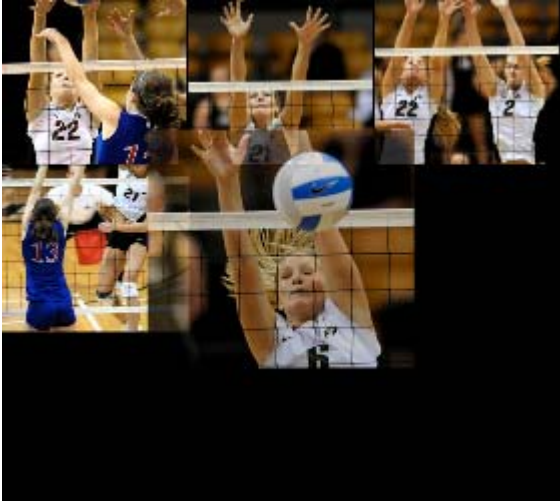


Buff spikers swept by Kansas

Trip to Texas Tech next for CU

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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"We didn't execute as well as we would have liked to and it kind of went the other way."

Defensively, CU did a pretty good job of containing Karina Garlington, who ranked fifth in the Big 12 in kills per game, through the first two sets. But KU's other hitting star, Allison Mayfield, had 21 kills and a .364 hitting percentage.

The dynamic duo combined for 10 kills in the third set.

"These two hitters, you don't neutralize both of them. It's choosing one or the other and you don't contain them," Kritza said. "You just have to slow them down enough. ... Mayfield went off. In the first set it was an offensive show from her. We were able to slow that down, but then it really got away from us when Garlington got going."

Fogle and Steinhaus also played well, but their combined kill total only equaled Mayfield's individual total.

"Two players had to carry the load for us, and that's not the way this team is going to win," Kritza said. "The way this team is going to win is with a really balanced approach."

The Buffs still have six matches to play and will try to gain some momentum for the 2010 season. They will face three more ranked opponents -- Baylor, Texas A&M and Nebraska -- down the stretch.

"They're outmatched at times," Kritza said of her players. "The teams that we've played in sequence make it tough for a young team to learn. ... I expect their best and we're really trying to teach the pursuit of excellence in everything we do. It's a difficult thing loss after loss after loss, but we remain focused on the right things to make sure we don't have this repeat season after season."

On to Lubbock.

"We're excited for Saturday," Steinhaus said. "It should be a good game."

Not everyone looks forward to a trip to Lubbock, Texas.

The Colorado volleyball team will be packing its pride when it travels to play Texas Tech this Saturday.

Liz Kritza's Buffs -- now 6-17 overall and 1-13 in the Big 12 after Kansas swept its way through the Coors Events Center with a 25-22, 25-23, 25-16 victory on Wednesday night in front of 603 witnesses -- will almost certainly avoid the conference cellar this season with a win over the reeling Red Raiders (2-19, 0-12).

"The rest of the season, we're going to fight our hearts out," sophomore outside hitter Becah Fogle promised after leading CU with 13 kills.

The Buffs led the second set 18-14 before the Jayhawks (13-10, 5-8) went on a 6-0 run en route to a two-set lead before the intermission.

"It was the turning point in that game," said sophomore middle blocker/outside hitter Rosie Steinhaus, who added eight digs and nine digs for the home team.

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Jayhawks peck Buffaloes

Colorado continues losing streak

By Esteban L. Hernandez on November 5, 2009

The Coors Events Center has not witnessed many victories from the Colorado Buffaloes volleyball team.

Wednesday's clash against Kansas was no different for the Buffs as they fell to the Jayhawks in three sets, 25-22, 25-23, 25-16.

The loss is CU's sixth straight and its last victory occurred on Oct. 14 against Texas Tech at home. They are 2-8 in 10 homes games this season.

The first set saw sophomore outside hitter Becah Fogle rack up four kills as the Jayhawks (13-10, 5-8 Big 12 Conference) narrowly overcame an energetic Colorado (6-17, 1-13) squad.

With the second set quickly wrapping up, the Buffs made a strong effort but came up short. The last set was all Kansas as they closed the night with 50 total kills to Colorado's 41.

Colorado was unable to lead in kills all night. They came the closest in the second set when they finished the set one short of Kansas.

Sophomore outside hitter Rosie Steinhaus, who notched eight kills, said the loss was due to the team's errors.

"I think it was kind of just what we've talked about before, controlling our unforced errors," Steinhaus said. "We've been working on that in practice but we didn't execute it as we would have liked. I think that was the main problem."

Fogle, who had a team-high 13 kills, suggested the team's "passing could definitely improve."

Head coach Liz Kritza said ball control was a constant struggle.

"We actually struggled in stretches with our ball control," Kritza said. "There were times when we really suffered and we weren't able to execute our offense. When we weren't able to stay in system because we weren't a very fast offense, then the result is what you see."

Kansas, who racked up 17 kills in the final set, kept a steady offensive flow, something Kritza said her team was unable to maintain.



In a game earlier this season, freshman center Megan Cyr and sophomore outside hitter Becah Fogle block a Texas Tech spike, helping the Buffs defeat the Raiders in four sets Wednesday, Oct. 14. CU lost to Kansas 3-0 Wednesday in Coors Events Center. (CU Independent file/Molly Maher)

“We just weren’t able to get our in-system offense firing and that meant one or two players had to carry the load for us, and that is not the way this team is going to win,” Kritza said. “The way that this team is going to win is with a really balance approach.”

A visibly frustrated Steinhaus said the team gave it their all.

“I mean our fight was there and our hearts where in it,” Steinhaus said. “But it just didn’t go our way.”

The team’s next game is against Texas Tech at 3 p.m. Saturday in Lubbock, Texas. A victory could go a long way as the Red Raiders are winless in the Big 12.

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