

# Rallies fall short for CU spikers

## San Diego wins in straight sets

By **Peter Buffington** For the Camera  
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The Colorado volleyball team lost its home opener against the No. 24 San Diego Toreros on Friday.

The Buffs fell 26-24, 25-21 and 25-16 in straight sets at the Coors Events Center. With the loss, the team fell to 4-4.

The Buffs stayed competitive throughout the match while showing flashes of dominance, but struggled during crucial mid-set situations.

Sophomore Rosie Steinhaus led Colorado with nine kills and Becah Fogle notched seven.

"The first sets we did come out and play well, but we didn't take advantage of what we should have," Fogle said. "We had opportunities to win the first and second sets. I think we were kind of disappointed that we let those slip by and I think that affected our play in the third set."

In the first set trailing 15-11, the Buffs rallied to take a 21-18 lead.

The feisty Toreros bounced back, however, and won the crucial opening frame 26-24.

The second set was similar. Colorado hung around and got within two at 21-19 before a late surge from San Diego ended any hope for CU with a 25-21 San Diego win.

The Buffs fell behind early in the third set 14-8 and never came back. The Toreros won 25-16 to clinch the match. Colleen Carlson led San Diego with 14 kills.

"We just need to keep running our system," CU senior Kaitlyn Burkett said of the loss. "Every part of it. We have to really trust the coaches and just do it. Go after it."

First-year coach Liz Kritza saw some positives as her Buffs prepare for conference play in what is shaping up to be a very competitive schedule. Colorado opens Big 12 play at Iowa State.

"Every match for us is incredibly important," Kritza said. "There were some really quality plays. You can't see that in the box score and you can't see that in the stats, but there are things that this team is working on that are proving positive."

"You're not always going to end up on the right side of this win-loss column, but this group is really learning how to play high-level volleyball. I have no doubt that they will be ready to go against a real tough Cal Poly team."

Colorado hosts Cal Poly at 7 p.m. today to wrap up the Colorado Invitational.

Earlier Friday, the Buffs defeated the Denver Pioneers 26-24, 25-18 and 25-20 in straight sets at Hamilton Gymnasium in Denver.

Fogle led the Buffaloes with 11 kills and Kerra Schroeder added 10.

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