

# Colorado volleyball team falls to Duke in five sets

## Blue Devils rally from 2-1 deficit

By Michael Krumholtz For the Camera  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 08/28/2010 11:46:18 PM MDT



Cheers swept through the Coors Events Center louder than expected from a crowd of 874, but the crowd support wasn't enough for the Colorado volleyball team on Saturday night.

The Buffs fell 25-18, 26-28, 18-25, 25-16, 15-10 to Duke a night after sweeping Furman to open the season.

The Blue Devils took the first set by out-hitting the Buffs, tallying 17 kills to just seven for CU.

However, after rallying to claim the second and third sets, the Buffs appeared to be in good position to claim another victory. Then the Blue Devils (2-0) took control in the fourth, cruising to a 25-16 set win to tie the match at 2-2.

In the final set, Duke wore down a smaller CU squad.

[Click on any photo to see photo gallery.](#)  
"We faced a strong squad in Duke tonight, and credit to them for pulling out the win," second-year CU coach Liz Kritza said. "I would expect to see them have a successful season and fare well in their conference."

Colorado sophomore outside hitter Kerra Schroeder led the Buffs with 15 kills. She added three aces, seven digs and two blocks. Junior middle blocker Anicia Santos led CU with a .370 hitting percentage after notching 10 kills.

Despite the loss, the potential is noticeable for a revamped team that returns just two starters from last season's 7-22 squad.

"The challenges that face a young team early in the season are very important," Kritza said. "We learned a valuable lesson tonight about maximizing opportunities to finish a set (and) about managing the efficiency of our play both offensively and defensively."

One of the new faces on the team is Santos, who led the team with four blocks. The Cal Poly transfer is no stranger to the Coors Events Center, however. Last season as a member of the Mustangs, Santos played in Boulder against the Buffs and realized just how loud it could get.

"It was a little bit intimidating," Santos said. "My gym back at Cal Poly wasn't as big as Coors Events Center. It's great to be on the other side of the net now, though, and it has a completely different meaning now."

Santos and the Buffs won't play their next match in the friendly confines of the Coors Events Center. CU (1-1) heads to Fort Collins on Tuesday to face No. 17 Colorado State. The match starts at 7 p.m. at Moby Arena.

Close Window

Send To Printer

- [News](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Speak Out!](#)
- [Multimedia](#)

- [Subscribe](#)

## The devil's in the details

Women's volleyball falls to Duke

*By Marlee Horn on August 29, 2010*

Share

The devil's in the details  
Women's volleyball falls to Duke

0  
tweets

tweet By Marlee Horn

The CU women volleyball team's loss to Duke was a tale of two teams.

First, there was the CU team that shined in the second and third sets. Then, there was the CU team that was simply out-played by a taller and faster Duke.

The Buffaloes fell in five sets 25-18, 26-28, 18-25, 25-16 and 15-10.

The first set was not the Buffs' finest. Colorado kept Duke's lead between four and seven points and made the score 21-16 late in the set.

But that is as close as they came. Despite solid blocking by the Buffaloes, Duke's physicality and play towards the outside lines was too much for CU to handle, and the Buffs fell 25-18.

In the second set, an ace by sophomore outside hitter Kerra Schroeder tied the game at 21. Then, at set point, Duke gave the set to the Buffs, 28-26, after hitting the ball out of play.

The third set belonged to the Buffs from the beginning. Duke would only trail 15-13 in the middle of the set, but thanks to the strong CU offense, that is as close as they would get.

A block by junior outside hitter Anicia Santos raised the Buffs' lead to 20-13, and the Buffs closed out the set 25-18.

"We're not a huge team," Santos said. "We don't have girls who are 6 feet 6 inches just crushing the ball in front of the ten foot line. Our strength is in our system and the fact that we work well together as a team."

Unfortunately for the Buffs, the fourth set was the tale of another team.



Junior Richi Bigelow (8) tries to block a spike from Duke's Christiana Gray (11) during the CU versus Duke match at Coor's Events Center on Saturday. The Buffs lost, 2-3. (CU Independent/Stephanie Davis)