

# Lappe's Buffs working on details

## CU women's schedule about to get tougher

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

Posted: 12/01/2010 12:00:52 AM MST

The Colorado women's basketball team is 5-1. The Buffaloes have won four straight games. They're undefeated at home. And they top their opponents in every statistical category except for free-throw percentage.

Things are going smoothly in Buff land.

Coaches, of course, can always find ways to keep their players grounded, especially when both groups know that the competition soon becomes far more challenging.

"We're constantly, as a coaching staff, pointing out things and showing them things that might fly right now, but they're not going to fly for much longer," first-year CU coach Linda Lappe said Tuesday.

Count rebounding and turnovers among the areas Lappe feels her squad can most improve heading into tonight's 7 p.m. game against Texas State (2-2) at the Coors Events Center.

That's despite holding a plus-8.3 per game rebounding margin over opponents and handing over one fewer turnover per game.

While they're forcing 21.5 turnovers per game, the Buffs' 20.5 of their own are far too many, Lappe said. And the Buffs are allowing nearly nine offensive rebounds per game by their opponents even though they hold a 39.0-30.7 edge overall.

The deficiencies have been masked somewhat by the fact that the Buffs have faced a lighter schedule so far. But after tonight's game, the slate starts to ramp up with home games against Illinois and Colorado State and then a tournament at Southern Cal that features a strong field.

CU players admitted Tuesday that going through a soft stretch on the schedule can lull them into a false sense of security if they're not careful. They said they've focused a lot lately on little details like making crisp passes, meeting passes, boxing out and getting back in transition defense.

They know that things like lackadaisical passes that work now are easy layups the other way once Big 12 Conference play rolls around.

The Buffs got a wakeup call on Friday in a 55-53 win over Evansville in which they led big early only to fall behind in the second half.

Lappe lamented after the game that it's sometimes tougher for a coach to get her message across to the team when things are coming easily. But the Buffs heard the message loud and clear after the close call and stomped Loyola-Chicago on Saturday with their best outing of the season.

"I think that's why Evansville was important, and I think that's why Loyola was important, too, because we made a lot of those changes," Lappe said. "And they weren't things we could practice in less than 24 hours. They were just things we mentally remembered and knew that we couldn't take plays off."

Point guard Chucky Jeffery was one of the players who had a dramatic turnaround after turning the ball over 10 times on Friday.

"I turned around and had no turnovers the next game, and that led to better things from the team, more shots, more chances to get to the free-throw line, things like that," said Jeffery, who recorded a 10-point, 13-rebound, 10-assist triple double in the win over Loyola.

The victory over Loyola was uplifting for the Buffs in many respects, not the least of which was that they felt they played to their capabilities for a full 40 minutes.

One major sore spot for the Buffs last season was their tendency to let a wretched four or five or eight-minute stretch ruin what was otherwise a competitive game. While the wins had been coming this season, the Buffs had been having similar lulls that were letting opponents stick around in games CU led big.

Lappe conceded that every team will have lulls. The key is to minimize the damage and duration of those and recognizing what to do to halt them.

Forward Meagan Malcolm-Peck, who had a double-double against Loyola, said the Buffs are starting to learn what it takes to buck their habit of not playing a full 40 minutes.

"I thought we were tough most of the game (against Loyola), and I think we all felt how that was to play like that," the sophomore said. "So I think we're working on that and getting better and playing 100 percent all the time no matter what the score is."

**TODAY:** The Colorado Buffaloes (5-1) host the Texas State Bobcats (2-2) at 7 p.m. at the Coors Events Center.

**BROADCAST:** No television. Radio on KKZN (760 AM) with Mike Rice (play-by-play) and Carol Callan (color).

**STORY LINES:** Colorado has won four straight after winning the Omni Hotels Classic last weekend. ... CU beat Evansville 55-53 and then routed Loyola-Chicago 65-34 in the finale. ... Chucky Jeffery recorded the second triple-double in school history in the win over Loyola. ... Tonight's home game is the fifth in a row for the Buffs. ... Texas State has lost two straight and is playing on the road for the first time this season. ... The Bobcats have no one who averages double-digit scoring, but they also allow just 52.8 points per game. ... The Bobcats haven't won a non-conference road game since December of 2006.

**KEY STAT:** A win tonight would give CU its first five-game win streak since winning its final five non-conference games of the 2008-09 season.

**COACHES:** Linda Lappe is 5-1 in her first season at CU and 55-37 overall. Suzanne Fox is 167-205 in her 14th season at Texas State and 284-238 overall.

#### PROBABLE STARTERS

**Colorado --** G Britney Blythe, 5-9, Sr., 6.0 ppg, 0.8 rpg, 2.0 apg; G Chucky Jeffery, 5-10, So., 16.5 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 5.0 apg; F Brittany Spears, 6-1, Sr., 19.5 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 2.3 spg; F Meagan Malcolm-Peck, 6-2, So., 7.5 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.3 apg; F Julie Seabrook 6-3, Jr., 8.8 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 0.8 spg.

**Texas State --** G Diamond Ford, 5-9, So., 8.3 ppg, 1.3 rpg; G Verinus Kalu, 5-8, Jr., 7.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg; G Mallory Williams, 5-5, Sr., 2.8 ppg, 1.8 rpg; F Chika Ofoegbu, 6-0, Sr., 2.5 ppg, 6.8 rpg; F Anna Brzozowski, 6-0, Sr., 9.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg.

**SERIES:** Tied 1-1. The schools split a home and home series in 1991 and 1992 when Texas State was known as Southwest Texas State.

**UP NEXT:** The Buffs host Illinois at 5 p.m. Saturday as part of a double-header with the CU men's 8 p.m. game against Oregon State.

Close Window

Send To Printer