

CU Buffs end homestand with romp

Levi Knutson red-hot as CU improves to 7-0 at Coors Events Center

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Levi Knutson shot the ball better than Jimmy Chitwood during Colorado's five-game homestand.

The senior guard was 28-for-35 (80 percent) from the field and averaged 16.5 points as the Buffs blew out four opponents and pulled out an overtime win over rival Colorado State.

Knutson scored 17 points in 19 minutes on 5-for-5 shooting during CU's 104-59 thrashing of Longwood on Sunday at the Coors Events Center.

"It was a big stretch for us after how we started. We needed to take care of business at home," Knutson said after the Buffs improved to 7-0 at home with their fifth consecutive victory. "Obviously, we've got some tests on the road now where we have to prove ourselves."

Perhaps Tad Boyle should measure the dimensions of the court and height of the rim at Orleans Arena this week to show the

Buffers they are the same as found inside the Coors Events Center.

CU, 0-3 outside the Boulder city limits, will face New Mexico and either Indiana or Northern Iowa this week at the Las Vegas Classic.

"I feel like it's going to be a great test to show where our team is at," Alec Burks said after producing 15 points, seven rebounds, five assists and one turnover in 27 minutes.

The independent Lancers (3-10) did not test the Buffs (7-3) very long. This was more of a pop quiz with plenty of easy answers.

"It was a feel good game for us," Boyle noted after CU won its 19th consecutive non-conference home game.

The Buffs led 47-26 at halftime after shooting 50 percent (17-for-34) from the field and 75 percent (6-for-8) from behind the arc.

Burks (11 points), Marcus Relphorde (11) and Knutson (10) were all in double figures scoring before the break.

After Antwan Carter cut Longwood's deficit to 16-12 with a basket, the visitors went five minutes and 41 seconds without a point.

During the Lancers' dry spell, CU went on a 16-0 run to seize complete control of the game.

"Good players, good energy, and they made some shots," Longwood head coach Mike Gillian said of the sequence. "We have had these kind of things, especially against high-profile teams. We have that run that goes against us. And in order for us to compete, we can't have that, obviously."

Down the stretch, CU's lineup was made up of Shannon Sharpe and Javon Coney in the backcourt, Andre Roberson at

small forward, Trey Eckloff at power forward, and Ben Mills at center.

The regular cast was already relaxing on the end of the bench as six different Buffs scored in double figures.

The crowd of 2,556 won free oil changes courtesy of a CU sponsor since the home team eclipsed 100 points.

"I think we are really starting to get a feel for each other on the floor," Boyle said. "We're executing at a pretty high level offensively right now, we're shooting the ball well, and we're sharing the ball. I think offensively we've made some great strides."

Cory Higgins scored 15 of his game-high 18 points in the second half. Roberson recorded his second consecutive double-double -- the first CU freshman to do that since Richard Fox (1999-2000) -- with 14 points and 13 rebounds. Relphorde finished with 14 points, and Austin Dufault added 12 points.

Now it's time to see if Knutson and the Buffs can shoot the brighter lights out in Las Vegas.

"It's amazing," Boyle said of Knutson's home stand. "He's shooting that way in practice, too. He's just feeling it. I'm not sure he can keep this clip up. I hope he can."

"The thing is he's taking good shots ... he's taking them within the confines of the offense, he's not forcing things. When you do that your percentages go up dramatically."

Colorado 104, Longwood 59

LONGWOOD

FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Carter 21 8-13 0-0 0-3 0 5 16

Bowman 34 5-7 4-6 2-6 3 2 15

Washington 23 2-5 0-0 1-2 4 3 5

Mitchell 27 2-6 2-4 2-5 3 4 6

van der Kooij 20 1-5 1-2 2-4 1 2 3

Gee II 7 1-1 2-2 0-0 0 0 4

Robinson 20 1-7 0-0 1-1 1 0 3

Parker 13 2-8 0-0 0-1 1 0 5

Dublin 20 0-3 0-0 2-4 1 2 0

Havenstein 15 1-5 0-0 1-4 0 1 2

Totals 200 23-60 9-14 11-30 14 19 59

Percentages: FG .383, FT .643.

3-Point Goals: 4-18, .222 (Bowman 1-2, Washington 1-4, Parker 1-4, Robinson 1-5, Carter 0-1, van der Kooij 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 0.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Carter, Havenstein, Parker).

Turnovers: 13 (Mitchell 3, Washington 3, Carter 2, Bowman 2, Dublin, Havenstein, van der Kooij).

Steals: 2 (Mitchell, Bowman).

Technical Fouls: Carter.

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Dufault 18 4-7 3-4 3-5 3 2 12

Tomlinson 17 0-1 0-0 0-2 3 3 0

Relphorde 25 5-6 3-5 2-3 1 1 14

Burks 27 6-13 2-2 3-7 5 2 15

Higgins 24 7-12 2-2 1-2 2 1 18

Sharpe 23 1-4 0-0 2-3 5 2 2

Coney 8 2-4 0-0 0-0 0 0 4

Roberson 21 5-9 2-3 4-13 0 1 14

Knutson 19 5-5 4-4 0-4 2 0 17

Mills 7 2-5 1-2 2-4 0 0 5

Eckloff 11 1-6 1-1 1-2 2 1 3

Totals 200 38-72 18-23 19-48 23 13 104

Percentages: FG .528, FT .783.

3-Point Goals: 10-17, .588 (Knutson 3-3, Higgins 2-2, Roberson 2-3, Relphorde 1-1, Dufault 1-1, Burks 1-2, Tomlinson 0-1, Sharpe 0-1, Coney 0-1, Eckloff 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 3.

Blocked Shots: 4 (Sharpe 2, Roberson, Burks).

Turnovers: 8 (Relphorde 2, Dufault, Roberson, Burks, Mills, Higgins, Tomlinson).

Steals: 5 (Knutson 2, Higgins 2, Burks).

Technical Fouls: None.

Longwood 26 33-- 59

Colorado 47 57--104

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cu basketball

CU men take control in Sunday romp over Longwood

By The Associated Press

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BOULDER — Alec Burks has grown accustomed to leading the team in scoring. The Colorado sophomore doesn't mind sharing the wealth with his teammates, either.

"It means I don't really have to do everything," Burks said Sunday after Colorado outgunned Longwood 104-59. "Everyone is scoring and we're a good, balanced scoring team right now."

Cory Higgins scored 15 of his 18 points in the second half to lead the Buffaloes (7-3), who have won five in a row. Levi Knutson added 17 points and Burks — the leading scorer in five of Colorado's 10 games — had 15.

Six Buffaloes finished in double figures.

"Overall, everybody just feels comfortable," said

freshman Andre Roberson, who chipped in 14 points and 13 rebounds.

The five-game winning streak is Colorado's longest since 2005-06. The Buffaloes are 7-0 at home and have won 19 consecutive nonconference home games.

"I think we are starting to feel each other and feel for each other on the floor," Buffs coach Tad Boyle said. "We're executing at a high level offensively, moving the ball well and sharing the ball."

Antwan Carter led Longwood (3-10) with 16 points. Jeremiah Bowman had 15 for the Lancers, who have lost eight in a row.

Longwood played without guard Durann Neil, who suffered a hamstring injury in Friday's loss at New Mexico.

Colorado made 6-of-8 3-pointers and had a 16-0 run in the first half to take a 47-26 lead at halftime.

Carter had two layups and Bowman made a basket off a loose ball as Longwood took an 8-6 lead a minute into the game. It would be its last.

Burks' tip-in gave the Buffaloes their first lead at 10-8, and he had a 3-pointer in a 16-0 run that put Colorado up 32-12 at the 8:07 mark of the first half.

"We've had these kinds of things before, especially against high-profile teams, where we

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have that run that goes against us," Lancers coach Mike Gillian said. "That's something that in order for us to compete, we can't have that."

Three baskets by Carter in the paint kept the CU lead to less than 20 points, but the Buffaloes took a 21-point advantage into the break, getting a 3-pointer by Marcus Relphorde and a three-point play from Higgins.

Things didn't get much better in the second half when the Lancers made only 11-of-34 shots. It didn't help that Carter fouled out with 10:58 left in the game.

"When he's removed from the game, then a high-percentage scoring option is not on the court," Gillian said. "It puts a little more pressure on our outside shooting and that makes it tougher as well."

LONGWOOD (3-10)

Carter 8-13 0-0 16, Bowman 5-7 4-6 15, Washington 2-5 0-0 5, Mitchell 2-6 2-4 6, Van Der Kooij 1-5 1-2 3, Gee II 1-1 2-2 4, Robinson 1-7 0-0 3, Parker 2-8 0-0 5, Dublin 0-3 0-0 0, Havenstein 1-5 0-0 2. **Totals 23-60 9-14 59.**

COLORADO (7-3)

Dufault 4-7 3-4 12, Tomlinson 0-1 0-0 0, Relphorde 5-6 3-5 14, Burks 6-13 2-2 15, Higgins 7-12 2-2 18, Sharpe 1-4 0-0 2, Coney 2-4 0-0 4, Roberson 5-9 2-3 14, Knutson 5-5 4-4 17, Mills 2-5 1-2 5, Eckloff 1-6 1-1 3. **Totals 38-72 18-23 104. Colorado 47-26. 3-point goals — Longwood 4-18 (Bowman 1-2,**

Washington 1-4, Parker 1-4, Robinson 1-5, Carter 0-1, Van Der Kooij 0-2), Colorado 10-17 (Knutson 3-3, Higgins 2-2, Roberson 2-3, Relphorde 1-1, Dufault 1-1, Burks 1-2, Tomlinson 0-1, Sharpe 0-1, Coney 0-1, Eckloff 0-2). Fouled out — Carter. Rebounds — Longwood 30 (Bowman 6), Colorado 48 (Roberson 13). Assists — Longwood 14 (Washington 4), Colorado 23 (Burks, Sharpe 5). Total fouls — Longwood 19, Colorado 13. Technical — Carter. A — 2,556.

Halftime —

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Buffs feeling good

Six players hit double-digits in blowout win

By Brad Cochi

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During the Colorado Buffaloes' current five-game win streak, senior Levi Knutson has been shooting the ball like a sniper.

In the Buffs' latest win, a 104-59 stomping of NCAA Division I independent Longwood University, Knutson shot a perfect 5-for-5 from the field. He shot 3-for-3 from 3-point range, adding to his .765 3-point percentage during the Buffs' streak.

"It's been fun to make shots. It's been fun to play with these guys," Knutson said. "We've got a lot of good playmakers on our team, willing to share the ball and play together, and that's the funnest part about it."

If a balanced scoring effort is fun for the Buffs, they've been having a blast this season.

When the Buffs have four or more players score in double figures, they're undefeated at 7-0. Against the Lancers on Sunday afternoon, they had six — Austin Dufault (12), Marcus Relphhorde (14), Alec Burks (15), Cory Higgins (18), André Roberson (14) and Knutson (17).

Knutson wasn't the only one hitting from downtown, either. As a team, the Buffs shot 10-for-17 from behind the arc, including a blistering 6-for-8 in the first half. Even Roberson, the Buffs' versatile 6-foot-7 freshman, hit his second and third 3-pointers of the season.

"I'm trying to expand my game and taking tips from Levi," said Roberson, who also recorded his second career double-double, with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

With everyone putting the ball in the basket, Burks, who is averaging a team-high 19.8 points for the Buffs, didn't have to focus on scoring. He had five assists and grabbed seven rebounds to add to his 15 points.

"I really ain't gotta do nothing," Burks said. "I feel like everybody's contributing, you know. Everybody's just scoring. It's a good, balanced team right now."

The Buffs easily blew out the Lancers (3-10), but they were supposed to.

Colorado head coach Tad Boyle called the game a "feel-good win." The Buffs will take it.

The first-year head coach said Colorado has made great strides offensively, sharing the ball and finishing out games.

"One of the things we talked about with about 3 minutes to go in the first half, that we've talked about with our team a lot this year, is finishing things," Boyle said. "We talk about finishing possessions, finishing workouts, finishing



CU's Andre Roberson (21) goes up to block the shot of Jeremiah Bowman of Longwood on Sunday in Boulder. **Cliff Grassmick/AP**

practices. We wanted to finish the first half and then at halftime we talked about finishing the game.”

The Buffs finished Sunday’s game, their 19th straight non-conference home win since the 2008-09 season, on a 17-8 run.

Opening the second half with a 21-point lead, Boyle emptied his bench, resting his key players and getting some much-needed minutes for others before the teams leaves Tuesday for the 10th Annual Las Vegas Classic. The Buffs’ bench capitalized on the opportunity, scoring 45 points.

Colorado also outrebounded Longwood 48-30, which lead to 17 fastbreak points and 42 points in the paint.

Back-to-back wins over outgunned opponents (The Citadel and Longwood) have the Buffs playing with confidence heading into Wednesday’s matchup with New Mexico. They’ll be looking to prove they can win on the road, currently pairing a dismal 0-3 road record with an impressive 7-0 home record.

NOTES: Colorado is 7-1 when scoring 80 or more points this season. ... Colorado’s five-game win streak is its longest since the 2005-06 season when it won nine straight. ... Colorado is now 9-0 all-time against NCAA division-I Independents. ... The last time the Buffs had six players score double-digit points was against Central Florida on Jan. 3, 2007. ... The Buffs committed a season-low 13 fouls against Longwood, including only three in the first half. Their previous low was 14 against Texas Pan-American on Nov. 30. ... Burks is the only Colorado player to score in double digits in every game this season. ... Roberson leads the team in rebounds (7.6 per game) and blocks (13), and is tied with Higgins for the lead in steals (15).

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