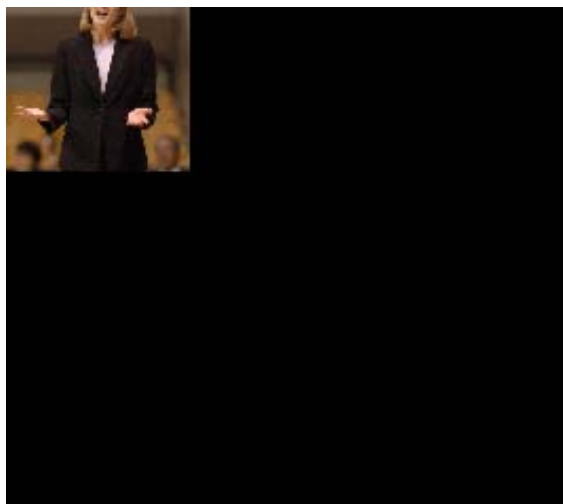


Defense leads CU women past Bobcats

Bufs hold consecutive foes to under 40

By Joshua Linden Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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How do you know when your defense is having a good night on the basketball court?

When a five-minute scoring drought by the offense doesn't even allow the opponent within 20 points.

Colorado suffocated Texas State on Wednesday night at the Coors Events Center, rolling to a 67-35 victory in front of 1,265.

For the first time in program history, the Buffs held consecutive opponents to fewer than 40 points. The Bobcats' 35 tied for the ninth-lowest ever by a CU opponent, just behind the 34 the Buffs allowed Loyola-Chicago on Saturday.

"It all started with our defense again tonight," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "That really spurred a lot of our offense. We couldn't really get our offense going. But we used our defense to get a lot of easy points, especially in that first half."

Sticking mostly to its man-to-man defense, Colorado (6-1) held the Bobcats (2-3) to 12 points and forced 17 turnovers in the first half to build a 34-12 lead. But the game was a rout long before that.

CU led 9-0 four minutes in and 18-3 shortly thereafter. And the Buffs were never threatened.

Guard Chucky Jeffery turned in another career night. One game after recording her first triple-double, she scored 23 points and tied a career-high with 13 rebounds in just 30 minutes on the court.

All eight Buffs scored as CU won its fifth game in a row and improved to 6-0 at home. But it was the defense that ruled the evening.

Texas State shot just 24.5 percent (13-for-53) from the field. The Bobcats were 3-for-18 in the first half, barely attempting more shots than they had turnovers.

CU capitalized with 17 points off of turnovers before halftime and 42 points in the paint, many of which came off of transition layups.

No Texas State player scored in double figures as 14 Bobcats saw playing time. Guard Diamond Ford led her team with eight points.

Colorado also out-rebounded Texas State 49-33.

"Defense is what sparks everything else on the floor, so if we have good intensity on defense then everything else comes after that," Jeffery said.

The Buffs led 45-18 seven minutes into the second half when some nonchalance on offense led to a 5:05 scoreless drought.

While stretches like that crippled CU on multiple occasions last season, Texas State failed to take advantage. The Bobcats scored just six points before freshman Ashley Wilson got CU rolling again with two straight press-break layups.

"If we're not scoring, then they better not be scoring either," Lappe said. "Or we're picking up our defense and making up for our lack of offense at any particular time."

Brittany Spears added 12 points for the Buffs despite foul trouble.

Wilson turned in her best performance yet with eight points and five rebounds, both of which were career highs. She also walked away after a scary moment under the basket where she was fouled, tweaking her ankle and getting hit in the face.

"I like playing with these guys," said Wilson, who is still gradually recovering from a torn meniscus and fractured fibula suffered during her senior year of high school. "It's taken me a long time to come back from the injury ... and get into the flow of things. I think I'm making a lot of progress."

Notable

Spears tied Lisa Van Goor's school record by starting the first 100 games of her career. Amy Mathern holds the overall record for consecutive starts with 112. ... Spears' five rebounds pushed her into a tie with Sabrina Scott (770) for fifth place on CU's career chart. ... The Buffs host Illinois at 5 p.m. Saturday in the first half of a double-header with the CU men's game against Oregon State.

Colorado 67, Texas State 35 TEXAS STATE 35

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Brzozowski 30 2-9 0-4 2-2 4 3 6

Ofoegbu 23 3-5 0-0 1-3 5 3 7

Ford 25 3-10 0-1 2-4 1 2 8

Williams 18 0-3 0-2 0-0 2 0 0

Krupa 21 0-4 0-1 0-0 2 3 0

Kalu 4 0-0 0-0 1-2 1 0 1

Kiel 7 0-3 0-1 0-0 2 1 0

Johnson 13 0-4 0-1 1-2 2 0 1

Douthit 13 1-3 1-3 0-0 1 1 3

Dawson 16 1-2 1-2 0-0 1 0 3

Baugus 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Clinch 6 0-2 0-1 0-0 0 1 0

Shoemaker 5 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Ezeh 16 3-7 0-0 0-0 5 3 6

Totals 200 13-53 2-16 7-13 33 17 35

Assists (5): Douthit 3, Johnson, Krupa.

Turnovers (21): Ezech 5, Brzozowski 3, Krupa 3, Ofoegbu 2, Kiel 2, Douthit 2, Shoemaker 2, Williams, Johnson.

Blocked shots (0).

COLORADO 67

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

MM-Peck 25 1-5 0-3 1-1 4 2 3

Seabrook 36 2-4 0-0 0-0 10 2 4

Spears 22 5-14 2-5 0-1 5 4 12

Blythe 29 1-4 1-2 0-0 3 0 3

Jeffery 30 11-14 0-0 1-2 13 1 23

BWilson 22 4-9 0-1 1-2 5 3 9

AWilson 17 3-6 0-0 2-4 5 2 8

Hargis 19 2-6 0-0 1-5 3 2 5

Totals 200 29-62 3-11 6-15 49 16 67

Assists (13): M. Malcolm-Peck 2, Seabrook 2, Spears 2, Jeffery 2, B. Wilson 2, A. Wilson 2, Blythe 1.

Turnovers (21): Spears 7, B. Wilson 4, Hargis 3, M. Malcolm-Peckc 2, Seabrook 2, A. Wilson 2, Blythe 1.

Blocked shots (3): M. Malcolm-Peck, Spears, Hargis.

Halftime score: Colorado 34, Texas State 12.

Technical fouls -- none.

Attendance -- 1,265.

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CU basketball: Buffs slay Bobcats

CU women's fifth straight win

By Marlee Horn on December 2, 2010

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A hot first half and an unstoppable defense were all the CU women's basketball team needed to secure a win against the Texas State Bobcats.

The Buffs demolished the Bobcats 67-35. Their fifth straight win pushes CU's record up to 6-1.

The Bobcats shot just 16.7 percent in the first half, with the Buffs holding them to just 12 points.

"It all started with our defense again tonight," CU head coach Linda Lappe said. "I thought we came out and did some really nice things in the first half, defensively especially—holding them to 12 points. That really spurred our offense."

CU sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery said the Buffs' strong defense led to success in all the other aspects of the game.

"Defense is what sparks everything else on the floor," Jeffery said. "If we have that intensity on the defense, then everything else comes after that. We put a lot of emphasis on energy and bringing defensive intensity to the floor."

Fresh off Saturday's triple-double against Loyola Chicago, Jeffery once again had an all-star night. Jeffery earned a double-double racking up 23 points and 13 rebounds.

Despite leading the team stat-wise, Jeffery says she is still a little hesitant to call herself the team's leader.

"I feel like I'm the point guard and the younger players and even everybody else on the team listens to me when I talk—just like a verbal type of leadership, maybe not even just with my stats," Jeffery said. "Just my presence is kind of like the leadership role for our team."

CU started the game out on a 9-0 run. Junior Julie Seabrook stepped up as the team's center, collecting 10 rebounds in the game. In the first half, after turning the ball over, the Buffs regained the ball and Seabrook played it in to bring CU up 17-3. Then late in the first half Seabrook snatched an offensive rebound and put it back to bring the Buffs to a 28-9 lead.

The Bobcats had 16 turnovers in the first half alone, and the Buffs turned those turnovers into 17 points of their own.

The Buffs did not look as tough in the second half, but a 34-12 lead at the break was enough to secure their dominance. Lappe said trying to keep intensity after gaining a huge early lead was a problem.

“When things are going right and you have big leads, sometimes it’s tough to stay focused and keep the same intensity as you have at the beginning of the game when the score is tied and those sorts of things,” Lappe said. “At that point it becomes more about us and doing what we need to do and what we need to get better at.”

CU freshman guard Brittany Wilson took a hard foul in the second half, tweaking her ankle after taking an elbow to the face. Wilson recovered and said she is slowly but surely improving from an injury she sustained her senior year of high school in which she tore the right side of her meniscus and fractured the top of her tibia.

“I think I’m making a lot of progress,” Wilson said. “My teammates are helping me out. Coach is helping me out. I’m doing a lot better.”

Jeffery said she is happy to see younger players improving and knows that when her team has a good night, she has a good night.

“As long as we get a win, I’m happy for everybody else on the team,” Jeffery said. “If I didn’t have my teammates, I wouldn’t have the stats that I had.”

The Buffs continue their home stand in a double header at 5 p.m. Saturday against Illinois.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Marlee Horn at marlee.horn@colorado.edu.

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