

Hawks no match for CU Buffs

Coach Boyle unhappy with team's defense

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 12/29/2010 09:15:50 PM MST

The Buffs won by 27 points and weren't happy about it.

For the 3,896 fans at the Coors Events Center starving for a winner, that attitude represents a step in the right direction. But for first-year head coach Tad Boyle, coming off a breakthrough win over Indiana at the Las Vegas Classic, the lackluster defensive performance on Wednesday night was a step backwards.

"I don't feel good about (it)," Boyle said after Colorado won in its 20th consecutive non-conference home game and improved to 8-0 at the Coors Events Center with a 92-65 victory over Maryland Eastern Shore. "I don't think we got better as a basketball program tonight."

The players were also cloaked in disappointment after exiting the postgame locker room. They realize that if they bring the same intensity, or lack thereof, to the court against Big 12 competition next month the Buffs might start losing by 27 points.

"Mentally, I just thought that we weren't really there (Wednesday) at all," Austin Dufault said after scoring a season-high 18 points on 7-for-9 shooting. "It's definitely disappointing. We talk about it all the time, that we try to hold ourselves to our own standard and hold ourselves accountable and not play at the level of our competition."

The Hawks (3-9) from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference knocked down three early shots from behind the arc and led 11-7. Dufault kept pace for the Buffs with seven points in the first four minutes.

Levi Knutson splashed a 3-pointer to give CU the lead for good at 14-13, and Dufault capped a 10-0 run with a 3-pointer to make the score 19-13 with 13:16 remaining in the first half.

But Maryland Eastern Shore tied the score 30-30 before the home team stopped hitting the snooze button and closed the half with a 16-3 run highlighted by a rim-rocking dunk from Alec Burks.

"The Buffaloes were able to turn it up a notch and go to a second gear," Hawks head coach Frankie Allen said. "We just can't seem to find that second gear. I took away some things here, feeling good about a half of basketball against a Big 12 opponent. As the game wore on, we just became a little dysfunctional."

CU shot 72 percent (18-for-25) from the field through the first 20 minutes while holding the Hawks to 42.9 percent.

Dufault scored 14 points in the first half and opened the second half with another point-blank bucket as the Buffs methodically pulled away from the smaller visitors.

"I know we're going to be playing a lot bigger guys and tougher competition going forward," said Dufault, who had seven rebounds in 21 minutes. "You can't get too excited about it or too happy with yourself."

Marcus Relphorde (15 points), Alec Burks (15) and Cory Higgins (15) also scored in double figures for CU, which improved to 4-0 when eclipsing 90 points this season and tied its season-best field goal percentage (59.6 percent).

Entering the game, Maryland Eastern Shore was giving up 83.4 points per game, which ranked 329th nationally in scoring defense out of 336 teams.

The Buffs (9-4) -- off to their best start in five years -- were third in the Big 12 and seventh nationally in scoring before the tip.

"We have to get better at everything. Coach went over the numbers with us. Offensively, we're pretty much top three in

every category in the Big 12," Relphorde said. "Defensively, we're sitting in the bottom. We have to work on gearing down on defense."

CU will try to pick up its elusive first true road victory of the season on Sunday at Cal State Bakersfield (6 p.m., no television).

Colorado 92,

Md.-Eastern Shore 65

MD.-EASTERN SHORE (65)

FG FT Reb

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

Hines 21 3-5 0-2 2-7 0 4 6

White 21 5-10 2-2 0-0 3 3 12

Burns 30 2-10 2-2 0-0 2 2 7

Brdshw 34 5-10 0-3 0-3 1 2 11

Haley 23 7-12 2-2 3-4 0 2 18

Obame 17 0-0 0-0 2-4 0 4 0

Swift 17 0-2 3-4 1-2 1 0 3

Bell 13 2-6 0-0 0-0 0 4 5

Bright 5 0-1 0-0 0-1 0 1 0

Spence 2 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 2 0

Rbrtsn 16 1-4 0-0 0-1 0 1 3

Tucker 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Totals 200 25-60 9-15 10-25 7 25 65

Percentages: FG .417, FT .600.

3-Point Goals: 6-21, .286 (Haley 2-5, Robertson 1-2, Burns 1-3, Bell 1-4, Bradshaw 1-6, Bright 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 1 (Obame Obame).

Turnovers: 10 (Bradshaw 3, Burns 2, Robertson, Swift, Haley, Hines).

Steals: 4 (White 2, Haley, Burns).

Technical Fouls: None.

COLORADO (92)**FG FT Reb****Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

Dufault 21 7-9 3-3 3-7 0 3 18

Tmlnsn 19 1-1 0-0 0-3 6 2 3

Rlphrd 23 7-9 1-4 0-3 3 1 15

Burks 27 5-10 5-5 2-5 2 1 15

Higgins 28 5-8 5-5 0-1 2 1 15

Sharpe 21 3-4 3-3 0-2 3 1 9

Coney 6 0-1 2-2 0-1 0 1 2

Robersn 20 2-5 0-2 2-8 1 2 4

Knutson 25 2-5 0-1 1-1 2 1 6

Mills 4 0-2 0-0 1-2 0 0 0

Ecklff 6 2-3 0-0 1-1 0 2 5

Totals 200 34-57 19-25 12-39 19 15 92

Percentages: FG .596, FT .760.**3-Point Goals:** 5-12, .417 (Knutson 2-4, Tomlinson 1-1, Dufault 1-1, Eckloff 1-2, Sharpe 0-1, Roberson 0-1, Higgins 0-2).**Team Rebounds:** 5.**Blocked Shots:** 5 (Roberson 3, Tomlinson, Sharpe).**Turnovers:** 9 (Tomlinson 2, Sharpe 2, Relphorde 2, Mills, Burks, Knutson).**Steals:** 5 (Knutson 2, Roberson 2, Sharpe).**Technical Fouls:** None.**Md.-Eastern Shore 33 32--65****Colorado 46 46--92****A --** 3,896.**Officials --** Terry Davis, Brent Hampton, Greg Rennegarbe.

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Dufault gets CU going in 1st half

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 12/29/2010 11:38:38 PM MST

Whether the opponent is Maryland Eastern Shore or Kansas, Tad Boyle wants the Buffs to play inside-out.

Austin Dufault is certainly capable of making that style of offense work, as demonstrated on Wednesday night when the 6-foot-8 junior scored a season-high 18 points on 7-for-9 shooting during a 92-65 victory over the diminutive Maryland Eastern Shore team.

"Austin has been terrific. I think he is really starting to play with confidence," Boyle said. "He kind of knows his role, he knows what's expected of him, and I think from a post defensive standpoint he has gotten better and better as the year has gone on."

Dufault, who set the tone with 14 points in the first half, finished the game with seven rebounds. CU won the battle of the boards 39-25.

"I had some pretty easy looks and I had to pretty much just put them in," Dufault said. "Some good passes from my teammates."

Andre Roberson led CU on the glass once again with eight rebounds in 20 minutes. The explosive true freshman had four points but missed a couple of dunks and air-balled a free throw.

Perfect at Coors

The Buffs have now won 20 consecutive non-conference home games dating back to the 2008-09 season and 10 consecutive home games dating back to last season.

CU improved to 8-0 at the Coors Events Center this season with one more non-conference home game remaining next Wednesday vs. Western New Mexico.

"It's important," Marcus Relphorde said of hoarding wins against weaker opponents before Big 12 play begins. "Every game is important to us."

Meanwhile, Maryland Eastern Shore fell to 1-7 away from the Hytche Athletic Center in Prince Anne, Md. The Hawks had been outscored by an average of 83.7 to 61.8 in the previous six losses.

Maryland Eastern Shore will play at Oklahoma on Jan. 3.

Training room

Maryland Eastern Shore guard Josh Bright was taken to the hospital from the Coors Events Center by ambulance after the game to have X-rays on an ankle injury sustained during garbage time. The results were negative (no fracture).

Relphorde left the game in the first minute after taking an elbow to the nose. The senior returned and finished with 15 points on 7-for-9 shooting.

"It kind of shook me up a little bit," Relphorde said. "But I'm all right."

Nate Tomlinson had six assists and two turnovers in 19 minutes. The junior point guard is playing with a sore hip.

MJ in the house?

There was a rumor circulating during the game that Michael Jordan, owner of the Charlotte Bobcats, was at the Coors Events Center scouting Alec Burks for the draft.

Jordan was not sitting on press row and the Camera could not find anyone who actually saw his Airness. Cory Higgins' dad, Rod, is the Bobcats general manager and one of Jordan's best friends.

Notable

CU now leads the series with Maryland Eastern Shore 2-0 and is 8-0 all-time against teams from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. ... Levi Knutson missed a free throw in the second half after making his previous 19 attempts. ... Higgins passed Michael Morandais for 10th on CU's list for field goals made (521).

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colorado 92, maryland-eastern shore 65

Bufs blast Maryland-Eastern Shore after slow start

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 12/30/2010 01:00:00 AM MST

BOULDER — If fans think first-year Colorado coach Tad Boyle can't get a read on his basketball team toasting a long string of marshmallows at home, they're wrong.

Take Wednesday night's 92-65 rout of Maryland-Eastern Shore, a win impressive in score only. Against a team whose front line of 6-foot-6, 6-6 and 6-2 players was barely larger than CU's backcourt, the Buffaloes (9-4) couldn't put the Hawks (3-9) away until midway through the second half.

Guards who don't even start for UMES, like JoJo Swift and Josh Bright, flew by CU guards as if they were melting snowmen. The read: CU's defense must improve fast.

"That wasn't our best effort," Boyle said. "But I'd

rather learn from a win than a loss."

One

positive is Austin Du-fault. But if he ever becomes an inside force in the Big 12, it's doubtful the 6-9 junior will say the turning point was scoring a game-high 18 against Maryland-Eastern Shore.

Although picked as a contender in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, the Hawks have beaten only one Division I team and had just given up 86 points to Division III member Washington (Md.).

"I know we're going to play a lot bigger guys, tougher competition coming forward," Dufault said. "You can't get too excited about it. You can't get too happy with yourself."

A letdown was natural. Colorado just came off a big win over Indiana in Las Vegas and Wednesday was its first game after Christmas. But the Buffaloes' home schedule doesn't have many opportunities to build optimism.

Their 8-0 home record is against teams that had a combined record of 33-65 entering Wednesday and an average RPI of 263. Watching Maryland-Eastern Shore reserve guards fly by his players won't help Boyle sleep with Big 12 games approaching.

"Guarding the ball is something we've worked on and will continue to work on," Boyle said. "We'll work on it (this) morning and it was on the board

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before we took the floor. It is a concern for this team."

Colorado looked strong offensively, shooting 60 percent, with Marcus Relphorde, Alec Burks and Cory Higgins all scoring 15 points.

MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE (3-9)

Hines 3-5 0-2 6, White 5-10 2-2 12, Burns 2-10 2-2 7, Bradshaw 5-10 0-3 11, Haley 7-12 2-2 18, Obaro Obaro 0-0 0-0 0, Swift 0-2 3-4 3, Bell 2-6 0-0 5, Bright 0-1 0-0 0, Spence 0-0 0-0 0, Robertson 1-4 0-0 3, Tucker 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 25-60 9-15 65.**

COLORADO (9-4)

Dufault 7-9 3-3 18, Tomlinson 1-1 0-0 3, Relphorde 7-9 1-4 15, Burks 5-10 5-5 15, Higgins 5-8 5-5 15, Sharpe 3-4 3-3 9, Coney 0-1 2-2 2, Roberson 2-5 0-2 4, Knutson 2-5 0-1 6, Mills 0-2 0-0 0, Eckloff 2-3 0-0 5. **Totals 34-57 19-25 92. Colorado 46-33. 3-point goals — Md.-Eastern Shore 6-21 (Haley 2-5, Robertson 1-2, Burns 1-3, Bell 1-4, Bradshaw 1-6, Bright 0-1), Colorado 5-12 (Knutson 2-4, Tomlinson 1-1, Dufault 1-1, Eckloff 1-2, Sharpe 0-1, Roberson 0-1, Higgins 0-2). Fouled out — None. Rebounds — Md.-Eastern Shore 25 (Hines 7), Colorado 39 (Roberson 8). Assists — Md.-Eastern Shore 7 (White 3), Colorado 19 (Tomlinson 6). Total fouls — Md.-Eastern Shore 25, Colorado 15. A — 3,896.**

Halftime —

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Buffs preserve home streak

By Brad Cochi

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After going 1-1 at the Las Vegas Classic, the University of Colorado men's basketball team returned home to Coors Events Center on Wednesday for a matchup with the Maryland Eastern Shore Hawks.

It was a grand homecoming for Buffs forward Austin Dufault.

The 6-foot-9 junior's season-best 18 points helped lead the Buffs (9-4) to a 92-65 win over the Hawks (3-9, 0-1 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference) and preserve a perfect 8-0 record on their home floor. Dufault, who was just four points shy of a new career record despite playing only eight minutes in the second half, said his personal performance took a back seat to the team's overall disappointing play.

"(We played) not very well," said Dufault, who scored 14 of his 18 points in the first half. "Mentally, I just thought that we weren't really there tonight. It showed in the first half especially.

"It's definitely disappointing because we talk about it all the time that we try to hold ourselves to our own standard and hold ourselves accountable, and not play to the level of our competition. For the first half, and some of the second half, we felt like we didn't do that tonight. It's all about the guys on the team, and tonight we just didn't do that."

The visiting Hawks hung around through much of the first half, threatening to deal the Buffs their first home loss in a potentially-unlucky 13th game of the season. It didn't happen.

After Hawks forward Mark Robertson's 3-pointer tied the game at 30 with six minutes remaining in the first half, the Buffs went on a 16-3 run to take a 46-33 lead into the halftime break. They shot a season-high 72 percent in the first 20 minutes.

It was all Buffs again in the second half, but senior forward Marcus Relphorde and the Buffs were unimpressed by their own blowout. Their one-on-one perimeter defense was poor, leading to easy lanes to the basket and open shots late in the shot clock.

"I think a lot of times we play good defense for 20 or 25 seconds, and then it's one little letdown," said Relphorde, who finished with 15 points once he re-entered after an elbow to the nose on the game's first possession sidelined him for 10 minutes. "A lot of it is mental too. Somebody may tip a ball in and score, or get by somebody last second. I think we just need to focus in on the whole 35 seconds, and then after the shot getting rebounds so they aren't getting put-backs and easy baskets like that."

Relphorde's teammates Cory Higgins and Alec Burks matched his 15 points. With the balanced scoring effort, the Buffs have now won nine of their last 10 games when at least four players have scored 10 or more points.

Colorado 92, Marlyand Eastern Shore 65

MD.-EASTERN SHORE — Hines 3-5 0-2 6, White 5-10 2-2 12, Burns 2-10 2-2 7, Bradshaw 5-10 0-3 11, Haley 7-12 2-2 18, Obame Obame 0-0 0-0 0, Swift 0-2 3-4 3, Bell 2-6 0-0 5, Bright 0-1 0-0 0, Spence 0-0 0-0 0, Robertson 1-4 0-0 3, Tucker 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-60 9-15 65.

COLORADO — Dufault 7-9 3-3 18, Tomlinson 1-1 0-0 3, Relphorde 7-9 1-4 15, Burks 5-10 5-5 15, Higgins 5-8 5-5 15, Sharpe 3-4 3-3 9, Coney 0-1 2-2 2, Roberson 2-5 0-2 4, Knutson 2-5 0-1 6, Mills 0-2 0-0 0, Eckloff 2-3 0-0 5. Totals 34-57 19-25 92.

Halftime—Colorado 46-33. 3-Point Goals—Md.-Eastern Shore 6-21 (Haley 2-5, Robertson 1-2, Burns 1-3, Bell 1-4, Bradshaw 1-6, Bright 0-1), Colorado 5-12 (Knutson 2-4, Tomlinson 1-1, Dufault 1-1, Eckloff 1-2, Sharpe 0-1, Roberson 0-1, Higgins 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Md.-Eastern Shore 25 (Hines 7), Colorado 39 (Roberson 8). Assists—Md.-Eastern Shore 7 (White 3), Colorado 19 (Tomlinson 6). Total Fouls—Md.-Eastern Shore 25, Colorado 15. A—3,896.

Buffs head coach Tad Boyle summed up Wednesday's win over the overmatched Hawks plainly: "It was not our best effort, but I'd rather learn from a win than a loss," Boyle said. "I was not real pleased with our effort, especially in the first half."

After defeating Indiana in the third-place game at the Las Vegas Classic, the Buffs would like to have taken more of a step forward than they did Wednesday, especially with the Big 12 season looming. With 2011 around the corner, they have just two non-conference games remaining before the start of their Big 12 schedule.

Wednesday's victory was the Buffs' final game of the 2010 calendar year. Their next game will be on Jan. 2 on the road at California State University at Bakersfield.

NOTES: Buffs junior guard Nate Tomlinson recorded his first career blocked shot against the Hawks. ... Buffs guard Shannon Sharpe scored a career-high nine points in 21 minutes. ... Burks' 15 points was the 41st time in 42 career games played that he has scored in double figures. ... Former Buffs guard Xavier Silas, who transferred to the University of Northern Illinois following the 2007-08 season, scored 34 points for the Huskies when they faced the Hawks on Nov. 24.



Colorado 92, Md.-Eastern Shore 65

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) - Austin Dufault scored a season-high 18 points, leading Colorado past Maryland-Eastern Shore 92-65 Wednesday night.

Marcus Relporhe, Alec Burks and Cory Higgins added 15 points each for the Buffaloes (9-4), who won their 20th straight at home against a non-conference opponent.

Maryland-Eastern Shore (3-9), coming off an eight-day holiday break, lost for the seventh time in eight games away from home this season.

Hillary Haley led the Hawks with 18 points. Kevin White added 12 and Dishawn Bradshaw 11 for Maryland-Eastern Shore, which has lost both of its meetings with Colorado. The Buffaloes beat the Hawks 75-62 in 1993 in the only other game between the schools.

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Scoreboard

Final	1	2	T
Maryland-Eastern Shore (3-9)	33	32	65
Colorado (9-4) <	46	46	92



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Maryland-Eastern Shore Hawks

STARTERS	M	FG	FT	TR	A	PF	PTS
T. Hines, F	21	3-5	0-2	7	0	4	0
D. Bradshaw, G	34	5-10	0-3	3	1	2	11
T. Burns, G	30	2-10	2-2	0	2	2	7
H. Haley, G	23	7-12	2-2	4	0	2	18
K. White, G	21	5-10	2-2	0	3	3	12
BENCH	M	FG	FT	TR	A	PF	PTS
F. Obame Obame	17	0-0	0-0	4	0	4	0
J. Swift	17	0-2	3-4	2	1	0	3
M. Robertson	16	1-4	0-0	1	0	1	2
L. Bell	13	2-6	0-0	0	0	4	4
J. Bright	5	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0
M. Spence	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	2	0
R. Tucker	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Totals		25-60	9-15	25	7	25	65
		41.7%	60%				

Colorado Buffaloes

STARTERS	M	FG	FT	TR	A	PF	PTS
A. Dufault, F	21	7-9	3-3	7	0	3	18
C. Higgins, G	28	5-8	5-5	1	2	1	15
A. Burks, G	27	5-10	5-5	5	2	1	15
M. Relporhe, G	23	7-9	1-4	3	3	1	15
N. Tomlinson, G	19	1-1	0-0	3	6	2	2
BENCH	M	FG	FT	TR	A	PF	PTS
L. Knutson	25	2-5	0-1	1	2	1	4
S. Sharpe	21	3-4	3-3	2	3	1	9