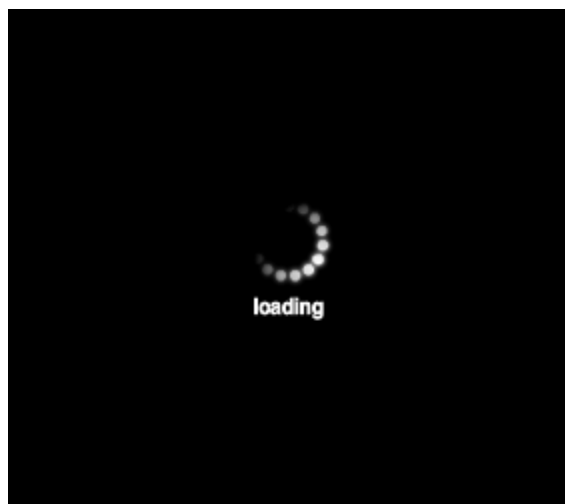


CU Buff women thump Colgate

Spears leads way with 21 points

By Joshua Linden Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Freshman Brittany Wilson added 12. And sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery just missed a triple-double with 11 points, 11 rebounds and a career-high seven steals.

The Buffs improved to 8-4 overall and 8-1 at home this season with one home non-conference game left before Big 12 play begins.

"We played together," Jeffery said. "We definitely stepped it up on defense. I think our defense was really good tonight. We forced them into a lot of turnovers and got a lot of scores off that."

Colorado was sluggish to start, taking nearly three minutes to score to start the game and committing 11 first-half turnovers. Colgate (5-8), coming off of an overtime loss to Northern Colorado on Tuesday, led 12-11 with 10:37 to go in the half after a steal and layup by point guard Jhazmine Lynch.

But the Buffs regained the lead on a 3-pointer by Spears and closed the half on a 15-3 run to go into the intermission up 33-18. They held the Raiders scoreless for 6:02 during one stretch, and they weren't done playing defense.

Another 15-3 run to start the second half was spurred by three straight steals by Jeffery. The first ended with a Spears layup and the next two Jeffery took to the hole herself. A steal by Spears and layup by Jeffery a few moments later made it 48-22 Buffs with 16:16 to go in the game. Spears scored nine points during the run and Jeffery had the other six.

"It could have been better," Spears said of the team's mindset heading into halftime. "We had 11 turnovers in the first half."

After turning the ball over 46 times over the last two games, CU coughed it up only four times in the second half Thursday to finish with a season-low 15. The Buffs dished out 19 assists, meanwhile, on 27 made field goals.

"Any time you can have numbers like that and turn the ball over 15 times, it's some good stuff," CU coach Linda Lappe said.

The Buffs, who host North Dakota on Tuesday in their final tune-up for the Big 12, know the win over Colgate wasn't

It might have taken one big assist from the defense and nearly a half to do it. But the Colorado women's basketball team broke out of its offensive funk in style on Thursday night at the Coors Events Center.

Playing at home for the first time in three weeks, the Buffaloes ran away from Colgate in the second half for a 74-52 victory in front of 1,802 witnesses who braved the snowy conditions in Boulder.

Seven Buffs scored, including four in double figures. And CU shot 42 percent from the field -- not great but a nice improvement from the 32 and 26-percent performances in losses to USC and Dayton two weeks ago.

Senior Brittany Spears shook off a couple of tough shooting nights to score a game-high 21 points. Classmate Chelsea Dale, playing in her first home game since returning from academic ineligibility, scored a career-high 16 off the bench.

perfect.

The Raiders out-rebounded CU 42-40 and grabbed 17 boards on the offensive end, converting them into 15 second-chance points. And Colgate did manage to pull to within 15 points with 6:30 left in the game as the Buffs slipped into a lull defensively.

Lynch led the Raiders with 15 points and Lauryn Kobiela added 10.

But overall it was a solid effort for the Buffs, who held Colgate to 33 percent shooting and held an opponent to fewer than 60 points for the seventh time this season.

"We did some better things, and we did some things that weren't quite as good," Lappe said.

"We kind of went into cruise control a little bit in the second half but I thought overall we had great production off the bench. We had great production from our starters. It was kind of all around."

Notable

Colorado was out-rebounded for just the second time all season. ... Wilson scored eight of her points during the Buffs' run to close the first half. ... Jeffery's double-double was her sixth of the season. Her seven steals were the most by a Buff since Damietta Velicica had as many against Tulane on Dec. 6, 1997. ... Freshman center Rachel Hargis had a career-best seven rebounds.

Colorado 74, Colgate 52 COLGATE 52

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Lynch 31 6-15 1-1 2-2 2 4 15

Wejnert 25 1-5 0-1 0-0 8 1 2

Korkowski 35 3-6 0-0 2-3 10 3 8

Kozlowski 30 3-7 2-4 0-0 4 1 8

Moser 20 2-9 0-0 3-4 7 3 7

Kobiela 14 0-3 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

Green 16 3-5 2-2 2-2 1 1 10

Lewis 2 0-1 0-1 0-0 0 0 0

Taylor 13 0-1 0-0 2-4 1 1 2

Ward 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Brim 2 0-1 0-1 0-0 0 0 0

Librizzi 2 0-1 0-1 0-0 1 0 0

Havenstein 8 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 1 0

Totals 200 18-54 5-11 11-15 42 15 52

Assists (6): Wejnert, Korkowski, Kozlowski, Moser, Kobiela, Green.

Steals (7): Lynch 4, Moser 2, Wejnert.

Turnovers (26): Lynch 6, Wejnert 6, Kobiela 4, Korkowski 3, Moser 3, Taylor 2, Kozlowski, Green.

Blocked shots (4): Korkowski 3, Wejnert.

COLORADO (74)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Blythe 24 0-4 0-3 0-0 2 1 0

MM-Peck 18 2-4 2-3 0-1 2 2 6

Seabrook 20 2-5 0-0 1-3 2 4 5

Spears 31 7-16 3-8 4-4 8 1 21

Jeffery 30 5-13 0-2 1-2 11 3 11

B. Wilson 23 5-7 2-2 0-1 2 1 12

A. Wilson 17 0-3 0-0 0-0 2 1 0

Dale 17 5-9 2-5 4-4 3 0 16

Hargis 20 1-4 0-0 1-2 7 5 3

Totals 200 27-65 9-23 11-17 40 18 74

Assists (19): Spears 4, , B. Wilson 4, Blythe 3, Malcolm-Peck 3, Jeffery 3, Dale 2.

Steals (15): Jeffery 7, Spears 2, Dale 2, B. Wilson 2, Malcolm-Peck, A. Wilson.

Turnovers (15): Spears 5, Jeffery 3, A. Wilson 2, Blythe, Malcolm-Peck, Seabrook, B. Wilson, Dale.

Blocked shots (3): Spears, Jeffery, A. Wilson.

Halftime score: Colorado 33, Colgate 18.

Technical fouls -- none.

Attendance -- 1,802.

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Back home, Buffs rout visiting Colgate

By Brad Cochi

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BOULDER — Following an 11-day layoff since its last game against Dayton on Dec. 19, the University of Colorado women's basketball team returned to Coors Events Center for just the third time in 22 days on Thursday.

The Buffs returned in style, dealing the visiting Colgate Raiders a resounding 74-52 defeat.

Burdened by a 1-5 road record, the Raiders (5-8) are in the midst of a six-day, three-game tour of Colorado. The Raiders lost 57-53 in overtime to Northern Colorado on Tuesday and wrap up the road trip against Air Force on Sunday.

Struggling on the road themselves, the Buffs (8-4) were happy to be back at home after their first back-to-back losses this season. They lost both games at the Women of Troy Tournament, to Southern California and Dayton, on Dec. 18-19. The Buffs shot just 28.8 percent (38-132) from the floor and committed 46 turnovers during the two-game stint on the West Coast.

"It's good to be back home and good to get a win after a couple losses," said Buffs head coach Linda Lappe. "I thought the end of the first half and beginning of the second half we played really, really well. We spurred a lot of things with our defense. We kind of went into cruise control a little bit in the second half, but I thought overall we had great production off the bench and some of our starters.

"Nineteen assists on 27 baskets, anytime you can have numbers like that and turn the ball over 15 times, which might be a season low for us, it's good. We're doing some good things."

Thursday's 15 turnovers were indeed a season low for the Buffs. They also recorded a season-high 15 steals and their bench outscored the Raiders reserves 31-12.

Despite being outrebounded 42-40, the Buffs smothered the visiting Raiders on their home court, where they boast an 8-1 record and are allowing just 49.8 points per game. The Buffs scored 33 points off turnovers, resulting in large part from the all-around play of sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery, who recorded her sixth double-double of the season and nearly the third triple-double in Buffs history. Jeffery had 11 points and 11 rebounds to add to her career-high seven steals, the most by a Buffs player since Damietta Velicica had seven against Tulane in 1997.

"We played together," Jeffery said. "I think we definitely stepped it up on defense. I mean we let them get a few too many offensive rebounds, but we've been harpin' on defense all week. I think our defense was really good tonight. We forced them into a lot of turnovers and we got a lot of scores off that."

After a slow, sloppy start, the Buffs led the Raiders 33-18 at halftime, ending the first half on a 21-6 run. They

Colorado 74, Colgate 52

COLGATE (5-8)

Lynch 6-15 1-1 15, Wejnert 1-5 0-1 2, Korkowski 3-6 2-3 8, Kozlowski 3-7 0-0 8, Moser 2-9 3-4 7, Kobiela 0-3 0-0 0, Green 3-5 2-2 10, Lewis 0-1 0-0 0, Taylor 0-1 2-4 2, Ward 0-0 0-0 0, Brim 0-1 0-0 0, Librizzi 0-1 0-0 0, Havenstein 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 18-54 11-15 52.

COLORADO (8-4)

Blythe 0-4 0-0 0, Malcolm-Peck 2-4 0-1 6, Seabrook 2-5 1-3 5, Spears 7-16 4-4 21, Jeffery 5-13 1-2 11, B. Wilson 5-7 0-1 12, A. Wilson 0-3 0-0 0, Dale 5-9 4-4 16, Hargis 1-4 1-2 3. Totals 27-65 11-17 74.

Halftime—Colorado 33-18. 3-points goals—Colgate 5-11 (Lynch 1-1, Wejnert 0-1, S. Kozlowski 2-4, Green 2-2, Lewis 0-1, Brim 0-1, Librizzi 0-1), Colorado 9-23 (Blythe 0-3, Malcolm-Peck 2-3, Spears 3-8, Jeffery 0-2, B. Wilson 2-2, Dale 2-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Colgate 42 (Korkowski 10), Colorado 40 (Jeffery 11). Assists—Colgate 6 (Wejnert), Colorado 19 (Spears 4, B. Wilson 4). Total Fouls—Colgate 15, Colorado 17. A—1,802.

continued to roll after the break, opening the second half on a 15-4 run.

The return of senior guard Chelsea Dale, who scored a career-high 16 points in her first home game of the season Thursday, bolstered the Buffs' offense, which scored a season-low 50 points against Dayton. Lappe said Dale, who sat out the fall semester to regain her academic eligibility, brings a calm pace to the offense and provides the Buffs with another shooting option.

"I'm just happy to be back out on the court again, and on offense the shots came and I need to take them," Dale said. "I'm just happy to be out there, playing with my teammates again and working hard just like they've been doing the last half of the season."

The Buffs had four players with double-digit points — Brittany Spears (21), Dale (16), Jeffery (11) and Brittany Wilson (12). Spears led all scorers, returning to form with her second straight 20-point game. She also grabbed eight rebounds.

"It was, basically, just me setting my feet and having the confidence in myself and just working on my jump shot, not being satisfied and just working harder," Spears said. "Baskets go in when you work harder."

The Buffs have one game remaining, a home matchup against North Dakota on Jan. 4, before beginning Big 12 Conference play on Jan. 8 at Texas A&M. In her estimation, Spears is getting back on the right track at just the right time with the start of the conference schedule on the horizon.

"We're playing against the Big 12, the best conference in the country, so I have to step my game up and play better — not have off games — and play with my teammates," Spears said.

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Women's Basketball Upended by Colorado

By Jeremiah Hergott, Director of Athletic Communications

(Boulder, Colo. – Dec. 30, 2010) Colorado senior Brittany Spears scored a game-high 21 points as the Colgate its second loss out west 74-52 Thursday night at the Coors Events Center.

Sophomore guard Jhazmine Lynch led the Raiders with 15 points and four steals, while Candice Greei Korkowski eight. Korkowski also recorded her second straight game with 10 rebounds.

Colgate (5-8) opened the game with a 6-2 run over the first three minutes of action forcing the Buffaloes to call a timeout. Colorado then came back with a 9-2 run over the next three minutes to build an 11-8 lead. Both teams would exchanged baskets for the next eight minutes as Colorado had a 20-17 lead with 4:49 remaining. The Buffaloes then finished the half with a 13-1 run to take a 33-18 lead. Korkowski led the Raiders in the first half with six points and eight rebounds.



Colorado (8-4) built its largest lead of the game 53-26 midway through the second half after a three pointer by Brittany Wilson. But Colgate wouldn't go down easy as the Raiders responded with 15-6 run to trim the lead to 59-41 and inched as close as 63-48 with 6:30 remaining, but that was as close as the score would get as the Buffaloes ended the game with a 9-4 for run.

Colgate will complete its road trip out west when it faces Air Force on Sunday, Jan. 2. The game is scl 2:00 p.m. mountain time at Clune Arena.

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