

Lappe's bench shrinks even more

By Joshua Lindenstein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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As advertised, Nikki Lindow was on the Colorado women's basketball team's bench merely as insurance during Saturday's 63-59 loss to Illinois at the Coors Events Center.

But it turns out the former Centaurus High standout and current CU volleyball player was one player closer to taking the court than coach Linda Lappe had let on after practice on Friday.

CU freshman guard Ashley Wilson sat out the game with lingering concussion symptoms after a hard hit under the basket in a win over Texas State on Wednesday.

That left the Buffs, who have played the entire season with only eight players in uniform, with just seven aside from Lindow.

Wilson said after the Texas State game that she'd tweaked her ankle on the play under the basket and was hit hard in the head. But she didn't begin having concussion symptoms until Friday.

Lappe said she hopes Wilson will be back for Wednesday's game against Colorado State.

"She has to be symptom-free (today) for that to happen," Lappe said. "Concussions I know our trainers don't take that lightly."

The 6-foot-2 Lindow hasn't practiced with the team, and Lappe has said her status with the Buffs is day-to-day and that for now she won't take the court unless foul-outs or injuries left the Buffs even thinner.

"I hope to have (Wilson) back by Wednesday," Lappe said. "If not we'll play with seven."

Lappe said she didn't feel like being a player short in the rotation caused fatigue to be a factor for her squad in Saturday's loss.

Down 11 with 8 minutes to go, CU rallied to take a 57-55 lead before falling.

"I feel like for the most part we had the legs in the last three minutes," Lappe said. "We just didn't execute like we needed to execute."

Notable

Brittany Spears started the 101st game of her career, passing Lisa Van Goor for the most consecutive starts to begin a career in CU history. ... Colorado fell to 2-2 against Illinois. ... After a 5-for-6 performance Saturday, CU forward Julie Seabrook is shooting 66 percent (27-for-41) on the season.

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CU women fall short vs. Illinois

Late 13-0 run gives Buffs lead, but they falter down stretch

By Joshua Linden Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Game No. 8 is far too early in the season for moral victories.

And the Colorado women's basketball team was neither looking for nor declaring any after a 63-59 home defeat against Illinois on Saturday night.

But the vibe in the Coors Events Center after the Buffaloes fell behind by 11 in the second half was vastly different from similar situations last season.

Rather than allowing the situation to snowball, the Buffs went on a 13-0 run to take a 57-55 lead with 3 minutes, 24 seconds to play. Rather than fans groaning as the deficit widened, nearly all 2,082 in attendance were on their feet rooting on the Buffs for the final 6 minutes.

Colorado's valiant rally fell short, with Illinois outscoring CU 8-2 in the final 3:24. And there were no doubt some little mistakes that cost the Buffs down the stretch. But it was the type of game that rarely would have been close at the buzzer during the last

season's 13-17 campaign.

"When we would get down (last season), we would kind of stay down," CU junior forward Julie Seabrook said. "This year we're fighters. We don't give up no matter what."

Facing its stiffest competition yet, Colorado (6-2) saw its five-game win streak snapped and lost at home for the first time this season. Illinois (4-4), meanwhile, snapped a three-game skid against a tough slate of opponents.

For a few minutes in the second half, it looked like the Fighting Illini might pull away.

After closing the first half on an 8-0 run to take a 32-28 lead, the Illini quickly pushed their lead to 10 in the second half. Adrienne Godbold's layup with 8:12 left made it 55-44.

"We couldn't get stops," first-year CU coach Linda Lappe said. "They were really pounding it inside. I felt like we came out of halftime a little flat."

A layup by guard Chucky Jeffery and a 3-pointer by forward Brittany Spears brought the Buffs back to life. After a CU timeout, Jeffery and Spears went back to work, combining on six straight points to tie the game at 55. Seabrook, who scored a career-high 15 points, hit a pair of free throws to give CU its first and only lead of the second half at 57-55.

"I think our confidence was up," Seabrook said. "Momentum was with us. We just came out a little flat after that timeout and didn't really give it to them like we should have."

Illinois answered CU's run with a 7-0 spurt of its own, with forward Karisma Penn scoring five of the points to help make it 62-57 with 16 seconds to go.

Illini coach Jolette Law lauded her own young team, which has no seniors, on its composure late.

"Down the stretch we focused through and found a way to get a win," Law said.

Down 58-57, CU's final chance to take the lead came on an inbound play with just more than a minute left. But Jeffery, not realizing there was only one second left on the shot clock when the ball went out of bounds, caught the inbound pass and took a dribble rather than putting up an immediate shot.

"That was just my mistake," Jeffery said of the shot-clock violation. "I was too focused on what we were doing and I didn't take a look to glance up at the clock."

Penn, who was tough on the Buffs inside for most of the night, took advantage of the miscue and hit a baby hook to make it 60-57. After a CU miss, Penn hit two free throws to essentially ice the game.

Penn led her team with 17 points and eight rebounds, while Lydia McCully scored 14 and GodBold added 12.

Jeffery paced the Buffs with 17 points, five rebounds and four assists. Spears and Seabrook both turned in 15-point, seven-rebound efforts.

After getting out-rebounded 19-12 in the first half, CU won the rebounding battle 34-33. But against a foe that featured strong post play for the first time this season, CU was still out-scored in the paint 32-24.

"I liked our fight," said Lappe, whose squad hosts rival Colorado State on Wednesday. "I like our determination when we were down 11 to come back. We just have to continue to have confidence in those last four minutes.

"Obviously we're disappointed we didn't get the win, but we're going to be ready to bounce back."

Illinois 63, Colorado 59 ILLINOIS 63

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Penn 37 5-10 0-0 7-8 8 3 17

Rukavina 23 2-5 1-1 2-2 5 3 7

McGee 7 1-2 0-0 0-0 2 3 2

Michell 35 2-4 0-0 1-1 1 2 5

McCully 35 5-11 3-4 1-2 0 1 14

Burke 14 0-3 0-1 0-2 1 0 0

Blinn 5 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

GodBold 27 6-15 0-2 0-0 6 4 12

Moore 17 2-5 2-4 0-0 4 1 6

Totals 200 23-55 6-12 11-15 33 17 63

Assists (14): McCully 4, GodBold 3, Moore 3, Mitchell 3, McGee

Turnovers (16): Penn 5, Mitchell 3, GodBold 3, Moore 2, Rukavina, McGee, McCully.

Blocked shots (4): Penn.

COLORADO 59

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Seabrook 35 5-6 0-0 5-6 7 3 15

Spears 27 6-18 2-10 1-2 7 2 15

Blythe 36 0-1 0-1 0-0 1 2 0

MM-Peck 36 2-4 2-4 1-3 5 2 7

Jeffery 34 5-14 0-1 7-8 5 4 17

BWilson 24 2-4 0-3 1-1 4 1 5

Hargis 8 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 1 0

Totals 200 20-50 4-19 15-20 34 15 59**Assists (13):** Jeffery 4, M. Malcolm-Peck 4, Blythe 2, Seabrook, Spears, B. Wilson.**Turnovers (17):** Spears 5, Jeffery 4, M. Malcolm-Peck 3, Hargis 2, Seabrook, B. Wilson.**Blocked shots (2):** M. Malcolm-Peck, Seabrook.**Halftime score:** Illinois 32, Colorado 28**Technical fouls** -- None.**Attendance** -- 2,082.

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Buff's fall short after late rally

By Brian Howell
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BOULDER — Despite a big second-half rally, the University of Colorado women's basketball team lost on Saturday night.

Illinois held on to knock off the Buffs 63-59 at Coors Events Center.

"I liked our fight, and obviously we're disappointed we didn't get the win, but we're going to bounce back," CU coach Linda Lappe said.

CU (6-2) trailed by 11 in the second half, but went on a 13-0 run to take a 57-55 lead with 3:24 to play. Illinois (4-5) outscored the Buffs 8-2 the rest of the way.

"I think our confidence was up and our momentum was with us," said CU's Julie Seabrook, who had a career-high 15 points. "We just came out a little flat after that time out (with 3:24 to go) and didn't really give it to them like we should have."

Karisma Penn led Illinois with 17 points. For CU, Chucky Jeffery had 17 points, with Seabrook and Brittany Spears each scoring 15.

The Buffs had their five-game win streak snapped, but hope the close loss will benefit them down the road.

"Playing in close games, especially in the preseason, is good because once we get into conference, everyone is good," Seabrook said. "We're going to need to know how to play those close games."

NOTES: Freshman Ashley Wilson sat out because of a concussion. With only seven healthy players, the Buffs added freshman volleyball player Nikki Lindow to the roster. The 6-foot-2 Lindow played high school ball at Erie before transferring to Centaurus. Lindow did not play. ... Lappe said she hopes Wilson will be back for Wednesday's game against Colorado State. "If not, we'll play with seven," Lappe said. ... CU had won six in a row at home. ... Spears has started all 101 games of her career, breaking Lisa Van Goor's school record of 100 consecutive starts to begin a career. ... The Buffs outrebounded the Illini 34-33. They have outrebounded all eight opponents this season.

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Colorado's Chucky Jeffery and the CU women leave the court following a 63-59 loss to Illinois at Coors Events Center in Boulder on Saturday. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

ILLINOIS 63, COLORADO 59

ILLINOIS (4-5)

Penn 5-10 7-8 17, Rukavina 2-5 2-2 7, McGee 1-2 0-0 2, Mitchell 2-4 1-1 5, McCully 5-11 1-2 14, Burke 0-3 0-2 0, Blinn 0-0 0-0 0, GodBold 6-15 0-0 12, Moore 2-5 0-0 6. Totals 23-55 11-15 63.

COLORADO (6-2)

Seabrook 5-6 5-6 15, Spears 6-18 1-2 15, Blythe 0-1 0-0 0, M. Malcolm-Peck 2-4 1-3 7, Jeffery 5-14 7-8 17, B. Wilson 2-7 1-1 5, Hargis 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 20-50 15-20 59.

Halftime—Illinois 32-28.

3-Point Goals—Illinois 6-12 (McCully 3-4, Moore 2-4, Rukavina 1-1, GodBold 0-2, Burke 0-1), Colorado 4-19 (Spears 2-10, M. Malcolm-Peck 2-4, B. Wilson 0-3, Blythe 0-1, Jeffery 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Illinois 33 (Penn 8), Colorado 34 (Seabrook 7, Spears 7). Assists—Illinois 14 (McCully 4), Colorado 13 (M. Malcolm-Peck 4, Jeffery 4). Total Fouls—Illinois 17, Colorado 15. A—2,082.

Illinois Holds off Colorado, 63-59

Published : Sunday, 05 Dec 2010, 11:42 AM CST

BOULDER, Colo. - Illinois withstood a furious second-half rally by Colorado to come away with a 63-59 road victory Saturday night in the Big Ten/Big 12 Challenge. Sophomore Karisma Penn made several key plays down the stretch and finished with 17 points, eight rebounds, four blocks and three steals to help the Illini snap a three-game losing streak.

Illinois (4-5) led by as many as 11 in the second half, 55-44, after a three-pointer by redshirt freshman Amber Moore and a lay-up by sophomore Adrienne GodBold on back-to-back possessions with 8:15 left. The Buffaloes responded with a 13-0 run, however, holding the Illini scoreless for over five minutes to take a 57-55 lead with 3:24 left.

The Illini defense rose to the occasion in the final three minutes, holding the hosts without a field goal and to just two free throws in the final 3:23 of the game. During that time, the Illini got a turnaround jumper from Penn in the paint and combined to knock down 6-of-8 free throws to seal the game.

"It feels good to come on the road and get a win like this," Illini head coach Jolette Law said. "I want to give a lot of credit to my team. When Colorado made their run, we stayed focused and got stops when we needed to."

"We took care of the ball down the stretch and made some big free throws in the final minutes," Law continued. "Those are two things that have been problems for us this year. We've been working on free throw situations in practice and it was good to see Lana (Rukavina), Karisma and Lydia (McCully) all step up and make big shots late in the game."

The Orange and Blue trailed 15-8 early in the game, but charged back to lead by four at the break after a putback by GodBold at the halftime buzzer put Illinois up 32-28. GodBold had eight points and five rebounds at halftime in her fourth game back after missing the first five regular season games due to a suspension. She finished the game with 12 points, six rebounds and three assists, providing a big spark for the Orange and Blue, especially in the first half.

"Adrienne was a huge spark for us off the bench tonight," Law said of GodBold. "She is a team player and brings intangibles like defense and communication to the floor. Those things were a big boost for us tonight after we got off to a slow start."

Junior point guard Lydia McCully knocked down 3-of-4 from three-point range to finish with 14 points and a team-high four assists. Junior post Lana Rukavina added seven points and five rebounds, while Moore hit two big threes for Illinois and finished with six points and four boards. As a team, the Illini hit 6-of-12 from three-point range (50 percent) and 11-of-15 from the free throw line (73 percent).

Overall, the Illini shot slightly better than the Buffaloes, 42 percent for Illinois compared to 40 percent for CU. Chucky Jeffery led Colorado (6-2) with 17 points, while Brittany Spears and Julie Seabrook each added 15 points for the Buffs.

Tonight's game was part of the inaugural Big Ten/Big 12 Challenge. The challenge is now tied 1-1, with nine intra-conference games on Sunday and one final game on Dec. 9.

The Illini continue their four-game road swing when they travel to Oakland University in Michigan on Wednesday, Dec. 8. They'll then have nine days off during the University of Illinois' final exams, before battling sister school UIC at Chicago's United Center on Dec. 18.

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