

Déja vu for CU Buffs at Kansas

Buff's will again face Jayhawks coming off rare loss

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Playing No. 1 Kansas at Allen Fieldhouse this Saturday was going to be a daunting task without extra motivation for the home team.

Now the Jayhawks are angry ahead of Colorado's final visit to Lawrence as a member of the Big 12.

Kansas State, 48 hours after losing 58-56 in Boulder when Rodney McGruder's 3-pointer at the horn was waved off, responded by upsetting rival KU 84-68 on Monday night in Manhattan, Kan.

The Jayhawks (24-2) beat the Buffs 82-78 at the Coors Events Center on Jan. 25 following their first loss of the season to Texas.

"Obviously, Bill (Self) is going to have their attention," CU head coach Tad Boyle said after Tuesday's practice. "They've lost two games, and we've caught them on the back end of both of them. I don't read a lot into that stuff."

Jacob Pullen scored a career-high 38 points against KU after a quiet game in Boulder. Self benched Marcus and Markieff Morris in the second half after a rare poor performance by the dominant twins.

"I'm leaving here not really recognizing the team that played," Self told reporters after the nationally-televised game, which was played hours after KU ascended to the top of the polls. "We've got to get some things straight."

After getting swept by the Buffs, K-State (17-9, 5-6) was desperate for a marquee win to get the struggling preseason conference favorite back in the NCAA Tournament discussion.

If the Wildcats finish strong, Boyle's 2-0 record against Frank Martin should boost CU's postseason chances.

"It certainly doesn't hurt us. They're a quality team and those were quality wins," Boyle said. "That's what you look for this time of year is quality wins. You get to February and every win this time of year is a quality win, especially in this league."

Beating the No. 1 team on the road would certainly qualify as a quality win. It would also put the national spotlight back on the Buffs.

"The type of animal people should be afraid of most is a wounded animal. They're going to come out and fight and that's kind of what K-State showed," CU forward Austin Dufault said. "That's the mentality we need to have, just go out there and put it on the line and play like it's the last game of the season."

Of course, the Jayhawks are the wounded team right now.

"I'm not going to put a positive spin on this," Self said. "We played our in-state rival in their building in a great atmosphere, and we didn't respond."

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