



*Tad Boyle returns to his alma mater Saturday as Colorado's head basketball coach.  
Photo Courtesy: Tony Harman*



02/18/2011 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

## Brooks: Boyle In Visitor's Role At His Homecoming

**BOULDER** - About the only thing Tad Boyle can say with any certainty about his return to his alma mater after a nearly three-decade absence is this: He's uncertain about practically everything.

### BUFFALO EXTRAS



Game Notes #27: at 1/1 Kansas

Well, almost everything.

A former University of Kansas basketball player (1982-85) and alum, Boyle knows the Jayhawks will be a little past stirred up when his Colorado team arrives in Allen Fieldhouse for Saturday's tipoff (noon MST, ESPN).

Mere hours after ascending to No. 1 in this week's national basketball polls, KU visited bitter rival Kansas State and was embarrassed, 84-68. That means Boyle and his team catch KU after a stunning loss ... again.

It's a replay of last month, when the Jayhawks visited Boulder three days after Texas had snapped

KU's 69-game home winning streak. So we're justified in dragging out this stat once more: The Jayhawks haven't lost back-to-back games since mid-January of the 2005-06 season (59-55 to Kansas State in Lawrence, 89-86 to Missouri in overtime in Columbia).

That was Coach Bill Self's third season at KU, so his dealing with losing streaks is as rare as a tsunami warning in Lawrence. Self's take on losing, as outlined on a recent Big 12 coaches teleconference, is not letting one loss become two, two become three, etc. And he's done pretty well in managing that philosophy, particularly on a home court where several years separate most losses.

The last time CU won in Lawrence was Feb. 10, 1983, and, ironically, Boyle was dressed in KU colors. Almost three decades have reduced his recollection of the Buffs' 75-74 win to this: "I remember Jay Humphries (CU guard) had a heck of a game . . . he stole my ball at half court, I remember that. Other than that, I don't have a lot of recollection. But he ripped me at half court, I do remember that."

Boyle hasn't been back to Lawrence since dropping in for a KU-Iowa State game on a Saturday afternoon "22 or 23 years ago . . . I've seen one game since I graduated, which is sad. But when you get into coaching, you're hopping around and there's not a lot time for trips to go back."

But he's still got plenty of friends there - including former KU player Chris Piper, who now works for the Jayhawk Radio Network - and throughout Kansas as well. Many of the friendships were made while Boyle was in school, many more made while he was on Mark Turgeon's Wichita State staff.

Boyle was asked earlier this week to project how he'll feel coming out of the visitor's locker room for the first time at Allen Fieldhouse. "I don't know, it's been so long since I've come out of the home locker room, it's hard for me to remember," he said. "I haven't thought about it a lot, to be honest with you.

"I'm sure there's going to be a lot of memories that flow through my mind and body . . . but right now I'm just thinking about how we can prepare our team as best we can to go in there and give them a battle."

He says he'll return to his alma mater with "no preconceived expectations" about how he might be welcomed: "Everybody's told me they treat former players very well when they go back. We'll see. I hope the players treat us well, I don't care about the fans."

The Buffs have come within six or fewer points of the Jayhawks in three of their last four meetings. In the 2009 trip to Lawrence, CU lost 66-61. The following season, KU needed overtime to win 72-66 in Boulder - after CU had possession for a final shot to win in regulation. And last month in the Coors Events Center, KU eked out an 82-78 win. The lone Jayhawks blowout in the four most recent meetings was 94-74 last February in Lawrence.

Because Boyle knows the difficulties of playing in Allen Fieldhouse under the best of conditions, he won't concede that CU's weekend visit is ill-timed: "Obviously Bill is going to have their attention . . . they've lost two games and we've caught them on the back end of both of them. (But) I don't read a lot into that stuff."

The Buffs haven't played since their grind-it-out 58-56 victory against Kansas State last Saturday in Boulder. Boyle believes the mid-week break was good for his team, allowing two days of rest and catching up on academics. The time off also might have been beneficial for the health of point guard Nate Tomlinson, who hasn't played for two games due to lingering pain following an ankle sprain.

Tomlinson's role as a distributor in the offense can't be understated. Boyle has told him to return when he's able to make a contribution, but not until, and Tomlinson's practice time this week has been sporadic. The Buffs are more efficient offensively when he's in the game, so his presence Saturday would improve odds that are, let's be honest, on the long side. CU's record in Lawrence is 7-60, with 27 consecutive losses.

But this could be a number on the brighter side: six of the players on the 2009 Buffs team that played the Jayhawks to within five points (66-61) are back for CU's final trip to Allen Fieldhouse.

Boyle, however, is a here-and-now guy: "I really haven't looked at that . . . I think every year is a new year," he said. "They're No. 1 in the country and just got beat (Monday). We're not going to sneak up on them. But I do think the one thing we're going to have to do is try and control the tempo of the game on offense.

"Defensively, we're just going to try and slow them down as best we can. I thought we defended them really well here, and they scored 82 points. They're just so powerful offensively . . . you've got to pick your poison. The Morris twins (Marcus, Markief) have been so good all year . . . They weren't their selves (Monday at Manhattan). I don't know if you can count on that, but you can hope for it."

Rather than K-State exposing any KU weaknesses, the Wildcats simply controlled the game's tempo and got a mega-lift from their home crowd.

"Bill is probably looking at the Kansas Jayhawks and what they didn't do," Boyle said. "Now, all the credit goes to K-State, but the bottom line is that Kansas has the firepower. You just hope they're misfiring a little bit (Saturday)."

But the fact is, CU still has accomplished something KU couldn't - a sweep of K-State. Those two wins are what the NCAA Tournament selection committee will deem as "quality." The K-State sweep, noted Boyle, "certainly doesn't hurt us. They're a quality team, they were both quality wins - and that's what you look for at this time of year. When you get to February, every win is a quality win. It doesn't matter who you're playing - home or road - especially in this league."

But the Buffs' burning question in mid-March will be, "Are there enough *other* quality wins?" The ones that got away in the Big 12 - Nebraska, Oklahoma, Baylor, Texas A&M - are not only regrettable, but costly as the season trickles down.

Counting Saturday, CU has five regular-season games and the Big 12 Tournament (March 9-12, Kansas City) remaining. The road trips: Saturday at KU, Wednesday at Texas Tech, March 2 at Iowa State. The home games: Feb. 26 vs. Texas, March 5 vs. Nebraska.

At 16-10 overall and 5-6 in the league, the Buffs' NCAA Tournament hopes haven't been exterminated. OK, so their finish will have to be extraordinary, maybe taking three of the last five regular-season games and another one in KC to reach 20 wins. If they win twice in KC to reach 21 . . .

who knows?

Since 1997, CU has hit the 20-win plateau three times (2003, 2006 were the others) - and two of those seasons were rewarded with NCAA bids. Four Big 12 teams (Texas, KU, Missouri, Texas A&M) already have 20 wins, with five others at 16 (CU, Oklahoma State) or 17 (Baylor, Nebraska, K-State). The Buffs have beaten two of the four teams in the 16-17 win group, and a split with Nebraska could be critical on the final regular-season Saturday.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves; KU is next, and Boyle isn't focused on "bracketology." The circumstances surrounding his return to a campus chock full of memories couldn't be more different. A Greeley native who crossed the border to play in college, he's now coaching at a school whose student body "booed me every time I touched it. The game back in Lawrence was kind of just another game ...

"But (now) I'll be on the other side as a coach than I was as a player. There's obviously some storylines there - I don't know what they are ... I've been very lucky in my life, playing with great teammates and for great coaches. I'm blessed to be where I am and I'm thankful for it."

The biggest potential storyline for the Buffs isn't difficult to conjure up: In CU's last trip to Lawrence as a Big 12 member, Tad Boyle returns to his alma mater as the Buffs' first-year head coach ... and shocks the college hoops world. It's OK to dream.

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SHOW MENU



# CU Buffs aim to end futility at Allen Fieldhouse

## Boyle's squad visits No. 1 Jayhawks on Saturday

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/18/2011 06:16:00 PM MST

LAWRENCE, Kan. -- Jay Humphries doesn't remember much about the game Colorado played here 28 years ago.

The former CU and NBA standout said he didn't even realize the Buffs' 75-74 victory over Kansas on Feb. 10, 1983, was the last time the boys from Boulder flew home from Lawrence happy.

The memory Humphries does still carry with him, however, is the feeling of walking out of Allen Fieldhouse with a win.

Not many CU players have experienced such a moment over the decades.

The Buffs -- led by former KU player Tad Boyle, who was on the losing end of that 1983 game against Humphries -- will visit Lawrence for the last time as a Big 12 rival on Saturday looking to upset the No. 1 Jayhawks at Allen Fieldhouse (noon, ESPN).

"Those games can be really good for a team because when you go into them you're an underdog and not one person in the building is on your side," Humphries said during a phone interview with the Camera. "It makes your team closer and you can bond.

"And it's always fun to win on the road where there's a hostile crowd and shut 'em up."

Since that 1983 victory, CU has lost 27 consecutive games at Allen Fieldhouse.

"I remember Jay Humphries had a heck of a game," Boyle recalled of CU's last success story here. "He stole my ball at half court. Other than that, I don't have a lot of recollection. But he ripped me at half court, I do remember that."

Boyle was the Jayhawks' captain under legendary head coach Larry Brown and a teammate of current Texas A&M head coach Mark Turgeon. Both respected basketball men called the CU search committee to lobby for the Greeley native to get the job after Jeff Bzdelik left for Wake Forest.

"It didn't hurt when you've got Larry Brown vouching for you and Mark Turgeon and the guys I've got in my corner," Boyle said. "I've been very lucky in my life playing with great teammates, playing for great coaches. I'm blessed to be where I am and thankful for it."

When Boyle returned to Colorado as a KU player he was booed by the Coors Events Center crowd every time he touched the ball. When the Buffs visited Lawrence it was just another game for the Jayhawks. That's the way it goes in a lopsided series.

Boyle isn't sure what his emotions will be or what the reaction from the KU crowd will be when he comes out of the visitors locker room at Allen Fieldhouse for the first time.

"I'm sure there's going to be a lot of memories that flow through my mind and my body as I go back to Lawrence," Boyle said. "Right now I'm just thinking about how I can prepare my team best to go in there and give them a battle."

The Buffs are 16-10 overall and 5-6 in their final Big 12 season. It's a positive step considering the program has endured four consecutive losing seasons, including three 20-loss campaigns, but Boyle knows CU let some very winnable games get away (San Francisco, Oklahoma, Baylor, Texas A&M) that could have put them on the NCAA Tournament bubble.

Upsetting No. 1 KU -- something a struggling Kansas State team did on Monday, just 48 hours after getting swept by the Buffs -- would make the season an unforgettable one.

None of the players were born until seven or eight years after CU's last victory in Lawrence. They understand there is a chance to make their own history today.

"It would be huge to beat them for the first time in my career and to beat them on their home court would be something you would remember for a while, that's for sure," said junior forward Austin Dufault. "We've played well in that building before. We have a lot of confidence. We match up well with them and we feel we had opportunities to beat them here."

Two years ago, CU cut a 45-21 halftime deficit to 62-59 in the final minute before Sherron Collins made some decisive plays to allow KU to escape with a 66-61 victory at Allen Fieldhouse. Current Buffs Dufault, Nate Tomlinson, Cory Higgins, Levi Knutson, Javon Coney and Trey Eckloff all played in that game.

Last season, CU lost 72-66 in overtime to a No. 1-ranked KU team in Boulder. Higgins missed a shot at the end of regulation that would have won the game.

On Jan. 25, the Jayhawks escaped the Coors Events Center with an 82-78 victory.

Losing close games only adds to the agony for the Buffs, who have dropped the last 16 meetings with KU, which leads the all-time series 120-39.

"Obviously, they're No. 1 in the country and just got beat (Monday) night. We're not going to sneak up on them," Boyle said. "We're going to have to try to control the tempo of the game on offense. Defensively, we're going to have to slow them down as best we can. I thought we defended them pretty well (at home) and they scored 82 points. They're just so powerful offensively."

When told that CU hadn't won at KU since 1983, redshirt freshman point guard Shannon Sharpe, born in 1990, simply said: "Whoa."

"I was there last year on the bench. It was crazy," Sharpe said of the atmosphere at Allen Fieldhouse. "I'm excited. We're coming off a win, they're coming off a loss, and it should be a heck of a battle."

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## All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

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FEBRUARY 18, 2011, 3:19 PM

# CU's Shannon Sharpe knows much work needed on his game

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

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BOULDER — This is precisely what coaches in all sports want to hear: a player that realizes he or she has a long way to go and knows it will take a lot of hard work to get there.

That's Colorado redshirt-freshman guard Shannon Sharpe, who wasn't about to get cocky or overconfident after his quality performance Saturday in the 58-56 win over Kansas State.

With regular starting point guard Nate Tomlinson out for the second straight game with an ankle sprain and several starters called to the bench with foul trouble, Sharpe logged his most extensive playing time (21 minutes) in a Big 12 game against the Wildcats.

He responded with eight points and two rebounds.

"If coaches think I did some good things in that game that's great," Sharpe said after a practice, "but I feel I have a long way to go. I need to work a lot on my shooting (he's hitting 43.8 percent from the field and is 1-for-14 from 3-point range) in the offseason.

"And I need to work on going to my left a lot more. I feel like I favor my right a lot. That will make me harder to guard."

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**All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post**

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FEBRUARY 18, 2011, 1:16 PM

## CU freshman 7-footer making strides

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

BOULDER – The biggest roar from Colorado fans Saturday in the home victory over Kansas State followed a blocked shot by Buffs freshman center Ben Mills during the first half.

That's saying something because there were plenty of opportunities for the crowd to go crazy during a 58-56 win that wasn't decided until a video replay overruled what might have been a game-winning 3-pointer by Kansas State guard Rodney McGruder.

Mills, a rail-thin 7-footer from suburban Milwaukee, had some moments off the bench during the nonconference part of the schedule but, until Saturday, he had not played in any of the first 10 Big 12 games.

Against Kansas State, Mills recorded with two blocks, no points and no rebounds in 9 minutes on the court. That didn't exactly warrant headlines. But more important was the fact that he helped the Buffs hang with Kansas State while several CU regulars were on the bench in foul trouble.

"I just keep working hard in practice, doing what I can so hopefully, if my number is called in future games, I'll be ready," Mills said.

CU coach Tad Boyle continues to say that Mills has a bright future. "He has really improved in practice, which the public doesn't see, but the coaches sure see," Boyle said.

Mills weighs just 215 pounds. But that's up 10 from when he arrived on campus. It's impossible to gain weight during the season, but Mills knows that the upcoming offseason will be huge for him in building size and strength.

"In high school I was always the bigger guy. I could just hang back," he said this week following a practice. "At this level, I'm playing with a lot stronger guys. You have to get lower and be more physical.

"In high school, I could let guys catch the ball on the block and still maybe block their shot. Here, you can't let guys catch the ball on the block and you have to be stronger and more physical on the block."

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Longmont, Colorado  
Sunday, February 20, 2011

Publish Date: 2/19/2011

## Today's Colorado basketball games

By Brian Howell  
© 2011 Longmont Times-Call

**CU men (16-10, 5-6 Big 12) at No. 1 Kansas (24-2, 9-2)**

**When/Where:** Noon today at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan.

**TV/Radio:** ESPN/760-AM

**The series:** Kansas leads 120-39, including 60-7 in Lawrence. CU has lost 27 straight, dating back to 1983, at Allen Fieldhouse. KU has 16 straight wins against Colorado.

**Leading scorers:** CU — Alec Burks (19.5 points per game); KU — Marcus Morris (16.7)

**Notes:** CU is 0-14 all-time against the top-ranked teams. ... The Buffs are 2-3 against ranked opponents this season. ... Four Buffs are averaging at least 11 points per game, including senior Levi Knutson, who is posting a career-best 11.3 per game.

**CU women (12-12, 3-8 Big 12) at No. 20 Iowa State (17-8, 5-6)**

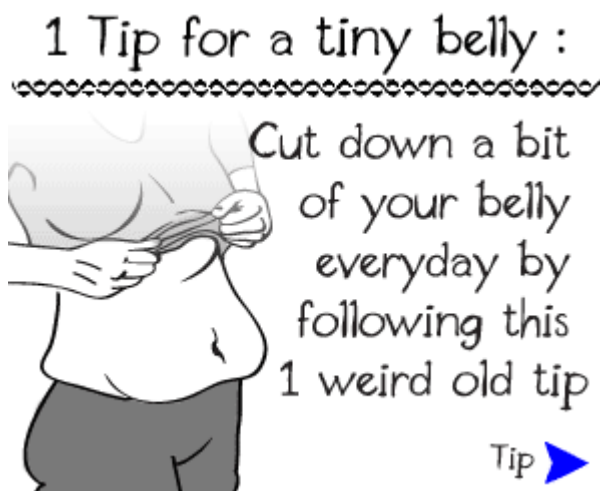
**When/Where:** 6 p.m. today at Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa

**TV/Radio:** BuffsTV/760-AM

**The series:** CU leads 37-29, but trails 15-12 in Ames. The Buffs beat Iowa State 66-60 on Jan. 15 in Boulder, ending an eight-game skid against the Cyclones.

**Leading scorers:** CU — Brittany Spears (17.3 points per game); ISU — Kelsey Bolte (17.9)

**Notes:** CU head coach Linda Lappe and assistant coach Jennie Baranczyk are Iowa natives. ... CU is 0-8 away from Boulder this season. ... ISU is 13-1 at home this season. ... Spears has averaged just 11.0 points per game — 5.6 below her career average — in eight meetings with the Cyclones.



LJWorld.com

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## Coaches Bill Self, Tad Boyle to collide again Saturday at Allen Fieldhouse



[Nick Krug](#)

Colorado head coach and former Kansas player Tad Boyle gets the attention of his team during the second half on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011 at the Coors Events Center in Boulder. [Enlarge photo](#)

February 19, 2011

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Kansas University point guard Tad Boyle and Oklahoma State floor general Bill Self met 10 times on the hardwood during their college basketball careers, which spanned from 1981-85.

Bragging rights went to .... neither player.

KU, coached by Ted Owens during Boyle's first two years and Larry Brown the final two, and OSU, directed by Paul Hansen, went 5-5 in that span.

"Tad really liked it when they played Oklahoma State and I really liked it when we played Kansas because we were the only guys in the league slow enough to be able to guard. That's a true story, not trying to be funny at all," eighth-year KU coach Self said, cracking a smile.

The two guards — probably known for their shooting and ball-distribution more than their athleticism — will coach against each other for the second time today.

Self's Jayhawks, who beat Boyle's inaugural Buffs' team, 82-78, on Jan. 25 in Boulder, will again meet the Buffs at 1 p.m. today in Allen Fieldhouse.

"I think Tad is a really good coach who has done a great job in the short amount of time he's been there," Self said. CU enters 16-10 overall and 5-6 in the league. KU is 24-2, 9-2. "He's put his system around some good players. He's going to do a great job there. I anticipate him being very successful there."

Boyle — he started 34 games his first two seasons at KU, then came off the bench his final two seasons — played on two NCAA Tournament teams (1984, '85) and was part of the 1984 Big Eight postseason tourney championship squad. He served as team captain his senior year, which was Danny Manning's freshman season.

Rest assured, Boyle — who told CUBuffs.com he has "no preconceived expectations" about how he'll be welcomed by KU fans today — figures to receive a loud ovation during pre-game introductions.

"I don't know, it's been so long since I've come out of the home locker room, it's hard for me to remember," he said, asked by CUBuffs.com how he'll feel being in the visitor's locker room. "I haven't thought about it a lot, to be honest with you.

"I'm sure there's going to be a lot of memories that flow through my mind and body ... but right now I'm just thinking about how we can prepare our team as best we can to go in there and give them a battle."

Boyle — he's worked as head coach at Northern Colorado and as an assistant at Wichita State, Jacksonville State, Tennessee and Oregon — hasn't been back to Allen Fieldhouse in a long time.

He attended a KU-Iowa State game "22 or 23 years ago. I've seen one game since I graduated, which is sad. But when you get into coaching, you're hopping around and there's not a lot time for trips to go back," Boyle said.

Colorado, which has dropped 16 consecutive games to KU overall and 27 in a row in Lawrence, last won in Allen on Feb. 10, 1983. Boyle played for Kansas in that 75-74 setback.

"I remember Jay Humphries (CU guard) had a heck of a game ... he stole my ball at halfcourt. Other than that, I don't have a lot of recollection. But he ripped me at halfcourt, I do remember that," Boyle told the CU Website.

**Larry's tree:** Self and Boyle are both part of the Larry Brown coaching tree; Boyle playing for Brown and Self working as a graduate assistant on Brown's 1985-86 KU staff.

"There are a lot of similarities (between the two)," Brown told the Denver Post. "The kids come first with both of them. Everybody looks at them as being really nice guys, but there's a real toughness but fairness to both of them. Their values are the same. The program comes first. As talented as their kids may be, they have to learn to play the right way. That's playing hard, playing unselfishly, making their teammates better, having respect for the game."

Boyle told the Post he phoned Brown when Boyle decided to leave his job as a stockbroker to seek a career in coaching many moons ago.

"He told me that he didn't have a lot of advice," Boyle said, "but if my teams rebounded and played defense, I'd have a chance to win just about every night out."

**Period of rest:** CU hasn't played since last Saturday's 58-56 home victory over Kansas State.

"I think it's a great time for us," Boyle said of the break, one in which point guard Nate Tomlinson has tried to bounce back from an ankle injury that's kept him out two games. "Obviously, coming off two close games (including 73-70 overtime loss to Texas A&M on Feb. 9 in Boulder), we were a little physically tired and maybe a little mentally tired as well. It comes at a good time, to get our batteries recharged."



Posted on Fri, Feb. 18, 2011

## **KU again likely to have hands full with Colorado's Burks and Higgins**

By J. BRADY McCOLLOUGH  
The Kansas City Star

LAWRENCE | Kansas coach Bill Self remembers watching a recruit at the 2009 Missouri high school basketball state championships and being startled by a player he'd never seen before, a kid wearing a Grandview Bulldogs jersey.

Self was quickly informed that Alec Burks had already signed with Colorado.

"I said, 'Man, that's a good sign,' " Self recalled. "I didn't have any idea it'd be the caliber of sign that it's turned out to be."

Logic dictates that Self should be able to get whomever he wants out of Kansas City. The problem here was that Burks hadn't even made it onto Self's radar. Burks hadn't grown to be 6 feet 6 yet, but Self said this week that he thinks Burks would be a great player whether he had hit his growth spurt or not.

"I will tell you this: Everyone dropped the ball except Colorado," Self said. "The Dennis Rodman stories are out there. They just don't happen very often. Certainly, what he's been able to do is pretty remarkable. He's really good. He's a great pro prospect."

It's easy to imagine how good No. 1 Kansas would be right now if Self had gotten wind of Burks and convinced him to come to Lawrence. Instead, the Jayhawks will have to find a way to defend him after Burks put up 25 points on them in a hotly contested 82-78 KU victory on Jan. 25 in Boulder.

Burks, a sophomore, averages 19.5 points (second in the Big 12) and six rebounds per game. He joins with senior guard Cory Higgins (16.3 points per game) to form one of the most dynamic one-two punches in the league.

For a Kansas team that has struggled with perimeter defense — most notably against the Buffaloes the first time around and on Monday when Kansas State's Jacob Pullen scored 38 points — Colorado presents a perfect opportunity to get better.

In Boulder, the Buffaloes spread the floor and let Burks and Higgins go to work, and they were able to get to the basket almost at will.

"They'll probably do that again," Self said. "It's a great challenge. They're two of the best scorers in our league. Certainly our perimeter defenders have to do a better job than what we did on Monday."

Much of that responsibility will fall on the shoulders of KU guard Tyshawn Taylor, who has been up and down defensively this season. Taylor was great against Iowa State's Diante Garrett last Saturday, holding him to 12 points, but couldn't find a way to contain Pullen on Monday.

"I think we can be a real good defensive team," Taylor said. "I think it starts with me, being a point guard. I'm pressuring the ball most of the time. I've got to start being more intent defensively."

"Alec Burks and Higgins are both guys that can score. They run that motion (offense), and it's kind of hard. Coach always says it's the easiest to prepare for but the hardest to guard."

The Jayhawks know that stopping players like Burks and Higgins will require a team effort.

"When it's 10 seconds left on the shot clock, we definitely gotta be intent more," KU forward Markieff Morris said. "We gotta have a lot of help defense against those guys. They're really hard to guard."



TIME: 02:00 P.M. EST

Although suffering a blowout loss just hours after being tabbed the No. 1 team in the country was embarrassing, Kansas believes it's something the team can rally around.

The top-ranked Jayhawks hope to put this humiliating defeat behind them, tighten up their defense and continue their dominance over Colorado at Allen Fieldhouse on Saturday.

Kansas' stay atop the AP poll will likely be short-lived following Monday's 84-68 loss at Kansas State. The Jayhawks (24-2, 9-2 Big 12) finished with 15.3 points fewer than their season average, had a season-low 23 rebounds and allowed an opponent season-high 56.3 percent shooting.

"I still feel like we've got a good team," junior forward Marcus Morris said. "We just have a long ways to go. We need to defend. We're going to get better. We're going to buckle down and guard. We're going to get better. We're just going to be a new team."

Markieff Morris, the conference's leading rebounder at 8.2 per game, failed to grab a board and Tyshawn Taylor struggled defensively on Jacob Pullen, who had a career-best 38 points.

"I hate to say that a loss makes us better. But I think it can," Taylor said. "We watched tape and we saw so many different dumb plays that we all made. And we just know what we've got to do. We've got to learn from that experience."

The Jayhawks typically do learn from their losses, having played 192 contests since the last time they dropped back-to-back games in mid-January 2006.

A home game against Colorado, 0-14 all-time against top-ranked teams, could also help them get back on track.

Kansas has won 27 in a row at Allen Fieldhouse over the Buffaloes (16-10, 5-6) - the last seven by an average of 20.4 points - since a 75-74 loss on Feb. 10, 1983. First-year Colorado coach Tad Boyle was a member of that Jayhawks team.

"They're No. 1 in the country and just got beat," Boyle told the Buffaloes' official website. "We're not going to sneak up on them. But I do think the one thing we're going to have to do is try and control the tempo of the game on offense."

This will be the second time Boyle's team faces the Jayhawks after a rare Kansas loss.

Three days after falling to Texas, which ended the nation's longest home win streak at 69 games, Kansas defeated Colorado 82-78 on Jan. 25. Freshman Josh Selby, who is currently nursing a right ankle injury suffered in that game, had a team-high 17 points, while Marcus Morris added 15.

Although Kansas defeated the Buffaloes for the 16th straight time and has won 43 of 44 in this series, it had some trouble defensively.

Alec Burks, second in the Big 12 with 19.5 points per game, scored 25 and Cory Higgins added 19. The Buffaloes are one of five teams to score more than 76 points against the Jayhawks this season.

"I think the whole thing with them is guarding, eliminating transition, and obviously doing a good job defending Burks and Higgins," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We need to do a good job on those guys."

Burks is coming off his worst performance of the season, finishing with eight points on 3-of-13 shooting last Saturday against Kansas State. Despite his sluggish outing, the Buffaloes still defeated the Wildcats 58-56 to win for just the second time in eight games, as a 3-pointer at the buzzer by Kansas State's Rodney McGruder was waved off.

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## TV Schedule

National: ESPN

## Big 12

Team	Conf. W-L	Tot. W-L
Texas	11-1	23-4
Kansas	10-2	25-2
Texas A&M	8-4	21-5
Missouri	7-5	21-6
Nebraska	6-6	18-8
Kansas St.	6-6	18-9
Baylor	6-6	17-9
Colorado	5-7	16-11
Oklahoma St.	4-8	16-10
Oklahoma	4-8	12-14
Texas Tech	4-8	12-15
Iowa St.	1-11	14-13

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## Key Players

 Alec Burks G, CO	30.5	Min. Per Game	26.7	 Marcus Morris F, KS
	19.5	Pts. Per Game	16.7	
	2.5	Ast. Per Game	1.4	
	6.0	Reb. Per Game	6.8	
	45.4	Field Goal %	60.5	
	31.7	Three Point %	33.9	
	84.5	Free Throw %	65.7	

## Head to Head