

## No love lost for Buffs, Cyclones

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Boulder Daily Camera

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Linda Lappe was pulling against the Iowa State Cyclones long before playing for the Colorado Buffaloes. The former CU player and current Buffs coach grew up in Iowa Hawkeye territory after all.

CU assistant Jennie Baranczyk, meanwhile, grew up just down the road from Ames but played for the Hawkeyes. And CU's current group of seniors is 1-6 against ISU, having just snapped an eight-game skid against the Cyclones last month.

So there's plenty of healthy angst toward the Cyclones motivating the Buffs as they prepare for a 6 p.m. game today in Ames. But there's also a lot of respect for how difficult winning at ISU's Hilton Coliseum can be.

The Buffs won there just once in Lappe's five years as a player. Baranczyk lost two of two tries with the Hawkeyes. As a program, CU has lost six straight in Ames dating back to Jan. 25, 2004. And the Cyclones lead the Big 12 Conference in attendance at 9,202 loud fans per game.

Lappe said there is sometimes a big difference between the Cyclones teams face at home versus the hot-shooting ISU group that always seems to show up at Hilton.

"But when you can go in there and get a win that's what makes it so special because you know that you've overcome a lot of obstacles and a lot of different things to do that," Lappe said after practice Friday.

The Buffs (12-12, 3-8 Big 12) are in big need of a win today as the chances to secure a postseason berth dwindle.

They already shocked the 20th-ranked Cyclones (17-8, 5-6) once this season - a 66-60 overtime triumph in Boulder. CU won't catch ISU off-guard this time around. But the Buffs will have the luxury of a full lineup.

The Buffs beat ISU in Boulder without point guard Chucky Jeffery (concussion) and with an ailing Meagan Malcolm-Peck.

"Chucky's a big piece of this team," said CU freshman guard Brittany Wilson, who turned in one of the best performances of her young career against the Cyclones but has been quiet lately. "So for us to beat them without her was a big step. And now that she's back, we do have a lot of confidence."

Lappe just wants to make sure that confidence doesn't turn into overconfidence. The Buffs played so well against ISU last time, Lappe said, because everyone knew they had to contribute without Jeffery on the floor.

"We couldn't just be status quo anymore," Lappe said. "Everyone had to step up their game, and I think that's why we were so in the zone. And it wasn't one person who was in the zone. Everybody was in the zone."

The Buffs haven't had that type of all-around effort since stomping Nebraska three games ago. Texas Tech routed CU in Boulder, and then Kansas State did the same three days later in Manhattan.

Iowa State comes in struggling, having lost three of its past four. But the Buffs know they'll have to be ready for some new wrinkles this time around.

In addition to playing more zone defense, the sizable Cyclones also have made a greater effort to get the ball inside lately to post players Hallie Christofferson, Chelsea Poppens and former Broomfield star Anna Prins.

The Buffs held that trio to just 16 points the first time the two teams played, but have been hurt in the paint recently by post players from Kansas and Kansas State.

The Buffs' biggest problem lately, though, as they've lost five of their past six has been a tendency to lose focus for long stretches that prove too much to overcome. The point is one Lappe has preached about for weeks now, and a lot of it, she and her players said, boils down to not letting their mistakes snowball.

"Just stay together, not let one bad play affect your next one," CU forward Brittany Spears said of Lappe's message. "So just basically staying positive and composed."

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## Today's Colorado basketball games

By Brian Howell  
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**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.

