

Two of Big 12's best scorers face off

CU's Spears, OU's Robinson near 2,000 point milestone

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Posted: 02/22/2011 08:52:06 PM MST

When would watching an opponent score her 2,000th career point on your home floor not be so bad?

When your own player does it in the same game. Especially when she needs 39 to get there, as is the case heading into today's 7 p.m. matchup between the Colorado and Oklahoma women's basketball teams at the Coors Events Center.

"Let's hope (forward Brittany Spears) gets that," CU coach Linda Lappe said of her senior with a grin after practice on Tuesday.

Okay, so the chances of Spears going off for a career-high 39 points -- her current best is 36 -- aren't high, particularly against the 16th-ranked team in the country. But that hardly takes away from the uniqueness of two of the Big 12 Conference's most prolific scorers going head-to-head tonight as they both chase the same milestone in the twilight of their college careers.

OU guard Danielle Robinson sits 19 points shy of the 2,000 plateau, just a shade more than her 18.7 average.

"I think that's special," Lappe said. "I think you have two really good players on the floor. It's rare for fans.

"They've been playing a lot of minutes since they were freshmen. In this league, a lot of times that's pretty rare, especially to have as big of roles as they both have had. I think both of them drive their teams."

Robinson's 1,981 points place her 10th on the 15-year-old Big 12's all-time list. Spears, at 1,961, is currently 12th but figures to leap into the top 10 as well before the season is finished.

"It's cool," said Spears, who until a slight scoring swoon the last three games appeared likely to hit the 2,000-point mark tonight. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime type of opportunity to play against somebody like her. I think it will be a great experience."

Whether the 5-foot-9 Robinson hits her milestone tonight or not, the Buffs (12-13, 3-9 Big 12) will have to be at their best to hold down the backcourt of the Sooners (19-7, 9-3).

Robinson leads the way. But 5-7 freshman Aaryn Ellenberg averages 16.8 points, and sophomore Whitney Hand scores 12.6 per outing. The trio accounts for 62 percent of OU's 77 points per contest.

"They're really good," Spears said. "They're really fast, athletic. They run a lot in transition so we've just got to stop the ball and deny them."

The offensively-challenged Buffs are reeling after losing three games in a row -- by an average of 27 points -- and six of their last seven overall.

But a CU squad that is typically out-sized by Big 12 opponents heads into the game with a similar makeup to OU. Spears, a forward in name but more of an outside player, scores 17.1 per game. Point guard Chucky Jeffery scores 13.6 off the bench. And freshman guard Brittany Wilson is third at 8.0 points per game.

"We can run in transition as well," Jeffery said. "We are a good rebounding team, so we get it up and we get it out that's also when we're at our best. So if we get it out we can run on them just as well as they can run on us."

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