

Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



02/23/2011 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

## Bufs Upset No. 16/15 Sooners

**BOULDER** - It had been awhile since Colorado had beaten Oklahoma in women's basketball - so long, in fact, that first-year CU Coach Linda Lappe remembers it from a player's perspective.

*Flashback: 2003 Big 12 Conference postseason tournament quarterfinals . . . Lappe, a persevering CU senior, scores 13 points and has six assists in a 73-68 Buffs win.*

Keep that score in mind, and fast forward to Wednesday night. No. 16/15 OU visited the Coors Events Center to play a CU team wallowing in an ugly three-game losing streak, but not self-pity.

Lappe's suddenly revitalized Buffs stopped their skid

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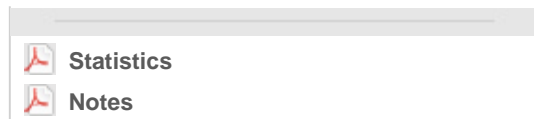
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and ended an eight-game drought against the Sooners, stunning OU ... 73-68. It was CU's second win this season over a ranked opponent, but this one came at a most unlikely time, with the Buffs having lost six of their past seven games - including the last three by an average of 27 points.



No matter; CU snapped back.

"To the credit of our team, they've been great," a beaming Lappe said. "They come every single day to work. You really wouldn't really know how the previous game(s) went - except for the fact that we want to work harder and make sure it doesn't happen again."

It didn't happen Wednesday night, although OU made a second-half run and closed to within a point twice in the final 7:15. But CU responded, never losing its lead and stashing away the win by hitting five of six free throws in the final 24.1 seconds.

Sophomore Chucky Jeffery was four-of-four from the line in that stretch, and senior Brittany Spears made one of two. Jeffery finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds - her eighth double-double of the season - and was two assists shy of her second triple-double. Spears scored a game-high 24 points, reaching 20 points for the 40th time in her CU career and overshadowing OU's Danielle Robinson, whose 21 points pushed her past the 2,000 mark (2,002). CU sophomore Meagan Malcolm-Peck added 10 points and eight rebounds.

The Buffs hit a season-best 11 three-pointers, eight of them in a first half that saw them battle back from a seven-point deficit and take a 39-33 halftime advantage. After tying the game at 31-31 on Ashley Wilson's two free throws 2:38 before intermission, CU never lost the lead.

With their two biggest players - 6-foot-4 Rachel Hargis and 6-3 Julie Seabrook - plagued with foul trouble, the Buffs played most of the second half with a smaller lineup. But OU attacked it successfully, extending its defense in the second half and pressuring the Buffs, who committed 18 turnovers (13 in the first half).

Seabrook, who scored CU's first six points on two three-pointers, played a season-low nine minutes before fouling out with 6:05 to play. Hargis played 18 minutes and finished the game with three fouls, as did Jeffery. Three other players finished with two fouls each, but Lappe said her team is learning to be "disciplined in their defense" and avoiding third fouls.

CU outrebounded OU 35-34, but the Buffs were hammered in the paint, 36-14. Still, they found a way.

"Our players stepped up and they responded," Lappe said. "We got defensive stops when we needed to, we scored when we needed to ... I'm just so happy for our players, that they could get this win against a very good team."

OU Coach Sherri Coale called CU "a young, building program with nothing to lose here ... we just kind of messed around like we thought (CU) would go away. We were ahead and we think they are going to go away, but they didn't. They kept making plays and I give them credit. They played like the hungrier basketball team."

Despite their recent slump, Jeffery said the Buffs' spirits never sagged: "We know we can play with anybody if we play all together and we all come together and everybody shows up."

Added Malcolm-Peck: "All of those games that we lost by a lot, we had stretches where we right there . . . we know we can play with people, and we just let down. Our emphasis for this game was to come out and play a full 40 minutes. We all came out, had fun and played as hard as we could."

Spears, whose total left her 15 points shy of 2,000, said she and her teammates "knew we had nothing to lose, so we just went out there and played."

The result was her first win over OU in a stellar career - and unless the teams meet in the Big 12 postseason tournament, it was the final chance for the Buffs to defeat the Sooners before heading to the Pac-12 Conference next season.

The Buffs improved to 13-13 overall and 4-9 in the league. The Sooners are 19-8, 9-4.

CU trailed by as many as seven points in the first half, but kept battling, cutting the deficit to a point (27-26) on a pair of Hargis free throws with 5:16 left before the break.

But the best was ahead.

CU fell behind 31-26 on a Carlee Roethlisberger layup with 4:51 left in the half, but that would be OU's last field goal of the half. When Spears canned her third trey of the half, CU launched a 13-2 run that resulted in its six-point halftime lead.

For the Buffs, the key would be opening the second half with as much energy as they closed the first - and they did what was required. After OU's Aaryn Ellenberger hit a three-pointer to open the second half scoring, CU answered with a 6-1 run and led by eight points twice before OU rallied.

Over the next 1:50, the Sooners outscored the Buffs 6-0 and closed to 47-45 on an acrobatic layup by Robinson. But CU toughened up and pushed its lead back to eight (56-48) before Robinson responded on consecutive possessions and Morgan Hook hit a three-pointer to pull OU to within 56-55 with 7:15 to play.

The Sooners stayed within one to three points until Spears canned a three from the right corner to put the Buffs up 61-57 with 4:16 remaining. A little over a minute later, Spears encored from the left wing for a 64-59 lead with 3:06 showing.

And after a Robinson layup, Spears took it inside to send the Buffs up 66-61. Britney Blythe's two free throws with 49.6 seconds remaining sent CU ahead 68-61, but Roethlisberger's straightaway three made it 68-64 and stopped Buffs fans from breathing easier.

After the Buffs used their final timeout with 38.3 to play, Spears was tied up on the inbounds play and Robinson scored her 2,000th career point on a layup. CU's lead was down to 68-66 with 27.9 seconds left.

From there, CU put it away at the free throw line, with Jeffery (four-for-four) and Spears (one-for-two) going five-of-six in the final 24.1 seconds.

After defeating then-No. 17/16 Iowa State 66-60 in overtime on Jan. 15, the Buffs won only two of their next nine games. They've failed to win back-to-back conference games or win on the road, and Lappe said that must be the next step: "We just have to keep the confidence and know we can't be one-hit wonders, we can't be the team that beats Oklahoma and then loses a game that maybe we shouldn't."

Of the Buffs' three remaining regular-season games, two are on the road against teams they defeated in Boulder. They play at Missouri Saturday before traveling to Nebraska on Wednesday. No. 3 Baylor visits the Events Center on Saturday, March 5 in the regular-season finale.

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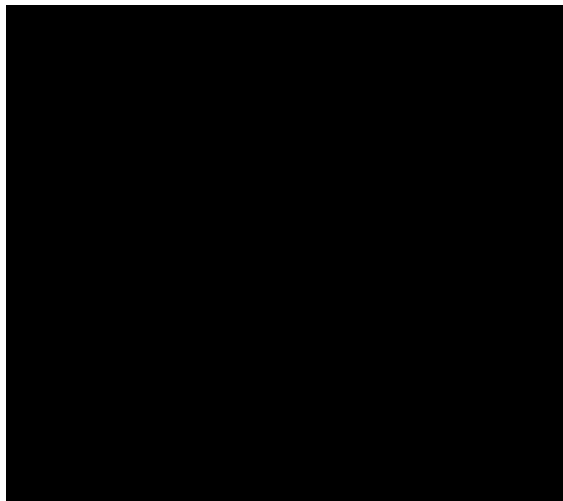


# CU Buff women knock off No. 16 Oklahoma

## Buffaloes beat Sooners for first time since 2003

**By Joshua Linden** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/23/2011 09:35:56 PM MST



*Click on any photo to see full gallery*

Danielle Robinson won the race to 2,000 points. Brittany Spears and company got the last laugh.

Just when it looked like the Colorado Buffaloes' season might spiral out of control, they walked off the Coors Events Center court on Wednesday night partying like it was 2003.

The Buffs knocked off 16th-ranked Oklahoma 73-68 to top the Sooners for the first time since head coach Linda Lappe's playing days.

More important than halting the eight-game skid against OU, the Buffs stopped a three-game slide this season in which they'd lost by an average of 27 points.

"We just had to put an end to it," CU guard Chucky Jeffery said. "If we play all together and we all just come together and play and everybody shows up, we can play with anybody."

In a matchup of two of the Big 12's most prolific all-time scorers, both CU's Spears and OU's Robinson came up big in the second half. Robinson finished with 21 points to pull to 2,002 for her career. Spears scored 24 and stands at 1,985.

The Buffs improved to 13-13 overall and 4-9 in Big 12 play, and they put a glimmer of hope back on their postseason prospects with three games to go before the league tournament.

Lappe told her players before the game to take risks, and the Buffs took the message to heart, playing aggressively and to win rather than just hoping for something good to happen.

CU finished the first half on a 13-2 run and never trailed in the second, though things did get dicey at the end.

The Buffs led 68-61 with 49 seconds left. But Oklahoma's Carlee Roethlisberger drained a 3-pointer to cut the lead to four. After a Buffs turnover, Robinson made a layup to make it 68-66 with 29 seconds left.

Jeffery, though, answered with a pair of free throws with 24 seconds left, and after an OU turnover Spears hit one of two free throws to push the edge to 71-66 with 15 seconds to go. The Sooners didn't have enough time after that.

"Oklahoma made a couple of good runs at us, especially in the second half," Lappe said. And we answered them every single time. And that's what teams do at this level."

After a four-point first half, Robinson did her best to rally OU in the second. When the Buffs took a 56-48 lead with 8:40 left, she promptly drained two quick jumpers and kicked out to Morgan Hook for a 3 to cut the CU lead to one.

But Spears, who hadn't scored in the second half to that point, answered with her own flurry. She hit a layup to make it 58-55 at the 6:46 mark, then hit two 3s in a row, pumping her fists in the air after the second put CU up 64-59. After a Robinson layup, Spears came right back with one of her own to make it 66-61.

"It was fun because this is my first time beating them in my four years here," Spears said. "I was excited to get the W."

The Buffs battled through massive foul trouble in the first half by hitting 8 of 17 3-pointers before the intermission.

The Sooners led by as many as seven and were up 31-26 when the Buffs went on their run. Spears started it with a 3-pointer, and Meagan Malcolm-Peck hit two free throws just before the break to put the Buffs up 39-33.

"We just kind of messed around like we thought (Colorado) would go away," OU coach Sherri Coale said. "We were ahead and we think they are going to go away but they didn't. They kept making plays and I give them credit. They played like the hungrier basketball team."

CU had averaged just 46.7 points over its last three games, but the Buffs pushed the ball in transition and attacked the Sooners' aggressive multiple defenses to kick out for open looks.

The Buffs, who made 11 of 26 3s for the game, had 17 assists on 22 made baskets and all nine players scored.

Jeffery finished with 12 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists off the bench. Malcolm-Peck, starting for Chelsea Dale, had 10 points and eight rebounds. And Britney Blythe scored eight points.

Hook scored 10 points off the bench for OU, and Roethlisberger, the younger sister of Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben, had nine.

"We had a few too many turnovers at different times," Lappe said. "But at the same time I told them to take risks. We're the spoilers, and we can't be passive. We have nothing to lose. Sometimes you have to take a risk for there to be a reward."

**Colorado 73, Oklahoma 68**

**OKLAHOMA (68)**

**FG FT Reb**

**Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

Roethlisberger 30 4-6 0-0 2-6 2 5 9

Griffin 13 3-4 1-1 0-3 0 2 7

Ellenberg 17 2-7 0-0 0-4 0 2 5

Robinson 31 8-19 5-6 0-4 4 4 21

Hand 38 0-5 3-4 3-8 4 5 3

Willis 3 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Hook 25 3-10 2-2 0-2 2 0 10

Cloman 3 1-2 2-2 0-0 0 0 4

Hartman 19 2-2 1-1 1-1 0 1 5

McFarland 21 2-4 0-0 1-3 0 3 4

Totals 200 25-60 14-16 10-34 12 22 68

**Percentages:** FG .417, FT .875.

**3-Point Goals:** 4-12, .333 (Hook 2-5, Roethlisberger 1-1, Ellenberg 1-2, Robinson 0-1, Willis 0-1, Hand 0-2).

**Team Rebounds:** 3.

**Blocked Shots:** 0.

**Turnovers:** 17 (Ellenberg 5, Hand 4, Hartman 2, Robinson 2, McFarland 2, Griffin, Cloman).

**Steals:** 7 (Ellenberg 2, Roethlisberger 2, Hook, Hand, McFarland).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

## **COLORADO (73)**

### **FG FT Reb**

#### **Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

M Malcolm-Peck 27 3-8 3-3 5-8 2 2 10

Seabrook 9 2-3 0-0 0-1 0 5 6

Blythe 34 2-6 2-2 0-1 1 1 8

B Wilson 8 1-2 0-0 0-1 2 2 2

Spears 33 8-20 3-4 0-6 1 2 24

A Wilson 10 0-1 2-2 1-1 0 1 2

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

Jeffery 37 3-6 6-7 2-10 8 3 12

Hargis 18 1-3 2-2 1-2 0 3 4

Totals 200 22-53 18-20 9-35 17 20 73

**Percentages:** FG .415, FT .900.

**3-Point Goals:** 11-26, .423 (Spears 5-12, Seabrook 2-3, Blythe 2-5, Dale 1-2, M. Malcolm-Peck 1-4).

**Team Rebounds:** 3.

**Blocked Shots:** 4 (Spears 2, Jeffery, M. Malcolm-Peck).

**Turnovers:** 18 (Jeffery 5, B. Wilson 3, Dale 2, Spears 2, A. Wilson, Hargis, Seabrook, M. Malcolm-Peck).

**Steals:** 9 (Spears 4, Jeffery 3, M. Malcolm-Peck, Blythe).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

**Oklahoma 33 35--68**

**Colorado 39 34--73**

**A -- 1,239.**



# 

**By Joshua Linden**stein Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/24/2011 12:06:56 AM MST

The first half of the Colorado women's basketball team's 73-68 upset win over 16th-ranked Oklahoma on Wednesday felt eerily similar to that in Saturday's 71-45 loss at Iowa State.

CU played well. But the fouls came early and often for the Buffs -- who had 14 by halftime and five players with at least two each -- making one wonder if CU would have the depth to weather the adversity in the second half.

The situation looked even worse early in the second half after post players Rachel Hargis and Julie Seabrook quickly got their third and fourth fouls, respectively.

An inspired effort by all nine Buffs in uniform was enough to overcome the adversity.

"It's hard when you have a lot of foul trouble in the first half," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "But we've done it all season long, whether it's an injury, foul trouble, whether players aren't playing well. You have to have other players step up."

Hargis and Seabrook's foul trouble forced the Buffs to go with a guard-heavy lineup for most of the rest of the way, and it actually paid off as CU pushed the tempo and forced Oklahoma coach Sherri Coale to go with a bit of a smaller lineup as well.

"They did have a tough time staying with us, getting through screens," Lappe said of the similarly-sized Sooners. "There aren't a lot of teams in this league that are as small as we are so sometimes we have to use that as an advantage."

Colorado scored just 14 points in the paint but got numerous open jumpers after drives to the lane and kick-outs. Instead of the Big 12's best 3-point shooting team, OU, lighting it up from outside, it was the Buffs who made 11 of 26 from downtown.

"We just wanted to attack and push at them and we didn't want to be scared of anybody," said sophomore wing Meagan Malcolm-Peck, who finished with 10 points. "Our focus was just attack the basket and look for open shooters."

### Full circle

The Buffs' last win over the Sooners came March 12, 2003.

The score? 73-68.

Lappe, then a senior for the Buffs, scored 13 points and had six assists in that victory.

### Head of the class

The 35 first-year head coaches in Division-I women's basketball this season have combined for five wins over ranked opponents.

Lappe has two of those wins, as does Missouri's Robin Pingeton.

The Buffs topped then-No. 17 Iowa State earlier this season. Their two wins over ranked foes this season marks the first time they've accomplished the feat since the 2007-08 season.

### Who needs 2s?

Colorado's first six field goals of the game were 3-pointers.



The Buffs didn't hit a 2-point field goal until Brittany Spears made a layup with 6:56 to go in the first half.

The Buffs' 11 3s marked a season high and the most since making 14 in a win at Missouri last season.

**Notable**

Colorado snapped an 18-game losing streak against Big 12 South Division opponents. ... Oklahoma post Joanna McFarland, younger sister of former Buffs star Jackie, scored four points off the bench for the Sooners. ... Colorado improved to 13-4 at home and 12-0 when leading at halftime. ... Colorado improved to 34-22 all-time vs. OU, including 17-6 in Boulder.

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cu womens basketball

## CU women upset No. 16 Oklahoma

By **Tom Kensler**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 02/24/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

BOULDER — Before Colorado's 73-68 upset victory Wednesday night over No. 16 Oklahoma, the Buffaloes had not defeated the Sooners since first-year Buffs coach Linda Lappe scored 13 points and handed out six assists.

Actually, it hasn't been all that long since Lappe was a player — that previous win over Oklahoma occurred in a 2003 Big 12 Tournament quarterfinal game. It only felt like ages since Colorado was able to hang with the powerhouse Sooners.

Colorado (13-13, 4-9 Big 12) had lost its last three games by an average of 27 points, but played quick and confident this time, and fed off a small but enthusiastic Coors Events Center crowd of 1,239 down the stretch.

This marked the first time since the 2007-08 season that Colorado has defeated two ranked teams, having knocked off Iowa State in overtime back on Jan. 15. Wednesday night's surprise broke an eight-game losing streak

against Oklahoma (19-8, 9-4), which has reached the Final Four the past two years.

"We know we can play; we know we can play with anybody," CU sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery said. "We just played together and played hard."

Oklahoma senior guard Danielle Robinson reached 2,000 career points with 21, while Colorado senior forward Brittany Spears will have to wait for another game for that milestone, still needing 15 points.

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