

Eight is enough for CU Buff women in win over Nebraska

Only eight suit up for CU; Spears leads way with 26 points

By Joshua Linden Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Nebraska Cornhusker fans did their best to take over the Coors Events Center on Sunday afternoon.

The Colorado Buffaloes made sure the Big Red faithful's existence was a quiet one.

Reeling from a three-game losing streak, the CU women turned in one of their most complete performances of the season with a 70-45 romp in front of a crowd of 2,375 evenly split between Buffs and Huskers fans.

The Buffs (12-10, 3-6 Big 12 Conference) surged to a 20-point lead in the first half and held on in the second to equal their league win total from a year ago with seven games left to play.

As many wearing red filed toward the exits, those in black and gold stood for the final minute of the game cheering on the Buffaloes' performance.

The Buffs earned the praise.

They out-played the Huskers (12-10, 2-6) -- struggling just one year after going undefeated in the regular season -- in nearly every category. And all eight Buffs in uniform got in on the act.

CU shot 49 percent from the field, including 10 of 21 from 3-point land, while holding the Huskers to a dismal 29 percent. The Buffs dominated on the glass, out-rebounding NU 45-27. And they logged 18 assists on 27 made baskets.

"It was an all-around team win," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "I think we shared the ball better offensively than we have all season. Any time you have that many assists means the ball's moving and everybody's touching it."

While CU's defense was no doubt impressive, the offensive performance was just what the Buffs needed. Outside of an overtime win over Iowa State, the game marked the first time CU has scored 60 points or more in a Big 12 game this season.

Both teams started cold early before Britney Blythe got the Buffs going with a 3-pointer to make it 7-4.

Up 11-6, CU then went on a 13-0 run that took all of 1 minute, 33 seconds to make it 24-6. Meagan Malcolm-Peck, Chelsea Dale and Brittany Spears all hit 3-pointers during the spurt, and Blythe added two more a few minutes later to make the lead 30-10.

"It wasn't an objective," Blythe said of shooting 3s against Nebraska's zone defense. "Once we started hitting, it was just going in. It felt good."

The Buffs hit 7 of 13 treys in the first half, and their 10 for the game tied a season high.

"Quite frankly, we were knocking down shots in the first half, which was nice," Lappe said. "But we were taking wide open shots and shots that we practice all the time."

Those clean looks came thanks to crisp, quick passing around the perimeter that had the Huskers scrambling for much of the day.

Spears tied a season high with 26 points on 10-of-20 shooting. Guard Chucky Jeffery just missed a triple-double off the bench with nine points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Blythe finished with nine points. Malcolm-Peck had eight. And freshman center Rachel Hargis scored six points and grabbed eight rebounds.

"They were able to execute when they wanted to, and we didn't guard very well," NU coach Connie Yori said.

Yori's squad did make a push early in the second half, cutting the Buffs' advantage to 51-41 with 11:25 to play on a pair of free throws by freshman star Jordan Hooper, who scored 14 points to lead a trio of Huskers in double figures.

But Hargis answered with a layup on a dish by Jeffery. Spears knocked down a pair of jumpers. And Brittany Wilson made a layup to make it 60-41.

The Buffs pulled away from there as NU made just 1 of its final 18 field goals over the final 12:41.

"That made us real upset," Jeffery said of seeing so much red in the stands before the game. "We were like, '... This is not their gym, so we're going to send them home, a long ride home.'"

Colorado 70, Nebraska 45

NEBRASKA (45)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Leick 23 0-5 0-1 0-0 6 4 0

Hooper 32 5-8 2-4 2-2 5 1 14

Redmon 22 2-7 0-0 0-0 6 3 4

Moore 40 5-15 1-4 2-5 1 1 13

Burke 32 5-12 0-2 2-2 0 2 12

McCann-Smith 12 0-4 0-3 0-0 1 1 0

Williams 11 0-4 0-1 2-2 0 0 2

Periago 21 0-1 0-1 0-0 4 0 0

Sidhu 7 0-3 0-1 0-0 0 0 0

Totals 200 17-59 3-17 8-11 27 12 45

Assists (8): Moore 5, Burke 2, Periago.

Steals (8): Moore 3, Burke 2, Williams 2, Redmon.

Turnovers (10): Redmon 3, Hooper 2, Moore 2, Leick, Burke, Sidhu.

Blocked shots (2): Redmon, Moore.

COLORADO (70)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Seabrook 17 1-4 0-0 0-0 3 2 2

Spears 34 10-20 3-7 3-3 5 1 26

Blythe 29 3-7 3-6 0-0 3 2 9

B. Wilson 32 3-6 1-3 0-0 7 1 7

Dale 15 1-3 1-2 0-0 2 3 3

Malcolm-Peck 18 3-5 2-3 0-0 1 4 8

Jeffery 29 3-6 0-0 3-4 10 2 9

Hargis 26 3-4 0-0 0-0 8 0 6

Totals 200 27-55 10-21 6-7 45 15 70

Assists (18): Jeffery 9, B. Wilson 6, Spears, Malcolm-Peck, Hargis.

Steals (7): Malcolm-Peck 3, Spears 2, Blythe, B. Wilson.

Turnovers (17): Jeffery 7, B. Wilson 3, Malcolm-Peck 2, Spears 2, Seabrook, Blythe.

Blocked shots (4): Seabrook, Spears, B. Wilson, Hargis.

Halftime score: Colorado 39, Nebraska 24.

Technical fouls -- None. **Attendance** -- 2,375.

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Sense of urgency sparks Spears

By Joshua Lindenstein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/07/2011 12:01:46 AM MST

Sunday wasn't Senior Day.

But Brittany Spears played with the sense of urgency of someone who knows she has only a few chances left to lead her team to success.

The 6-foot-1 Colorado senior forward did it all Saturday in the Buffaloes' 70-45 triumph over the rival Nebraska Cornhuskers at the Coors Events Center.

Spears scored 26 points on an efficient 10-of-20 shooting. She hit three of seven 3-pointers. She grabbed five rebounds and two steals, and turned the ball over just twice.

That's not to mention the job she did defensively on Nebraska leading scorer Jordan Hooper, who was coming off a career-high 31 points at Missouri on Wednesday.

"I just wanted to win, come out aggressive and win," said Spears, who turned in the 100th double-digit scoring performance of her career.

Spears scored five points during a crucial 13-0 run by the Buffs early in Sunday's game, seven of CU's final nine of the first half, and five more to help squash a Husker rally in the second half.

Hooper, meanwhile, scored 14 points, just below her season average of 15.3. But she also managed to get off just eight shots in 32 minutes as Spears made just getting the ball to Hooper difficult for the Huskers.

After Spears converted a 3-point play with 1:57 left in the game, CU coach Linda Lappe subbed for her senior, who left the court to deserving applause from the crowd.

"She played a very complete game," Lappe said. "She scored in a lot of different ways and helped move the ball. I think defensively she played great on Hooper."

Wilson sick

CU reserve freshman guard Ashley Wilson missed Sunday's game due to sickness, leaving the Buffs with eight players.

The bug is one that's cycled through the team and coaching staff a bit lately.

Lappe, still speaking with a slightly raspy voice of her own, said that Meagan Malcolm-Peck had also been battling illness this week.

"Our team has been tough," said Lappe, who noted the fortunate timing of having five days off heading into Saturday's home game against Texas Tech. "We've battled through it. We haven't missed hardly any practices because of it."

Super Sunday

Colorado improved to 4-3 all-time on Super Bowl Sunday.

The Buffs' victory didn't bode well, though, for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who later fell to the Green Bay Packers 31-25. The Steelers are now 6-2 all-time in the Super Bowl, with both losses coming on the day of CU wins. The other came Jan. 28, 1996, when the Buffs beat Oklahoma 68-53.

Notable

Colorado snapped a three-game losing streak vs. NU and improved its all-time record against the Huskers to 40-28. ... Colorado's 25-point margin of victory was its largest in a Big 12 game since beating Kansas 73-42 on Feb. 5, 2003. ... Spears (896) moved past Sandy Bean (895, 1978-82) for fourth place on CU's all-time rebound list. Spears (204) also passed Jenny Roulrier (203, 1998-2002) on the 3-pointers made chart.

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Spears leads Buffs

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BOULDER — Looking to snap a losing streak, the University of Colorado women's basketball team got what it needed Sunday.

The Buffs went on a huge early run and rode that to a 70-45 rout of Nebraska at the Coors Events Center.

Senior Brittany Spears had 26 points, while sophomore Chucky Jeffery barely missed her second triple-double of the season as CU (12-10, 3-6 Big 12) ended a three-game losing streak.

"I thought we played an outstanding game," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "I really saw an outstanding performance by our team. We came out and kind of had a slow start but changed our mindset after the first three minutes, for the rest of the game."

Nebraska (12-10, 2-6) led 4-0 early, but CU then went on a 24-2 run to pull away.

CU bounced back from an 81-53 loss at Kansas on Wednesday.

Jeffery, who missed the Kansas loss for academic reasons, finished with nine points, nine assists and 10 rebounds before leaving the game in the final 2 minutes.

"It felt kind of good," she said. "I knew I had a lot of assists because I was dishing it a lot, and every time I was passing to Brittany, she was hitting. I was trying to count but I couldn't."

CU led 39-24 at the half. It was the Buffs' largest first-half total in three seasons.

For the game, CU shot 49.1 percent (27-for-55), while holding Nebraska to 28.8 percent (17-for-59).

"I think this win gave us a lot of confidence that we can play with anybody," Spears said. "We can play defense and play together. Anytime you put those things together, you're going to win."

CU won't play again until Saturday, when it hosts Texas Tech. It is the first time since Big 12 play started that the Buffs won't play a mid-week game.

"I think it is a great time for a break," Lappe said. "I wouldn't want it any other way. So we give them a couple days off and then ramp it up again."

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NU women can't keep up with Buffaloes

- Story

By CURT McKEEVER / Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Sunday, February 6, 2011 5:01 pm

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Add Colorado's Brittany Spears to the list of performers who've produced recent chart-busters against the Nebraska women's basketball team.

On Sunday, the senior forward became the fifth Husker opponent in the last six games to score at least 25 points, her 26 fueling the Buffaloes to a 70-45 rout in the Coors Events Center at Boulder, Colo.

CU improved to 12-10 overall and 3-6 in the Big 12, while Nebraska fell to 12-10 and 2-6.

"Somebody asked me awhile back, 'Who's your defensive stopper?' Well, we've got to find one," NU coach Connie Yori said on the Huskers Sports Network after her team's loss.

Spears' outburst came after Nebraska gave up 25 to Missouri's RaeShara Brown in Wednesday's loss to the Tigers. NU also allowed 26 to Iowa State's Kelsey Bolte and Kansas State's Brittany Chambers in defeats, and the same total to Kansas' Carolyn Davis in an overtime victory.

On Sunday, the Huskers led 4-0 barely three minutes in, but seven minutes later Colorado was up 24-6. Spears, the Big 12's active scoring leader, took advantage of Nebraska forward Katya Leick and center Catheryn Redmon each leaving the game after picking up their second fouls, and scored seven of her points in that spurt.

"Spears is one of the best wing players in the country, and I knew we had a matchup problem (even before that)," Yori said.

That problem would become even more magnified because CU would sink a season-high 10 three-point shots.

Trailing by as many as 20 points in the opening 20 minutes, Nebraska twice got as close as 10 in the second half. But Colorado responded from the second instance with a game-clinching 11-0 run.

Before the Huskers would score again, they missed 18 straight shots.

"There's no doubt there's some confidence issues there," Yori said. "We went so cold. We just couldn't put the ball in the basket."

Nebraska finished just 17-of-59 from the field (28 percent), and fared even worse from three-point range at 3-for-17 (17 percent).

Freshman forward Jordan Hooper (14), sophomore guard Lindsey Moore (13) and junior guard Kaitlyn Burke (12) combined to score all but six of the Huskers' points.

Nebraska now returns home to face top-ranked Baylor on Wednesday night.

Reach Curt McKeever at 402-473-7441 or cmckeever@journalstar.com.

Posted in Womens-basketball on *Sunday, February 6, 2011 5:01 pm* Updated: 7:20 pm. | Tags: Nebraska Women's Basketball,

Sports > Huskers Hq

Huskers fall to Colorado

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

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Independent News Services
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BOULDER, Colo. — Nebraska's Jordan Hooper scored 14 points, but Colorado used a 24-2 first-half surge on its way to a 70-45 women's basket ball victory over the Huskers on Sunday at the Coors Events Center.

Nebraska slipped to 12-10 overall and 2-6 in the Big 12, while Colorado improved to 12-10 overall and 3-6 in the league.

Sophomore point guard Lindsey Moore added 13 points, five assists and three steals, while junior guard Kaitlyn Burke gave the Huskers three players in double figures with 12 points on the afternoon.

Colorado senior Brittany Spears led all scorers in double figures with 26 points, while Chucky Jeffery and Britney Blythe each pitched in nine points for a balanced Buff attack that saw all eight players score in the game. Jeffery just missed a triple-double with 10 rebounds and nine assists, while also committing seven turnovers.

Nebraska hit just 17-of-59 shots from the field (28 percent), including a dismal 3-for-17 (17 percent) from three-point range.

NU did connect on 8-of-11 free throws (72 percent), but were outrebounded, 45-27, by the Buffs. NU did win the turnover battle, 17-10, against CU.

CU shot well throughout the day, hitting 27-of-55 shots (49 percent), including 10-of-21 three-pointers. CU was also 6-of-7 at the line.

The Huskers trailed 39-24 at the half, but cut the CU lead to 10 on multiple occasions in the second half with a chance to trim the margin further, but were unable to get it done.

The Huskers jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the opening minutes, but Colorado answered with a 24-2 surge after Katya Leick was whistled for her second foul.

Catheryn Redmon also went to the bench with two fouls during the Buffaloes' run. Leick and Redmon combined to play just 12 first-half minutes because of the foul trouble.

Burke sparked the Huskers with six straight points and finished the half with a team-high eight points on 4-of-8 shooting. Moore added seven points and Hooper five as the only Huskers to score more than two points in the half. Colorado took its biggest lead at 30-10, while also leading by 20 at 34-14 and 39-19, before Nebraska scored the final five points of the half.

NU also hit just 3-of-14 shots from the field to open the game and did not hit a three-pointer until Hooper connected on a three in transition with 3:09 left in the half.

Moore added a three with 1:35 left in the half, but the Huskers finished the half just 2-of-10 from three-point range. Overall, NU went just 9-of-30 (30 percent) from the field and 4-of-6 at the free throw line.

Colorado shot a sizzling 53.6 percent (15-28) from the field, including 7-of-13 from three-point range. CU was also 2-for-2 at the free throw line, and outrebounded Nebraska, 20-15, in the first half. The Buffs were also plus-two in the turnover department (9-7).

Spears led the Buffaloes with 14 points, while Blythe added nine points on a trio of three-pointers. Blythe entered the game with just six three-pointers in CU's first eight Big 12 games.

The Huskers return to home action when they battle No. 1 Baylor on Wednesday at the Devaney Center.

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