

CU Buffs topple No. 22 Kansas State

Boyle's squad earns rare road victory

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/12/2011 09:25:17 PM MST

MANHATTAN, Kan. -- The Buffs are making history again.

This time it's the kind they'll want to remember.

Colorado -- a program that lost 36 consecutive Big 12 road games before a win at Nebraska last March -- won its sixth consecutive game and improved to 2-0 in the conference with a 74-66 victory over No. 21 Kansas State on Wednesday night at Bramlage Coliseum.

The Buffs, coming off an 89-76 win over then-No. 9 Missouri, which snapped a 13-game losing streak in Big 12 openers, have posted back-to-back wins over ranked opponents for the first time ever.

And the last time CU, which had lost 31 consecutive road games against ranked teams, beat a top-25 foe on its own court was on Jan. 11, 1997 (at No. 20 Texas Tech).

"This is a new Colorado," senior Levi Knutson said after scoring 20 points off the bench to help the Buffs end a nine-game losing streak against the Wildcats. "We've got a bunch of senior leaders on this team, and that's pretty cool to be creating some history for this school, creating some tradition.

"Hopefully that continues so we're the team that is ranked and the nationally renown team and everyone is coming at us. That's what we're trying to become."

The Buffs (13-4), making their final trip to the Little Apple as a conference rival, improved to 11-54 all-time in Manhattan.

After Kansas State cut a 12-point second-half deficit to 68-66 with 58.3 seconds left, Cory Higgins silenced the crowd of 12,528 with a clutch pull-up basket in the paint.

"This one hurt," Jacob Pullen, a preseason All-American, said after scoring 22 points to lead Kansas State. "I've been here for four years and we never lost to Colorado. No disrespect to them, but I always felt we had the better team."

Things have changed quickly. The Wildcats (12-5, 0-2), picked to win the Big 12 in the preseason coaches poll, were unable to score after Higgins' hoop. CU calmly closed the game out with four free throws.

"What makes this win special is the respect I have for this program and for Frank Martin and the way his players play," a beaming Tad Boyle said after the Buffs' 11th win in their last 12 games. "Jacob Pullen is a terrific player. That's what makes it special for us. We're not whooping and hollering because we beat a bad team. We beat a good team tonight, and it started with rebounding."

The Buffs out-rebounded Kansas State, one of the nation's better rebounding teams, 38-29 while holding the Wildcats to 40.4 percent (23-for-57) shooting.

That's how Boyle's bunch won on a night when CU turned the ball over 20 times, missed nine free throws and got a combined 21 points from Higgins and Alec Burks.

"It shows what a team we are. I don't know how many times me and Alec are going to have 12 and nine points, respectively," said Higgins, who only took four shots. "We're always going to have people step up and on the defensive end we're always going to play as one."

That was not the case early in the season during losses at Georgia, San Francisco and Harvard.

But this is a new Colorado.

"We learned early on this season what we needed to do to win, and we weren't doing it. It was obvious during those long film sessions trying to correct it," Knutson said. "We've just been getting gradually better in practice since then. Hopefully we can continue to get better because we're nowhere near where we need to be to be at the end of the season.

"We want to be a championship team. That's our goal."

The Buffs led 37-33 after scoring the first two baskets of the second half and had a 45-40 cushion after a 3-pointer by Knutson, who was 6-for-8 behind the arc, with 14:31 remaining.

Andre Roberson capped a 12-0 burst by the Buffs with a putback and then a 3-pointer to give the visitors a 51-40 lead with 12:09 left.

Jamar Samuels scored with 5:16 to go to bring K-State to within one point 63-62, but Knutson buried his final 3-pointer moments later to make sure the Buffs didn't let this one slip away.

Not many Big 12 observers expected the long suffering program headed to the Pac-12 to be on top of the standings after two games.

Boyle is the first CU head coach to win his first two conference games since H.B. Lee in 1951.

"We can be as good as we want to be. We just beat two ranked opponents," Higgins said. "At the same time, we just have to keep getting better. If we do that the wins and losses will take care of themselves."

The ticket office at the Coors Events Center should be busy ahead of CU's home game Saturday against Oklahoma State. The program hasn't started a season 3-0 in Big 12 play since Chauncey Billups was selling lots of tickets in 1997.

"It just shows where our players are in terms of their belief in each other," Boyle said.

Colorado 74, Kansas St. 66

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Dufault 27 4-6 0-0 1-1 2 3 8

Tmlnsn 14 0-1 0-0 0-2 1 2 0

Rlphrde 34 4-11 3-4 2-5 1 3 12

Burks 31 4-15 4-7 1-7 2 4 12

Higgins 27 3-4 3-5 1-3 4 4 9

Sharpe 15 1-2 2-2 0-3 2 2 4

Roberson 23 4-5 0-3 5-9 1 2 9

Knutson 29 7-10 0-0 0-0 0 2 20

Totals 200 27-54 12-21 14-38 13 22 74

Percentages: FG .500, FT .571.

3-Point Goals: 8-12, .667 (Knutson 6-8, Relphorde 1-1, Roberson 1-1, Sharpe 0-1, Tomlinson 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 8.

Blocked Shots: 1 (Roberson).

Turnovers: 20 (Burks 6, Relphorde 4, Tomlinson 4, Dufault 3, Higgins 2, Roberson).

Steals: 6 (Relphorde 4, Roberson 2).

Technical Fouls: None.

KANSAS ST.

FG FT Reb

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

Samuels 29 2-8 1-4 3-6 0 2 5

Judge 14 2-3 0-1 2-3 1 3 4

Pullen 33 7-16 7-9 3-5 6 4 22

Russell 17 1-3 0-0 0-2 3 2 2

McGruder 32 4-11 1-2 2-5 0 3 12

Southwell 2 0-0 0-0 1-1 0 0 0

Irving 26 4-8 1-2 0-0 1 2 12

Myles 5 1-2 0-0 0-0 0 0 2

Ojeleye 3 0-2 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Asprilla 14 2-2 0-0 2-3 0 2 4

H-Roberts 10 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Spradling 15 0-1 3-3 0-2 3 3 3

Totals 200 23-57 13-21 13-29 14 22 66

Percentages: FG .404, FT .619.

3-Point Goals: 7-21, .333 (Irving 3-5, McGruder 3-7, Pullen 1-6, Spradling 0-1, Russell 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 1 (McGruder).

Turnovers: 15 (Pullen 5, Russell 2, Irving 2, Samuels 2, Henriquez-Roberts, McGruder, Ojeleye, Myles).

Steals: 6 (Pullen 4, Russell, Myles).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 33 41--74

Kansas St. 33 33--66

A -- 12,528.

Officials -- Kelly Self, Rick Randall, Derron George.

Close Window

Send To Printer

Defense, rebounding key to CU

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/12/2011 11:59:27 PM MST

MANHATTAN, Kan. -- The Buffs were out of sync.

Colorado committed a season-high 20 turnovers, went 12-for-21 at the free-throw line and scored 10 points under its average.

Alec Burks, the reigning Big 12 Player of the Week, finished with 12 points on 4-for-15 shooting.

Cory Higgins only took four shots.

And Tad Boyle's team still found a way to upset No. 21 Kansas State on Wednesday night at Bramlage Coliseum.

Defense and rebounding. The Buffs are 2-0 in the Big 12 using the simple formula that can cover up blemishes on a bad night.

"We turned the ball over 13 times and it's tied at halftime. We were lucky to be in that position," Boyle said after gutty CU's 74-66 win. "We talked about how we've got to gain confidence from that. We can play with these guys, we can rebound, we just need to take better care of the ball on the road."

The Buffs settled down and methodically built a 12-point lead after the intermission by getting stops and dominating the glass.

Andre Roberson had nine rebounds and a key 3-pointer off the bench.

"He grew up tonight," Boyle said of the freshman forward who leads the team in rebounding. "And this is a man's league."

Burks made up for his rare offensive struggles with seven boards as CU out-rebounded the Wildcats 38-29 and held them to 40.4 percent shooting.

"Our motto is just give it all on the defensive end and let the offense take care of itself," Higgins said after grabbing nine rebounds of his own. "We were just focused on holding their field goal percentage down and out-rebounding them, which we did. And we ended up winning the game."

After a basket by Dufault to start the game the Buffs -- ranked seventh nationally for fewest turnovers per game (10.9) -- had seven turnovers in the first five minutes and trailed 10-4.

Higgins picked up his first foul moments later. A basket by Martavious Irving gave the Wildcats a 14-4 lead with 13:44 to go in the first half and forced Boyle to call a timeout.

Marcus Relphorde ended a CU scoring drought of 4:40 with a basket but Irving answered with a 3-pointer to make the score 17-6.

The Buffs calmed down and tied the score 24-24 with a 7-0 run highlighted by a Levi Knutson make from behind the arc.

The teams exchanged 9-0 runs -- K-State led 33-24 with 3:11 left -- and went into the halftime locker rooms tied 33-33.

"Their guys went and battled and our guys did not," K-State head coach Frank Martin said. "We stood and watched. Rebounding is an effort play, it's a discipline play. We have to be able to lay the wood on people and we do not lay the wood on anybody."

Cats missing Kelly

A member of the student's section held up a sign that read: Free Curt.

Kansas State was without senior Curtis Kelly, who was serving the final game of a six-game suspension by the NCAA for receiving improper benefits. He will return to the lineup on Saturday against Texas Tech.

Kelly, a 6-foot-8 forward, did not play in the first three games of the season due to coach's decision. He was averaging 10.3 points and 4.0 rebounds through eight games before the suspension.

Jacob Pullen, the Big 12's preseason player of the year, served a three-game suspension for his involvement in the same incident. The senior point guard, who averaged 22.0 points and 3.0 assists in his first two games back, finished with 22 points and six assists.

Bufs bigs watch

Meanwhile, the Buffs had some sizable depth available off the bench. Boyle stuck with a smaller eight-man rotation.

Trey Eckloff, who did not suit up for the Missouri game due to a sprained ankle, warmed up but did not see any action. Trent Beckley, who returned to the team this semester, made the trip but did not play. And Ben Mills, the 7-foot freshman, also played the role of cheerleader.

Change of plans

CU assistant coach Jean Prioleau did not make the trip because his wife, Janelle, gave birth to their son, Elijah, early Friday morning.

"He is where he needs to be," a proud Boyle said.

Prioleau was in charge of scouting Kansas State and handed the report over to assistant Mike Rohn before Friday's practice.

Series update

Kansas State leads the all-time series 97-45, including a 54-11 advantage in Manhattan.

The Wildcats -- who visit Boulder for the final time as a conference foe on Feb. 12 -- had won the previous nine meetings.

CU and K-State first played in 1933 and have met in each of the last 62 seasons as conference rivals, a streak that will end with the Buffs' move to the Pac-12 next season.

Since the formation of the Big 12, the Wildcats hold a slim 16-15 edge.

Close Window

Send To Printer

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

college basketball

Colorado beats No. 21 Kansas State 74-66

By DOUG TUCKER
AP Sports Writer

Posted: 01/12/2011 09:44:29 PM MST

Updated: 01/13/2011 08:34:32 AM MST

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Before heading off to the Pac-10, Colorado is settling some old scores in the Big 12.

The resurgent Buffs knocked off then-No. 9 Missouri 89-76 on Saturday for their first victory over a ranked team in almost seven years. On Wednesday night, Levi Knutson scored 20 points and the Buffs held off No. 21 Kansas State 74-66 for their first win over a ranked team on the road in 14 years.

Long a Big 12 doormat, Colorado had lost nine in a row to Kansas State and was winless in Manhattan since 2005.

"We're trying to start a new chapter," said senior guard Cory Higgins, whose coast-to-coast layup in the final minutes helped seal the win. "It's a whole new Colorado." Alec Burks and Marcus

Relphorde added

12 points for Colorado (13-4, 2-0 Big 12), which erased an 11-point deficit in the first half and outrebounded Kansas State 38-29.

"It's a huge testament to our guys' grit and toughness," said first-year coach Tad Boyle. "It is not easy winning on the road in college basketball, especially in an environment like this. Tonight's win shows where our players are in terms of their belief in each other." Jacob Pullen scored 22 points for Kansas State (12-5, 0-2).

"This one hurt, man," said Pullen. "Four years as a Wildcat, I never lost to Colorado. No disrespect to them but I just always felt that we had the better team. Losing to them tonight hurt a lot."

Martavious Irving's free throw cut Colorado's lead to 68-65, then Andre Roberson left the door open for Kansas State when he missed two free throws with 1:12 remaining. Jamar Samuels was fouled while fighting Higgins for a rebound and made one of two free throws to pull Kansas State to 68-66 with 58 seconds left.

But Higgins, saddled with four fouls, drove the court and went in uncontested for a layup and a four-point lead. Burks was fouled by Samuels and made both free throws to seal it, with one angry fan screaming at Kansas State Frank Martin, "This is

on you, Frank."

Advertisement



DIRECTV has more of what you want to watch!

Switch today! 1-888-778-0985



Offer ends 2/9/11. Credit card required (except in MA & PA). New approved customers only (lease required). \$19.95 Handling & Delivery fee may apply. Applicable use tax adjustment may apply on the retail value of the installation. Call for details.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST



Kansas State guard Jacob Pullen, right, shoots over Colorado guard Cory Higgins during the first half Wednesday in Manhattan, Kan. (Orlin Wagner, The Associated Press)

Since Dec. 23, when Pullen was suspended for three games and Curtis Kelly for six, the Wildcats are 3-3 with victories over programs that did not figure to compete against them anyway: UMKC, North Florida and Savannah State.

Kelly, a 6-7 senior averaging 10.3 points and four rebounds, is eligible to return on Saturday against Texas Tech and will try to keep the Wildcats from falling out of the rankings after

starting the season at No. 3.

"If he comes out focused, prepared, ready to play, it should mean a lot," said Pullen. "If he comes out and knows what's going on, then we're in the same boat."

Knutson was 6 for 8 from 3-point range to match a career high. Higgins and Roberson each had nine points for Colorado, which is making its last tour of the Big 12 before moving to the Pac-10 next year. The Buffs will leave the Big 12 with an overall record in Manhattan of 10-54.

"We are a totally different team this year, period," said Knutson.

Pullen almost single-handedly kept the Wildcats close, driving in twice in the final 5 1/2 minutes for a layup and drawing a foul. The first time, he popped in the free throw for a three-point play but missed the second time, leaving Colorado with a 66-64 lead with 3:56 left.

A 3 by Knutson put Colorado's lead back in double digits at 54-44, but Pullen scored the next five points on a pair of free throws and a long 3-pointer that brought a roar from the big home crowd.

Will Spradling, fouled while shooting a 3, stepped to the line and netted all three free throws, closing the gap to 54-52 before Knutson hit another 3 to swing the momentum back to Colorado.

Pullen then ignited a 9-0 run by the Wildcats

Advertisement



SAVE up to **64%**
Plus, get
3 FREE Gifts



To Order: www.OmahaSteaks.com/print71 or call 1-877-605-0496

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

which he capped with a pair of free throws for a 33-24 lead.

Then back came the Buffs, closing the half on a 9-0 run of their own. Knutson hit his second 3-pointer and Relphorde, in the waning seconds, stole the ball from Irving and drove the floor for a dunk.

Rodney McGruder and Irving each had 12 points for Kansas State, the preseason pick to win the Big 12 title.

"We're not very disciplined," said Kansas State coach Frank Martin. "Mentally, we have some rough patches as far as being able to get through the tough moments. We got out-toughed, outplayed, out-coached."

Advertisement



Send flowers for any occasion

Bouquets \$19.99
from ^{+s/h}

ProFlowers

Order ONLY at
proflowers.com/happy
or call 1-877-888-0688

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

JANUARY 13, 2011, 8:44 AM

20-point game by Knutson big lift for Buffs

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

What should be really encouraging for the Colorado men's basketball team after Wednesday night's 74-66 victory at No. 21 Kansas State, is that the Buffaloes (13-4, 2-0 Big 12) were led in scoring by somebody not named Alec Burks or Cory Higgins.

Senior guard Levi Knutson came off the bench raining 3-pointers and topped the Buffs with 20 points. That marked only the fourth time in 17 games that one of CU's "big two" did not lead the team in scoring.



[1]

Colorado guard Levi Knutson drives to the hoop during the Buffs' big win Wednesday night.

Knutson did it in back-to-back November games against Texas-Pan American (18 points) and Oregon State (20). Junior forward Austin Dufault led the Buffs with 18 points in the 92-65 blowout of Maryland-Eastern Shore on Dec. 29.

First-year CU coach Tad Boyle has been preaching to his players that the team needs balance to reach its potential and can't count on Burks and Higgins every night.

“When we struggled early in the season, it was because we weren’t taking good shots and weren’t sharing the ball,” Boyle said before the team departed for Manhattan, Kan. “I guys have figured that out.”

It’s amazing that this marked the first time a CU men’s basketball team has defeated ranked opponents in consecutive games.

Unfortunately, that says something about the lack of tradition.

But it also says something about what the future may hold.

More from All Things Colorado Sports

- [CU’s Bzdelik looking for three](#) ^[2]
- [CU’s Bonsu to be ready for August](#) ^[3]
- [Passing along open letter from Nate Solder to CU fans](#) ^[4]

All Things Colorado Sports Recommends

- [Melo out for today’s game vs. Spurs](#) ^[5] (All Things Nuggets)
- [This is big](#) ^[6] (All Things Nuggets)
- [Denver Nuggets post Nene a game-time decision for Friday](#) ^[7] (All Things Nuggets)



[8]

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS COLORADO SPORTS

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/13/20-point-game-by-knutson-big-lift-for-buffs/15238/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/files/2011/01/thing_levi_01132011.jpg

[2] CU’s Bzdelik looking for three: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2010/03/29/cus-bzdelik-looking-for-three/?source=ARK_sports

[3] CU’s Bonsu to be ready for August: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2010/03/29/cus-bonsu-to-be-ready-for-august/?source=ARK_sports

[4] Passing along open letter from Nate Solder to CU fans: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/13/passing-along-open-letter-from-nate-solder-to-cu-fans/15248/?source=ARK_sports

[5] Melo out for today’s game vs. Spurs : http://blogs.denverpost.com/nuggets/2010/01/31/melo-out-for-todays-game-vs-spurs/?source=ARK_sports

[6] This is big : http://blogs.denverpost.com/nuggets/2008/02/06/this-is-big/?source=ARK_sports

[7] Denver Nuggets post Nene a game-time decision for Friday : http://blogs.denverpost.com/nuggets/2010/11/04/denver-nuggets-post-nene-a-game-time-decision-for-friday/?source=ARK_sports

[8] Image: http://www.arkayne.com/DenverPost/all-things-colorado-sports/?utm_source=Arkayne%20Plugin&utm_medium=Recommend&utm_campaign=Plugin&coupon=DENVERPOST&arkayne_pa

Click [here](#) to print.

1/25 Top 25 1/24 BAY 9:00pm
 01/29 @BAY 1:30pm 01/29 @KU 7:00pm
 Complete Schedule: [Colorado](#) | [Kansas State](#)

Big 12 Conference Standings

TEAM	CONF W-L	TOTAL W-L
#14 Texas	4-0	66-16-3
#13 Texas A&M	4-1	61-17-2
#3 Kansas	3-1	66-18-1
Baylor	3-2	0-13-5
Colorado	3-2	14-6
#12 Missouri	2-2	2-16-3
Nebraska	2-2	OSU 4-4
Oklahoma State	2-3	MICH 4-5
Oklahoma	2-3	68-10-9
Iowa State	1-3	68-14-5
#20 Kansas State	1-4	64-13-7
Texas Tech	0-4	1-8-11

Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. -- Before heading off to the Pac-10, Colorado is settling some old scores in the Big 12.

The resurgent Buffs knocked off then-No. 9 Missouri 89-76 on Saturday for their first victory over a ranked team in almost seven years. On Wednesday night, [Levi Knutson](#) scored 20 points and the Buffs held off Kansas State (No. 20 ESPN/USA Today, No. 21 AP) 74-66 for their first win over a ranked team on the road in 14 years.

Long a Big 12 doormat, Colorado had lost nine in a row to Kansas State and was winless in Manhattan since 2005.

"We're trying to start a new chapter," said senior guard [Cory Higgins](#), whose coast-to-coast layup in the final minutes helped seal the win. "It's a whole new Colorado."

[Alec Burks](#) and [Marcus Relphorde](#) added 12 points for Colorado (13-4, 2-0 Big 12), which erased an 11-point deficit in the first half and outrebounded Kansas State 38-29.

"It's a huge testament to our guys' grit and toughness," first-year coach Tad Boyle said. "It is not easy winning on the road in college basketball, especially in an environment like this. Tonight's win shows where our players are in terms of their belief in each other."

[Jacob Pullen](#) scored 22 points for Kansas State (12-5, 0-2).

"This one hurt, man," Pullen said. "Four years as a Wildcat, I never lost to Colorado. No disrespect to them but I just always felt that we had the better team. Losing to them tonight hurt a lot."

[Martavious Irving](#)'s free throw cut Colorado's lead to 68-65, then [Andre Roberson](#) left the door open for Kansas State when he missed two free throws with 1:12 remaining.

[Jamar Samuels](#) was fouled while fighting Higgins for a rebound and made one of two free throws to pull Kansas State to 68-66 with 58 seconds left.


But Higgins, saddled with four fouls, drove the court and went in uncontested for a layup and a four-point lead. Burks was fouled by Samuels and made both free throws to seal it, with one angry fan screaming at Kansas State Frank Martin, "This is on you, Frank."

Since Dec. 23, when Pullen was suspended for three games and [Curtis Kelly](#) for six, the Wildcats are 3-3 with victories over programs that did not figure to compete against them anyway: UMKC, North Florida and Savannah State.

Kelly, a 6-7 senior averaging 10.3 points and four rebounds, is eligible to return on Saturday against Texas Tech and will try to keep the Wildcats from falling out of the rankings after starting the season at No. 3.

"If he comes out focused, prepared, ready to play, it should mean a lot," said Pullen. "If he comes out and knows what's going on, then we're in the same boat."

Knutson was 6 for 8 from 3-point range to match a career high. Higgins and Roberson each had nine points for Colorado, which is making its last tour of the Big 12 before moving to the Pac-10 next year.

[The Buffs](#) Top 25  Big 12 with an overall record in Manhattan of 10-54.

"We are a totally different team this year, period," said Knutson.

Pullen almost single-handedly kept the Wildcats close, driving in twice in the final 5 1/2 minutes for a layup and drawing a foul. The first time, he popped in the free throw for a three-point play but missed the second time, leaving Colorado with a 66-64 lead with 3:56 left.

A 3 by Knutson put Colorado's lead back in double digits at 54-44, but Pullen scored the next five points on a pair of free throws and a long 3-pointer that brought a roar from the home crowd.

[Will Spradling](#), fouled while shooting 66, stepped to the line and netted all three free throws, closing the gap to 54-52 before Knutson hit another 3 to swing the momentum back to Colorado.

Pullen then ignited a 9-0 run by the Wildcats which he capped with a pair of free throws for a 33-24 lead.

Then back came the Buffs, closing the game on a 9-0 run of their own. Knutson hit his second 3-pointer and Relphorde, in the waning seconds, stole the ball from Irving and drove the floor for a dunk.

[Rodney McGruder](#) and Irving each had 22 points for Kansas State, the preseason pick to win the Big 12 title.

"We're not very disciplined," Kansas State coach Frank Martin said. "Mentally, we have some rough patches as far as being able to get through the tough moments. We got out-toughed, outplayed, out-coached."

Copyright by STATS LLC and The Associated Press

Sponsored Links

[Penny Stock Jumping 1000%](#)

Sign up to the #1 voted penny stock newsletter for free today!
www.AwesomePennyStocks.com

[New Samsung 52" LCD TV for \\$54.09?](#)

TIP: Unique website sells brand new 52" LCD TVs for up to 98% off retail price.
www.BreakingNews5.com

[Dermatologists Hate Her](#)

Smart Mom Uses \$8 Trick to Erase Wrinkles and Look Younger Instantly
ConsumerHealthWire.com/Wrinkle-Free

[\\$65/Hr Job - 25 Openings](#)

Part-Time job (\$20-\$65/hr). Requirements: Home Internet Access
Channel11NewsReport.com/Money

[Buy a link here](#)

MyESPN

- o [NFL](#)
- o [MLB](#)
- o [NBA](#)
- o [NHL](#)
- o [NCAA FB](#)
- o [NCAA BB](#)
- o [NASCAR](#)
- o [SOCCER](#)
- o [MORE SPORTS](#)
- o [RADIO& MORE](#)
- o [PAGE 2& COMMENTARY](#)
- o [FANTASY& GAMES](#)
- o [WATCH](#)

[CBB Home](#)

- [Scores](#)
- [Schedule](#)
- [Rankings](#)
- [Standings](#)
- [Stats](#)
- [Teams](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [GameDay](#)
- [NCAA Tourney](#)
- [Recruiting](#)
- [Local](#)



Posted on Wed, Jan. 12, 2011

Purple daze: K-State falls to Colorado

By KELLIS ROBINETT
The Kansas City Star

MANHATTAN, Kan. | This is starting to become a pattern.

For the second straight game, Kansas State couldn't pull away from an opponent when it had a comfortable lead. And for the second straight game, that inability proved costly as Colorado fought back from a nine-point deficit to defeat K-State 74-66 on Wednesday at Bramlage Coliseum.

It was a loss that dropped the Wildcats, 12-5 overall and 0-2 in the Big 12, deeper into a winless hole to start a Big 12 conference race that they were once projected to win.

With the victory, the Buffaloes, 13-4 and 2-0, won their sixth straight game and defeated a ranked opponent for the second consecutive game.

When it was over, the surprising result sent the Buffaloes and their small contingent of traveling fans into a wild celebration. The rest of the 12,528 in attendance walked away in silence. Including K-State's players.

"That one hurt, man," said senior guard Jacob Pullen, who led all scorers with 22 points. "Four years as a Wildcat, man. I never lost to Colorado. No disrespect to them, but I always thought we had the better team."

Indeed, this was a tough blow for K-State and its fan base. Unlike earlier losses away from Manhattan to Duke, Florida, UNLV and Oklahoma State, this defeat was unexpected and difficult to explain.

While Colorado, behind the stellar play of Alec Burks and Cory Higgins, entered Wednesday's action on a hot streak, it had yet to prove itself in a difficult road environment against a respected foe. That is no longer the case.

"We can be as good as we want to be," said Higgins, who scored nine points.

But how good can K-State be? With home games this week against the Buffaloes and Texas Tech on Saturday, K-State was supposed to use this stretch to move its record back above .500 in conference play.

Instead, the Wildcats will head to Missouri on Monday with a losing conference record. That thought was enough to make Pullen remember K-State's NIT appearance of two years ago. He said the Wildcats had better improve in a hurry, because he won't be taking part in any NIT games this postseason.

"We've got to fix it," Pullen said.

K-State defended Burks — 12 points and seven rebounds — and Higgins well enough to beat Colorado, but they couldn't account for Levi Knutson. The sharpshooter drained six three-pointers on his way to 20 points, and continually deflated the Wildcats as they tried to take a second-half lead.

Late in the first half, that hadn't seemed like it was going to be a problem.

At that point, everything was going well for Kansas State. With less than 3 minutes remaining in the first half, the Wildcats led Colorado by nine points. The home crowd was loud, and K-State players ran up and down the court with confidence.

Then this game began following an eerily similar pattern to K-State's 76-62 loss on Saturday to Oklahoma State. Only instead of allowing an eight-point lead to disappear and turn into a double-digit loss in the final 10 minutes, they let a 33-24 lead begin to evaporate with 23 minutes remaining.

The Buffaloes closed out the half with nine straight points to tie the game up at 33-33 heading into the second half. Both teams started the second half by exchanging baskets, and K-State took a 40-39 lead.

But then Colorado made another push. Thanks to three-pointers by Marcus Relphorde, Knutson and back-to-back baskets by Andre Roberson, the Buffaloes went ahead 51-40.

Combined with its offensive push at the end of the first half, Colorado had gone on a 27-7 run.

"Same thing that's happened all season," Pullen said.

At home, though, the Wildcats were not about to let the Buffaloes turn the game into a blowout. Behind the strong play of Pullen and Rodney McGruder, who along with Martavious Irving scored 12 points, K-State fought back and quickly made things interesting again.

It got as close as 63-62 when Jamar Samuels hit a layup with 5:16 to play.

But on Colorado's next possession Knutson hit a three-pointer. K-State never got to within two points again.

"We folded up the tent, it seemed like," Martin said.

© 2011 Kansas City Star and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.kansascity.com>