

CU women rally to beat Missouri

By Joshua Linden Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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The Colorado women's basketball team's victory over Missouri Saturday night might not have been pretty. But it was gritty.

And it came in a fashion in which this Buffaloes squad hadn't won before.

Overcoming a halftime deficit for the first time all season, the Buffs ground out a 58-48 triumph at the Coors Events Center with superb defense and rebounding and a big second half from leading scorer Brittany Spears.

The Buffs (11-7, 2-3 Big 12 Conference) had entered the game 10-0 when leading at halftime but were winless when trailing. They halted that jinx but not before also having to overcome a pair of big rallies by the Tigers (9-10, 1-4).

"I didn't think we played our best, but I thought we played well in the right stretches and we did some things right at the right time," said CU coach Linda Lappe, whose squad improved to 11-2 at home. "And that's what winning teams do. It's nice for

us to know we don't have to play perfect to win. It gives us some confidence."

Colorado, which had lost five of eight coming in, closed the game on an 11-5 run just four days after going without a field goal in the final 7½ minutes in a loss at Oklahoma State.

CU led 41-32 after opening the second half on an 18-5 run. But that advantage dwindled to 44-43 with 5:38 to play on a free throw by MU's RaeShara Brown.

Spears, though, answered with a putback, scored on a baseline drive 90 seconds after that and then hit a 3-pointer from the corner to help the Buffs push their lead back to 55-48. CU held on from there despite going 1 for 7 from the free-throw line in the last 1:01 as the Tigers missed shots on their last four possessions.

Spears scored 18 of her season-high 26 points in the second half and went 11 of 24 from the field for the game.

"The team was just passing the ball around, moving the ball around, and I was just getting open because they were setting good screens and stuff like that," Spears said.

The senior also grabbed 13 rebounds, eight in the second half, and did a nice job defensively on MU's post players.

"Brittany Spears is a heck of a player and really does a lot for that team," said MU coach Robin Pingeton, whose squad lost its fourth straight since upsetting Texas. "I think she put the team on her shoulders and really willed them to win."

There was plenty of will on the defensive end all around for the Buffs, especially from senior guard Britney Blythe, who drew the assignment of guarding Brown.

One game after Brown scored 33 in a loss to Kansas State, Blythe -- who deflected most of the credit to her teammates for offering sound help defense -- held Brown to 13 points on 5-of-16 shooting. The output was four points below average for Brown, who has twice before put up career highs against CU.

"I think (Blythe) was kind of our unsung hero in the game," Lappe said. "She worked and worked and worked. It didn't matter where Brown was; Blythe was right there. When she did score, she had to really work at it. She had help for sure. ...

But she worked her tail off on Brown."

Overall the Buffs held Missouri to 27.7 percent (18 for 65) shooting from the floor. And they out-rebounded the Tigers 53-41. The only stretch in which MU really got rolling was the final six minutes of the first half when the Tigers turned a 21-11 deficit into a 27-23 halftime lead.

The defense helped diminish an offensive night that saw the Buffs shoot 38 percent themselves and score just two points the final 8½ minutes of the first half.

The only MU player besides Brown to score in double figures was post player Shakara Jones, who had 12 points.

"Our offensive night might not be there every single night, but our defense should always be there," said Blythe, who started and also hit a pair of 3-pointers. "I think this was one of the nights that it really showed."

Then she conceded with a grin, "It was a lot of fun stopping (Brown) but she has a great game."

CU freshman guard Brittany Wilson notched her first career double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds. And forward Julie Seabrook scored seven points and grabbed 11 boards.

CU guard Chucky Jeffery returned after missing two games with a concussion but came off the bench and scored just three points in 17 minutes of action.

Colorado 58, Missouri 48

MISSOURI

FG FT Reb

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

Jones 36 5-18 2-3 2-6 2 3 12

Flores 28 2-11 0-0 3-10 1 4 5

Otote 36 3-5 0-0 2-4 1 4 9

Brown 35 5-16 3-7 4-9 6 1 13

Thornton 20 1-5 2-2 0-1 1 0 5

Gee 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Spietz 0+ 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Niemann 2 0-2 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Crafton 24 0-4 0-0 3-7 0 3 0

Brock 18 2-4 0-0 1-1 0 1 4

Totals 200 18-65 7-12 17-41 11 16 48

Percentages: FG .277, FT .583.

3-Point Field Goals: 5-18, .278 (Otote 3-5, Flores 1-3, Thornton 1-4, Jones 0-1, Brown 0-1, Niemann 0-1, Crafton 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 3.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Flores 2, Brock).

Turnovers: 12 (Crafton 4, Brown 3, Jones 2, Flores 2, Gee).

Steals: 8 (Otote 4, Brown 2, Crafton, Brock).

Technical Fouls: None.

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Seabrk 32 3-5 1-4 8-11 0 1 7

Dale 18 0-3 0-0 0-2 1 0 0

Sprs 38 11-24 3-3 4-13 1 2 26

Blythe 33 2-5 0-1 0-1 0 2 6

[B.Win](#) 27 4-11 2-4 3-12 3 4 11

[A.Wilson](#) 9 0-0 0-0 1-1 0 0 0

MM-Pck 16 1-2 0-2 0-2 1 3 3

Jeffery 17 1-8 1-2 1-4 2 0 3

Hargis 10 1-2 0-2 0-0 0 2 2

Totals 200 23-60 7-18 20-53 8 14 58

Percentages: FG .383, FT .389.

3-Point Field Goals: 5-12, .417 (Dale 0-2, Spears 1-4, Blythe 2-4, B. Wilson 1-1, Malcolm-Peck 1-1).

Team Rebounds: 7.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Spears 2, Seabrook).

Turnovers: 15 (B. Wilson 4, Jeffery 3, Seabrook 2, Malcolm-Peck 2, Dale, Spears, A. Wilson; Team 1).

Steals: 6 (Jeffery 3, B. Wilson 2, Spears).

Technical Fouls: None.

Missouri 27 21--48

Colorado 23 35--58

A -- 1,573.

Jeffery rejoins CU's lineup

Sophomore guard returns from concussion

By Joshua Lindenstein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/22/2011 11:01:54 PM MST

Chucky Jeffery's head is clear after missing two games with a concussion.

But the Colorado women's basketball team's offensive catalyst admitted she had to fight through some rustiness in her game during Saturday's 58-48 victory over Missouri at the Coors Events Center on Saturday.

Jeffery returned to action for the first time since getting hit hard in the forehead in a loss to Kansas a week and a half ago, but came off the bench and played just 17 minutes.

She went just 1 for 8 from the field and finished with three points. But she did chip in four rebounds, three steals and a pair of assists.

"I've got to get back in the flow," Jeffery said. "I was out for a week and we got new plays and stuff. They've been playing well together so coach just wanted me to come off the bench with energy and provide a spark like (starting freshman guard Brittany Wilson) used to do."

Jeffery returned to practice for the first time on Thursday. She didn't enter Saturday's game until the 13:16 mark of the first half. But she quickly made her first basket to put the Buffs up 17-9 before going cold offensively.

"It's pretty typical for a player to not have a great game after she's missed a couple of games," said CU coach Linda Lappe, who went with a starting lineup of Julie Seabrook, Chelsea Dale, Brittany Spears, Britney Blythe and Brittany Wilson. "But I know she's going to respond and come into practice and work hard and get back into the flow and get her shot back."

Spears watch

CU senior forward Brittany Spears' 26 points Saturday gave her 1,857 for her career, leaving her just one behind Tera Bjorklund (2000-04) for third on the school's all-time chart.

Spears is now just 210 behind record holder Lisa Van Goor (1980-85) and 100 behind Jackie McFarland (2004-08) for second.

Spears also notched her 111th consecutive start Saturday, leaving her just one behind Amy Mathern (1989-93) for that record. And she hit one 3-pointer to pull into a fifth-place tie with Kate Fagan (1999-2004) on the 3s made career list with 197.

Notable

CU's 53 rebounds were a season high and tied the Buffs' most ever in a Big 12 Conference game. ... Colorado beat MU for the third time in a row and extended its all-time series lead to 41-27. ... Saturday's attendance was 1,573.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Colorado hands MU women's basketball fourth straight loss

By [Jason Cox](#)

January 22, 2011 | 9:21 p.m. CST

The Missouri women's basketball team trailed by nine points with less than three minutes to play. RaeShara Brown scored five points on the Tigers next two possessions to bring them within four.

On the other end, Brittany Spears nailed a 3-pointer to kill all of Missouri's momentum.

Spears came up big when the Buffaloes needed it most. She scored 18 of her game-high 26 points in the second half of Missouri's 58-48 loss to Colorado on Saturday in Boulder, Colo. The Tigers fall to 9-10 overall and 1-4 in the Big 12 Conference.

Spears, a senior, has been a thorn in the side of the Tigers her entire career. Before Saturday, her most recent performance against the Tigers, she scored 34 points last year in a one-point win at Mizzou Arena. In that game, she hit a late 3-pointer to cap a Colorado comeback and send the game to overtime.

Spears is Colorado's leading scorer, and Missouri coach Robin Pingeton knew the Tigers would have to defend her a certain way. But they didn't defend her the way Pingeton had hoped.

"We weren't assignment correct," Pingeton said in a postgame radio interview. "They set double-staggered screens. We got caught going in a direct line instead of chasing the outside hip. If you give her any room, she's going to get a shot off."

Spears missed eight of her first 11 shots before she finally got going. Her slow start didn't cost the Buffaloes early. Missouri didn't make a field goal for the first seven minutes of the game, and Colorado jumped out to a 12-2 lead.

Trailing 21-11, the Tigers responded with a 16-2 run over the final seven minutes of the first half to take a four-point lead into halftime.

Despite shooting just 21 percent in the second half, the Tigers hung around. Even after Spears'

3-pointer gave Colorado a seven-point lead, the Tigers still had a chance when Colorado's Julie Seabrook missed the front end of a one-and-one with a minute left. But Seabrook got her own rebound and laid it in. It was Colorado's 20th offensive rebound of the game.

Brown led the Tigers with 13 points. Shakara Jones was second with 12. Jasmyn Otote had nine points on three 3-pointers. Christine Flores led the Tigers with 10 rebounds but scored just five points.

The loss was the fourth in a row for the Tigers. It was the third straight game they've had a chance to win until late in the second half. They're inability to finish may be because they are a young, inexperienced team, but on Saturday, Pingeton was frustrated with her players' effort.

"It's time for these players to step to the plate," Pingeton said. "We have a turnover or a missed shot and the head goes down and the shoulders go down and we don't make that effort to get back on the defensive end. That's not the way the game is played. Pretty soon you got to grow up a little bit and take some personal responsibility."

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colorado women 58, missouri 48

Lappe's halftime speech sparks CU women's 58-48 victory over Missouri

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 01/23/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

BOULDER — First-year Colorado women's basketball coach Linda Lappe didn't think CU played particularly well Saturday in a 58-48 victory over Missouri. But she sure got her players' attention at halftime.

Trailing 27-23 at the break, Colorado took control with a 17-5 run to open the second half.

"Coach gets a little fire in her sometimes," CU sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery said of Lappe's halftime speech.

Colorado (11-7, 2-3 Big 12) got a double-double from senior forward Brittany Spears with game bests of 26 points and 13 rebounds, and the Buffaloes won for the first time this season after

trailing at halftime.

"I just challenged our players to step it up," Lappe said of her halftime words. "They did a great job of coming together and doing whatever it took."

Missouri (9-10, 1-4) had closed the first half with a 16-2 run to take the lead at the break, stunning the Coors Events Center crowd of 1,573, which must have thought things would come easy when the Buffs jumped out to a 21-11 advantage.

After Lappe's halftime words, Colorado remembered to share the ball, rather than forcing up quick shots in traffic. The Buffs, especially the 6-foot-1 Spears and freshman guard Brittany Wilson, drove the lane.

And everybody hit the boards.

Colorado's 53 rebounds tied for the most by CU in a Big 12 game, matching the 53 grabbed by the Buffs on Feb. 8, 1997, against Texas A&M — in the Big 12's inaugural season.

Even Wilson, generously listed at 5-8, battled along the baseline and recorded a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Another key: the shutdown defense by CU senior guard Britney Blythe on RaeShara Brown, Missouri's top offensive threat who managed just 5-for-16 shooting from the field with Blythe in her face.

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THE DENVER POST

Jeffery returned after missing two games with a concussion but did not start. Her rust showed with 1-for-8 shooting.

"I'll shake it off," Jeffery said. "The important thing is we won."

MISSOURI (9-10, 1-4 BIG 12)

Jones 5-18 2-3 12, Flores 2-11 0-0 5, Otote 3-5 0-0 9, Brown 5-16 3-7 13, Thornton 1-5 2-2 5, Gee 0-0 0-0 0, Spietz 0-0 0-0 0, Niemann 0-2 0-0 0, Crafton 0-4 0-0 0, Brock 2-4 0-0 4.
Totals 18-65 7-12 48.

COLORADO (11-7, 2-3)

Seabrook 3-5 1-4 7, Dale 0-3 0-0 0, Spears 11-24 3-3 26, Blythe 2-5 0-1 6, B. Wilson 4-11 2-4 11, A. Wilson 0-0 0-0 0, Malcolm-Peck 1-2 0-2 3, Jeffery 1-8 1-2 3, Hargis 1-2 0-2 2. **Totals 23-60 7-18 58.** **Missouri 27-23. 3-point goals — Missouri 5-18 (Otote 3-5, Flores 1-3, Thornton 1-4, Jones 0-1, Niemann 0-1, Crafton 0-2, Brown 0-2). Colorado 5-12 (Blythe 2-4, Malcolm-Peck 1-1, B. Wilson 1-1, Spears 1-4, Dale 0-2). Fouled out — None. Rebounds — Missouri 41 (Flores 10), Colorado 53 (Spears 13). Assists — Missouri 11 (Brown 6), Colorado 8 (B. Wilson 3). Total fouls — Missouri 16, Colorado 14. A — 1,573.**

Halftime —

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