

# CU-Kansas showdown loses some luster

## Bufs coming off two losses; Jayhawks also fell Saturday

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NORMAN, Okla. -- A week ago the perfect storm was brewing for Colorado basketball.

The Buffs were 3-0 in the Big 12 with winnable games at Nebraska and Oklahoma ahead of them.

If CU could just take care of business on the road, Tad Boyle's team would be ranked entering Tuesday night's showdown against Kansas.

The Coors Events Center would be the center of the college basketball universe with the undefeated Jayhawks visiting Boulder for the final time as a conference foe.

Instead, the Buffs lost by 12 points in Lincoln and 67-60 here on Saturday at the Lloyd Noble Center.

And CU won't be the only team licking its wounds. The Jayhawks (18-1, 3-1) saw their 69-game home winning streak end with a loss to Texas on Saturday at Allen Fieldhouse.

"It's always a good time to catch Kansas," Alec Burks said after scoring 15 points and grabbing nine rebounds against the Sooners. "They're one of the best teams in the country. If we play our right game we can pull off the victory."

The Buffs (14-6, 3-2) didn't look right against Oklahoma on either end of the court. CU shot 40.4 percent from the field (1-for-10 from 3-point distance) and allowed the offensively-challenged Sooners to shoot 52.2 percent.

Burks was 6-for-15 from the field with five turnovers. Cory Higgins also scored 15 points but on 4-for-14 shooting with three turnovers.

"I thought this team had gotten past that," Higgins said of struggling on the road. "I thought everybody felt and knew the importance of this game."

All five Oklahoma starters scored in double figures. CU entered the game averaging 83 points.

The Buffs had a 32-30 edge on the glass, but the Sooners entered the game as the worst rebounding team in the Big 12.

"It's the second game in a row we've really struggled offensively," Boyle said. "If we're not making shots, we better defend and rebound well enough to win a game. We didn't do it Tuesday against Nebraska and we didn't do it on Saturday afternoon here against Oklahoma."

They Jayhawks had a more serious excuse for their performance against a tough Texas team. On Friday night, sophomore Thomas Robinson's mother died unexpectedly of a heart attack in Washington, D.C.

"It just puts everything in perspective," said KU coach Bill Self.

Basketball is just a game. And CU vs. KU is not as big of a game nationally as it looked to be a week ago.

Still, the Buffs need to bounce back, no matter who the opponent is.

"You play them when they come. I tell you what, we should be ready, we should have the eye of the tiger," said Boyle, a former Kansas player. "We should have had the eye of the tiger (against Oklahoma). Now we have KU, and it's a great opportunity for our guys."

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