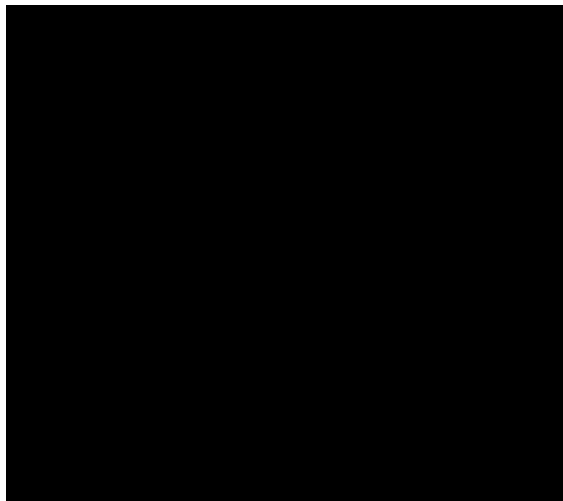


CU Buffs fall short against No. 6 Kansas

Burks scores 25; Higgins adds 19

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/25/2011 08:11:45 PM MST



Click on any photo to see photo gallery

The west annex of Allen Fieldhouse is now closed.

And just when the atmosphere and games were really getting good.

For the second consecutive season, Colorado pushed Kansas to the brink before allowing the visitors and their devoted legions of followers to escape a sold-out Coors Events Center with a victory.

The familiar story line played out one last time as CU fought hard but came up short in an 82-78 loss to No. 6 KU on Tuesday night in front of an electric crowd of 11,203.

The Buffs nearly upset the then-No. 1 Jayhawks in regulation last season before falling in overtime.

"We'll never be happy with this result that happened tonight with our basketball program," said first-year CU head coach

Tad Boyle, a former KU player. "But I'll go to the end with this group when they play with that kind of effort."

The Jayhawks led 71-61 with 5:44 to play before Cory Higgins started the final comeback bid with back-to-back hoops. A 3-pointer by Marcus Relphorde cut the deficit to three points (75-72), and a pair of free throws by Alec Burks brought the Buffs within 78-76 with 31.6 seconds remaining.

But Tyrel Reed and Marcus Morris calmly hit two free throws apiece into the face of the student body to close the game out.

KU has won the last 16 meetings and owns a 29-1 record against CU since the formation of the Big 12. The Buffs will make their final visit to Allen Fieldhouse on Feb. 19.

"Obviously, we don't take moral victories," Higgins said after scoring 19 points on 8-for-15 shooting. "We feel like we're a good enough team to where we can beat anybody. But I guess it was a good step back to how we should be playing. We didn't do that at Oklahoma or Nebraska."

Boyle went as far as to say that if the Buffs had played with the same intensity against the Sooners they would have flown back from Norman with a key road victory.

Instead, CU heads to Baylor on Saturday packing a three-game losing streak.

"The resiliency of this team is going to be tested now," Boyle said. "And I believe in our guys 100 percent."

CU's game plan was all about trying to slow down the Morris brothers (Marcus and Markieff) with help defense. The twin Goliaths combined for just 21 points but had 16 rebounds.

KU took advantage of the sagging defense with some open looks on the perimeter, knocking down 10 of 24 3-pointers and also scoring 21 points off 12 offensive rebounds.

"It was rebounding and second-chance points," Higgins said. "That was pretty much the difference."

A 7-0 run early in the second half gave the Jayhawks a 10-point cushion (56-46).

Nate Tomlinson hit a 3-pointer to stop the bleeding for the Buffs, but KU was able to maintain the margin after a 3-pointer by Tyshawn Taylor made the score 61-51 with 11:14 to go.

Burks, who finished with a game-high 25 points with 36 NBA scouts watching, scored seven consecutive points for CU to cut the deficit to 63-59.

"It's tough playing catch-up," said Relphorde, who had 15 points. "We still had chances, stuff just didn't go our way."

CU trailed 43-39 at the intermission after getting out-rebounded 21-10 and allowing KU to shoot 53.1 percent from the field.

The Jayhawks knocked down five 3-pointers in the first 9:36 and built a 27-17 advantage after Brady Morningstar splashed back-to-back shots from behind the arc.

Just as the KU fans started to take over the building, a rim-rocking dunk by Andre Roberson reinvigorated the CU faithful.

That sparked a 16-6 run for the Buffs that was capped with a Levi Knutson 3-pointer to cut the deficit to two points (35-33).

A basket by Burks tied the score 37-37 with 3:17 to go before the break, but KU answered immediately with 3-pointers from Josh Selby and Morningstar.

The Buffs (14-7, 3-3) were 11-0 at home entering the game and had won 14 consecutive games at the Coors Events Center dating back to last season.

The Jayhawks (19-1, 4-1) were coming off their first loss of the season to Texas, which snapped their 69-game winning streak at Allen Fieldhouse.

"We always want Kansas, but especially right now that we're leaving," Relphorde said of CU's move to the Pac-12 next season. "We really wanted this one."

Kansas 82, Colorado 78

KANSAS

FG FT Reb

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

Mc Morris 29 5-6 5-6 0-5 0 4 15

Mk Morris 26 3-6 0-0 4-11 0 2 6

Taylor 31 2-4 4-4 0-3 4 4 9

Reed 27 4-11 4-6 3-5 3 2 14

Selby 25 7-14 0-0 1-4 5 2 17

Withey 8 1-2 1-2 2-4 0 0 3

Mrnngstr 25 5-9 0-0 0-1 3 2 14

Johnson 12 1-3 0-0 1-1 4 0 2

Little 17 1-2 0-0 0-1 0 3 2

Totals 200 29-57 14-18 12-37 19 19 82

Percentages: FG .509, FT .778.

3-Point Goals: 10-24, .417 (Morningstar 4-7, Selby 3-6, Reed 2-8, Taylor 1-1, Johnson 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 4 (Little 2, Withey, Mark. Morris).

Turnovers: 12 (Mark. Morris 3, Reed 3, Taylor 2, Marc. Morris 2, Morningstar, Selby).

Steals: 2 (Selby, Little).

Technical Fouls: None.

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Dufault 24 0-1 0-0 0-3 3 2 0

Tmlnsn 29 3-6 0-0 0-0 3 4 8

Rlphrde 31 5-13 2-2 0-3 3 3 15

Burks 33 7-14 10-11 1-6 2 1 25

Higgins 35 8-15 2-2 0-2 1 1 19

Sharpe 9 0-0 1-2 0-1 2 0 1

Rbrsn 19 1-3 0-0 1-4 0 4 2

Knutson 19 3-4 0-0 0-0 0 2 8

Eckloff 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Totals 200 27-56 15-17 4-23 14 17 78

Percentages: FG .482, FT .882.

3-Point Goals: 9-13, .692 (Relphorde 3-4, Knutson 2-3, Tomlinson 2-3, Higgins 1-1, Burks 1-2).

Team Rebounds: 4.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Higgins, Roberson, Burks).

Turnovers: 6 (Burks 2, Relphorde, Roberson, Knutson, Higgins).

Steals: 6 (Higgins 3, Burks, Roberson, Tomlinson).

Technical Fouls: None.

Kansas 43 39--82

Colorado 39 39--78

A -- 11,203.

Officials -- Tom O'Neill, Scott Thornley, Kipp Kissinger.

Close Window

Send To Printer

Ringo: Coors can rock even without Jayhawks

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/25/2011 11:36:49 PM MST

During a timeout of an entertaining college basketball game Tuesday night between Colorado and No. 6 Kansas, someone suggested it will be hard to replace the Jayhawks on the home schedule in the future with the Buffs moving to the Pac-12.

My first thought? Why would you want to replicate the Blue Scourge that completely takes over the Coors Events Center for the game in some years and is at least an annoyance in others, as was the case Tuesday with the Buffs falling just short of victory?

If it's 100 years before echoes of Rock Chalk Jayhawk are heard again inside the building, it will be too soon.

Adios, Kansas. Enjoy the Lone Star League, er, the, Big 12. When Texas A&M leaves for the SEC -- and it will -- and Texas decides it wants a solo career, have fun in the Mountain West or Conference USA.

The Kansas game almost always has been counted on in Boulder for the biggest crowd of the basketball season, mostly because plenty of Kansas fans buy tickets making it the one time each year the building is full regardless of the Buffs' record.

I'm not sold on the notion that parting ways with Kansas means an end to the days when the other team's colors are prevalent on game day at CU.

There are plenty of solid programs in the Buffs' new league, and at least one in UCLA that can match Kansas with its tradition of winning. This area is definitely a melting pot of people who have moved here from other parts of the country, including plenty of folks from the West Coast.

With the novelty of playing new conference competition and the opportunity to see their teams in person, it wouldn't surprise me one bit if large numbers of UCLA, USC, Arizona, Arizona State or Washington fans descend on the events center for games next year and the year after or at least until CU fans beat them to the punch.

The way to make that happen is building a successful program that regularly participates in the NCAA Tournament and churns out professional players. You know, something that never really has been done here before.

There are positive signs that it is not only possible, but within reach, despite the Buffs' current three-game losing streak.

CU officials said Tuesday night was the largest grossing basketball game in school history because there were no ticket specials or giveaways associated with the contest. For once, the school didn't have to bribe fans or students to come to the game.

For the first time in school history, the athletic department is expecting the men's basketball program to exceed \$1 million in revenue even without another sellout, and there are at least three more opportunities for sellouts coming with Texas, Texas A&M and Kansas State coming to town in the next month.

Never before in CU history had the Buffs produced back-to-back sellouts prior to Tuesday. Wins over nationally ranked Missouri and Kansas State earlier this month built some expectations and had some people excited for Oklahoma State 10 days ago and the Kansas game.

That's all it takes, especially in an area starved for a good college basketball program. Be competitive at the highest level and they will come.

"It's what college basketball is all about," CU coach Tad Boyle said of Tuesday's atmosphere against his alma mater. "A few too many KU fans for my liking in our building. I hope going forward -- and obviously we're going to the Pac-12 -- but whoever we are playing, UCLA, Arizona or whoever, I want the Oklahoma State atmosphere where it's 11,000 Buff fans and maybe a couple hundred from the other team."

CU officials and campus and Boulder police would do well to take a long look at how they handled pregame traffic Tuesday and avoid the same mistakes in the future. Those kinds of hassles can drive fans away, not make them want to come back.

But imagine for a minute what it could be like around here when Boyle has a few more recruiting classes and a team comprised of his players is humming along in his system. Imagine having depth on the bench and maybe a big man or two who can truly compete in the post offensively and defensively at the major college level.

No one will miss visits from Kansas then. But it might be the perfect time to put them back on the schedule.

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

Loss to No. 6 Kansas doesn't kill CU Buffs basketball fans' spirit

At sold-out Kansas game, fans 'just happy they're doing as well as they are'

By Erica Meltzer Camera Staff Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/25/2011 10:32:28 PM MST

It was a nail-biter, but not a heartbreaker.

University of Colorado basketball fans were on the edges of their seats and even the tips of their toes for most of the second half of Tuesday's sold-out game against No. 6 Kansas.

It was the first time CU has sold out the Coors Event Center for back-to-back men's home games. Outside the event center, scalpers roamed the perimeter, while inside, the cheers of the crowd were deafening.

Even the 82-78 loss -- the Buffs' third loss in a row and their first loss at home this year -- couldn't take the luster off the season's promising start.

"The fact that they're playing competitively against ranked teams is what's exciting," said Jeff Sack, of Arvada. "I like to see exciting basketball."

Which is not to say that Sack, a CU alum who now works in finance for Lockheed Martin, wasn't hoping for a win.

In the final minutes of Tuesday's game, he held his breath each time the Buffs advanced, and his shoulders slumped each time Kansas pulled away again. The hope that CU might make the NCAA tournament this year -- born of the team's wins over Missouri and Oklahoma -- has made the season a lot more fun, he said, but mostly, it's just great to see them playing well.

It was a sentiment echoed by many fans Tuesday. Amid the inevitable woulda-coulda-shoulda post-game analysis as the crowd of 11,203 filed out, there was still plenty of pride.

"They played tough," said Pablo Mendez, a Longmont shoe salesman. "They lost, but they played really tough. It's awesome to see CU competing with top-tier teams."

CU sophomore Kyle Lehman is a lifelong basketball fan who ended up at a school not known for its basketball program. He was thrilled at the crowd and the level of play Tuesday, though he was badly hoping for a different outcome to the rematch after last year's 72-66 overtime loss to Kansas.

"(Coach) Tad Boyle has really turned the program around," he said. "There are no seats anywhere. People are standing."

Ryan Chreist, who works in admissions at CU, said he's used to the event center being half-full "on a good day." He said it's great to see fans turning out, and he's keeping his fingers crossed for the rest of the season.

"They seem like they have potential," he said.

Tim Mullen, a Boulder accountant, is a longtime CU basketball fan, but he hasn't always been faithful in attending games.

"When you come in and it's like an empty barn, it's no fun," he said. "But this is awesome."

Mullen said he likes what he sees in the players under the new head coach.

"They're playing with a lot of hustle and desire," he said. "You can see they're working their butts off."

For Jake Wichman, of Firestone, it's basketball "as it should be."

"This is what, as a basketball fan, you hope for," said the Longmont parks department employee. "People are standing in the aisles. The noise is deafening. I don't care if they're ranked or not. I'm just happy they're doing as well as they are."

Contact Camera Staff Writer Erica Meltzer at 303-473-1355 or meltzere@dailycamera.com.

Close Window

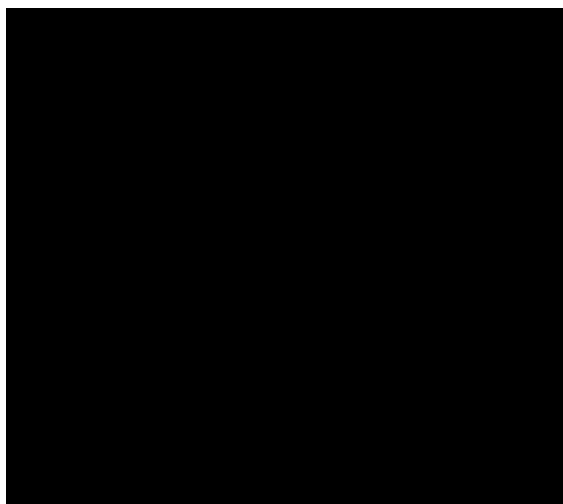
Send To Printer

CU's Tomlinson getting game back

CU guard helps lead offense in loss to KU

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/25/2011 11:35:30 PM MST



Click on any photo to see photo gallery

Welcome back, Nate Tomlinson.

Colorado's starting point guard has been in the lineup throughout Big 12 play.

But until Tuesday night's game against No. 6 Kansas at the Coors Events Center, he was hardly noticeable.

Tomlinson has been dealing with a painful hip injury.

And it showed.

During CU's first five conference games, Tomlinson scored one point (0-for-6 from the field) with five assists and five turnovers.

The junior from Sydney, Australia, scored eight points with three assists and no turnovers during CU's 82-78 loss to the Jayhawks.

"I'm just getting healthy," Tomlinson, who also took a key charge, said when asked about his more aggressive play. "I need to make those plays when I'm out there for the guys, and tonight I tried to do that, but obviously it wasn't enough."

Redshirt freshman backup Shannon Sharpe, who missed last season with a serious knee injury, only chipped in with four points over the previous five games with five assists and one turnover. Cory Higgins, who has also been asked to run the point at times, was averaging 14.6 points per conference game with 14 assists and 16 turnovers entering the showdown with KU.

Sharpe only played nine minutes against the Jayhawks, finishing with one point, two assists and no turnovers. Higgins scored 19 points and made three steals.

"We turned the ball over six times," CU head coach Tad Boyle noted. "That's phenomenal in a high-level game. ... We had 15 (turnovers) against Oklahoma, and they didn't pressure us the way KU pressured us."

Tomlinson recorded his first field goal since Jan. 2 against Cal State Bakersfield at the 18:48 mark of the first half when he attempted a shot from the right and it was ruled a goal-tending violation against Markieff Morris. He missed a layup and finished 3-for-6 from the field, including 2-for-3 from behind the arc.

If Tomlinson can stay healthy enough to be a productive point guard, the Buffs should get back to the balanced, high-scoring ways that helped them get off to a 3-0 start in the Big 12.

"Nate was good and he helped us on both ends of the floor. He can get guys shots," Boyle said. "Nate took a major step forward in the way he helped our team."

Heavy hearts

The KU players quickly made sure the game ball went with them to the visiting locker room after the victory. They will deliver it to Thomas Robinson during an emotional reunion today.

The Jayhawks played without teammate Robinson, whose mother, 37-year-old Lisa Robinson, died unexpectedly Friday night from an apparent heart attack. The entire team will travel to Washington, D.C. today for the funeral. In the three weeks previously, the Robinsons also lost both of his Lisa's parents, leaving only Thomas and his 9-year-old sister, Jayla.

A moment of silence at the Coors Events Center was observed for the tragedy. KU head coach said the NCAA has been cooperative during a difficult week for the program.

"With this situation, as much hardship as there is, I think the NCAA is looking out for the student-athlete first," Self said. "I couldn't say anything remotely negative at all about how this has been handled by them."

KU at Coors again?

Boyle, a former KU player, didn't sound optimistic about the possibility of extending the series after CU leaves for the Pac-12 next season.

"I don't know, we have 18 conference games," Boyle said of getting the Jayhawks on future schedules as a non-conference opponent. "We'll need to look at that closely. Bill and I talked about that on the road last July, so never say never."

KU leads the all-time series, which dates back to 1931, 120-39. The Jayhawks have won the past 16 meetings and are 29-1 against CU in Big 12 games.

The Buffs' last victory was a 60-59 triumph on Jan. 22, 2003, in Boulder. That was the year of CU's last NCAA Tournament appearance.

CU will take its final trip to Lawrence as a conference rival to face KU on Feb. 19 at Allen Fieldhouse.

Notable

Higgins moved into sole possession of fifth place on CU's all-time scoring list with with 1,732 points for his career. Higgins passed Stevie Wise (1,727). ... Levi Knutson went 2-of-3 from beyond the arc, marking the eighth straight game he has hit at least one 3-pointer field (19 of 21 games this season). ... CU went 9-for-13 (69.2 percent) from 3-point distance as a team. KU went 10-for-24 (41.7 percent) from behind the arc.

Close Window

Send To Printer

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

college basketball

Kansas shoots sharp, edges Colorado 82-78 in Boulder

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 01/25/2011 08:09:19 PM MST

Updated: 01/26/2011 07:53:29 AM MST

BOULDER — Colorado's strategy entering Tuesday night's game against sixth-ranked Kansas was sound: Make the beefy Jayhawks beat CU from outside.

Unfortunately for the home team and most of the fans packing the place, Kansas did just that in an 82-78 victory over the Buffaloes before a standing-room-only crowd of 11,203 at the Coors Events Center.

It was tough enough that Colorado (14-7, 3-3 Big 12) had to try to contain KU twin power forwards Marcus (6-feet-9) and Markieff Morris (6-10). But when Kansas freshman Josh Selby and senior reserve guard Brady Morningstar began raining 3-pointers, the Jayhawks (19-1, 4-1) became almost impossible to stop — or even

slow down.

Selby, a 6-2 guard from Baltimore

regarded as the nation's top newcomer, entered the game hitting just 38.1 percent from the field. He looked almost automatic Tuesday night, finishing with a team-best 17 points.

"You've got to pick your poison against Kansas," said CU first-year coach Tad Boyle, who played in the backcourt for the Jayhawks in the 1980s and was team captain. "We wanted somebody running at (their shooters), but our rotations were a little late sometimes."

How difficult was it for Colorado to keep up? The Buffs made exactly half of their 28 shots in the first half but trailed 43-39 at the break because Kansas was even hotter from outside, bagging 53.1 percent from the field.

It's an uphill battle to play catch-up against anybody. Against Kansas, that almost always spells defeat. Colorado was looking for its first win over Kansas since a 2003 victory in Boulder. KU has won 43 of the past 44 meetings.

"We weren't expecting them to come out hot like that," said CU senior guard Cory Higgins, who scored 19 points. "We don't think they have a consistent outside shooter other than (Tyrel) Reed."

Still, Colorado had a real chance this time. Getting a game-high 25 points from Alec Burks, Colorado trailed for the entire

Advertisement



Send flowers for any occasion

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

ProFlowers

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

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

second half but pulled to within 78-76 when the sophomore guard converted two free throws with 31.6 second remaining.



Bufs coach Tad Boyle hollers during the first half of the Kansas-Colorado game Tuesday in Boulder. (Jack Dempsey, The Associated Press)

Accustomed to close games and big pressure, Kansas calmly made four free throws — including a pair by Marcus Morris with 16.9 showing — and held on.

Swinging the ball from side to side, Kansas was able to pick and choose among open looks.

"Offensively, we were very efficient," KU coach Bill Self said.

Even so, Colorado coaches and players believed the outcome might have been different had the smaller Buffs not been bullied on the boards by a 37-23 margin. A dozen KU offensive boards resulted in 21 second-chance points for the visitors. CU had but two second-chance points. Yes, two.

"That 21-2 was the difference," Boyle said. "End of story."

Colorado has dropped three straight Big 12 games after opening the league schedule with three victories. A difficult trip to Baylor awaits Saturday, but Boyle said he is not concerned with the psyche of his players — not after the intensity and focus they showed against Kansas. CU committed just six turnovers.

"We'll never be happy with the result," Boyle said. "But I'll go to the end with the effort these guys put out."

FG FT Reb

KU (19-1, 4-1) Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Marc. Morris 29 5-6 5-6 0-5 0 4 15

Mark.

Morris 26 3-6 0-0 4-11 0 2 6

Taylor 31 2-4 4-4 0-3 4 4 9

Reed 27 4-11 4-6 3-5 3 2 14

Selby 25 7-14 0-0 1-4 5 2 17

Withey 8 1-2 1-2 2-4 0 0 3

Morningstar 25 5-9 0-0 0-1 3 2 14

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™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST



Jayhawks coach Bill Self makes his point during the Kansas-Colorado game Tuesday in Boulder. (Jack Dempsey, The Associated Press)

Johnson 12 1-3 0-0 1-1 4 0 2

Little 17 1-2 0-0 0-1 0 3 2

Totals 200 29-57 14-18 12-37 19 19 82

Percentages: FG .509, FT .778. **3-point goals:** 10-24, .417 (Morningstar 4-7, Selby 3-6, Reed 2-8, Taylor 1-1, Johnson 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 2.

Blocked shots: 4 (Little 2, Withey, Mark. Morris).

Turnovers: 12 (Mark. Morris 3, Reed 3, Taylor 2, Marc. Morris 2, Morningstar, Selby). **Steals:** 2

(Selby, Little). **Technical fouls:** None.

FG FT Reb

CU (14-7, 3-3) Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Dufault 24 0-1 0-0 0-3 3 2 0

Tomlinson 29 3-6 0-0 0-0 3 4 8

Relphorde 31 5-13 2-2 0-3 3 3 15

Burks 33 7-14 10-11 1-6 2 1 25

Higgins 35 8-15 2-2 0-2 1 1 19

Sharpe 9 0-0 1-2 0-1 2 0 1

Roberson 19 1-3 0-0 1-4 0 4 2

Knutson 19 3-4 0-0 0-0 0 2 8

Eckloff 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Totals 200 27-56 15-17 4-23 14 17 78

Percentages: FG .482, FT .882. **3-point goals:** 9-13, .692 (Relphorde 3-4, Knutson 2-3, Tomlinson 2-3, Higgins 1-1, Burks 1-2). **Team rebounds:** 4. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Higgins, Roberson, Burks).

Turnovers: 6 (Burks 2, Relphorde, Roberson, Knutson, Higgins). **Steals:** 6 (Higgins 3, Burks, Roberson, Tomlinson). **Technical fouls:** None.

Kansas 43 39 — 82

Colorado 39 39 — 78

11,203. Officials —Tom O'Neill, Scott Thornley, Kipp Kissinger.

A —

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or
tkensler@denverpost.com

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

woody paige

Paige: Buffs can't beat KU, but they're for real

By Woody Paige
The Denver Post

Posted: 01/26/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

Updated: 01/26/2011 11:12:09 AM MST

BOULDER — Almost always, CU and KU were this far apart.

On Tuesday night CU and KU were this close together.

Just when it's time to say goodbye to the Big 12 and Kansas, the Buffs finally are screaming: "Hello."

Colorado lost to the Jayhawks. What's new? The Buffaloes are not the same old.

KU 82, CU 78.

Kansas is a national championship contender again.

Colorado, at least, and at last, belongs in same conference.

A couple more field goals, a few more free throws and a dozen more rebounds, and the Buffs win their second game against the Jayhawks in Big 12 history, and their first victory anywhere against Kansas since 2003.

But, truth is, Kansas still had the better team, had the motivation of winning after its first defeat of the season Saturday at home to Texas, and had the inspiration of sophomore Thomas Robinson — who may have been the most important player on Tuesday, and wasn't even in Boulder.

Robinson's mother died Friday night after suffering a heart attack. Lisa Robinson, a single parent, was 37. Thomas' grandmother died in December. His grandfather died Jan. 16.

Thomas was told of his mother's death by his 9-year-old sister. Instead of coming to Colorado, the forward — who says he wants to play in the NBA or become president of a Fortune 500 company — went home to Washington, D.C., to be with his sister. The rest of the basketball team will join him for the funeral this week.

There was a moment of silence in honor of the Robinson family before the game. Obviously, the Jayhawks were affected — particularly after playing through their grief Saturday.

On the other side, the Buffs had a better team than in recent seasons, had the motivation of the last Big 12 confrontation with Kansas in Boulder (where they had been 1-13 vs. the Rock Chalks) and had the need to bounce back after

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

consecutive conference defeats.

In order to get NCAA Tournament consideration, the Buffs could use quality victories — and/or a real stay in the Big 12 Tournament.

But the Buffs have grabbed a home-court *advantage*. Those Kansas fans who hide out until the annual basketball game in Boulder were drowned out.

CU had its second sellout — and fourth-largest home crowd in school history (despite the early 6 p.m. start and horrific traffic problems caused by incompetent local authorities). In three conference home games the Buffs have drawn more than 30,000 — which used to be what they would attract for the entire home conference schedule.

Athletic director Mike Bohn was scowling and beaming — miserable after the setback, happy about the prospects of the team and future games here.

"I think we'll have a bunch more sellouts this season," Bohn said. "Tad Boyle and the players have been incredible. We were so close, and we're close."

Boyle had his own mixed emotions.

"Except for rebounding, we did everything else right," he said. "We're scratching and clawing. And our fans have been absolutely terrific. They can grow with this team. We may have a few setbacks along the way, but (the fans) will

continue to help us get better."

It actually was a Big 12 atmosphere, but, of course, the Buffs are moving to the Pac-12. Perhaps they'll

[Submit Your Question](#)

**WOODY'S
MAILBAG**

The Denver Post

Post sports columnist Woody Paige fields your questions. Look for Woody's Mailbag on Thursdays.

go from longtime bottom feeders in one league to newfound top-enders in the other.

It actually was a great evening for Colorado basketball, even in defeat. The game was well-played, entertaining and down to the final two seconds. And people in Colorado are discovering college basketball in Boulder, Fort Collins and at the Air Force Academy. About time.

Kansas coach Bill Self was somewhat complimentary of the Buffs.

"Offensively, we won the game," Self said. "But they are pretty good because they spread you and drive you, and that is what we struggled with."

Too bad Buffs guard Alec Burks doesn't have a

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

twin.

The Jayhawks brought the Morris Bros. — Marcus and Markieff, who were not separated at birth. Markieff is an inch taller, a few pounds heavier, but Marcus is the best of the pair. The twins ended up with 21 points and 16 rebounds.

Burks ended up with 25 points and six rebounds — and brought the Buffs back from a 10-point deficit to a two-point difference down the stretch. But the 37-23 strength on the boards, a passing game that is special — "The ball never sticks to anybody's hands," Boyle said — and the maturity and experience gave Kansas the edge.

A thin edge.

Senior guard Cory Higgins said the Buffs "don't take moral victories."

Not anymore.

"We feel like we are a good enough team to where we can beat anybody."

The Buffs play at Kansas later in the season — and maybe the two will meet in the conference tournament. The Buffs still could beat this somebody.

Boulder and Lawrence are 582 miles apart in distance, but just two baskets apart in basketball.

Woody Paige: 303-954-1095 or
wp Paige@denverpost.com

Advertisement

Get a **FREE** ADT-Monitored Home Security System.*

(With \$99 customer installation and purchase of ADT alarm monitoring services. See important terms and conditions below.)

*\$99.00 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$35.99 per month (\$1,295.64). Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Certain restrictions apply. Offer valid for new SecurityChoice - An ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT Security Services, Inc. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. **\$100 VISA® Gift Card Offer: \$100 VISA Gift Card is provided by SecurityChoice and is not sponsored by ADT Security Services. Requires mail-in redemption. Call 1-888-407-2338 for complete restrictions and redemption requirements.

Call Now!

1-877-835-8373



Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

colorado basketball

Rapidly rising Colorado, not just Kansas, draws full house to Coors Events Center

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 01/26/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

BOULDER — The first student with his chest painted black and gold was spotted walking across campus toward the Coors Events Center at 4:15 p.m.

It was about 30 degrees and two hours before game time. Normally in winter in Boulder, this guy would require serious counseling. But this is a new basketball season at Colorado and Tuesday night wasn't a normal night.

This guy merely required a ticket.

Sixth-ranked Kansas, oh, mighty Kansas at 18-1, came to town to face a 14-6 Colorado team showing signs of legitimacy for the first time in nearly a decade. Colorado had upset ninth-

ranked Missouri, beat Big 12 preseason favorite Kansas State on the road and has a lock NBA first-round prospect in Alec Burks.

Kansas comes to Boulder every year, and usually it's just another home game for the Jayhawks. The Coors Events Center is more blue than black and considering Kansas had beaten Colorado 42 of 43 times, blue means more than just the crowd's attire.

Yet at 4:42, the Jayhawks came out to warm up to a hearty chorus of boos from a black-clad student section that outnumbered the Kansas faithful. By 5:05, the student section was two-thirds full. By 5:35, 25 minutes before tipoff, it was standing room only.

Scalpers hawked tickets. Lines to get in stretched around corners. The Coors Events Center, where the Buffaloes averaged only 6,267 a game last season, actually sold out at 11,203.

And the venom flowed thick. During a moment of silence for Kansas sophomore Thomas Robinson, home in Washington after his mother died Friday night, a Colorado student yelled, "(Bleep) Kansas!"

Yes, Tuesday night in Boulder, class was definitely out.

However, the game met the expectations. The Buffs, trying to stop towering twins Markieff and Marcus Morris, left the KU perimeter wide open. The Jayhawks had open shots all over the floor and jumped to a 27-17 lead.

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

The Jayhawks shot 53 percent in the first half and struggling freshman guard Josh Selby had 15 points.

But unlike most of the, oh, last 20-plus years, there was no early fan exodus. These Buffs, led by first-year coach Tad Boyle, can shoot. Hitting 6-of-9 3-pointers kept them in it in the first half, and after Levi Knutson's 3-pointer cut it to 35-33, Kansas called a timeout. That sparked an eruption that hadn't been heard here since the Buffs' last NCAA Tournament team in 2003.

In the end, however, this 82-78 loss, as close as it came, was just seen by more people. The Jayhawks kept drilling Colorado's defense and they crushed the Buffs on the boards. The 25 points from Burks, whom 36 NBA scouts from 23 teams came to see, weren't enough to rescue the Buffs.

"It's what college basketball's all about," Boyle said. "There were too many KU fans for my liking and I hope going forward, obviously we're going in the Pac-12, but whoever we're playing, UCLA, Arizona, I want the Oklahoma State crowd where it's 11,000 Buff fans."

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™

[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado
Friday, January 28, 2011

Publish Date: 1/26/2011

Buff's come oh so close

No. 6 Kansas holds off CU

By Brian Howell
© 2011 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — There were a lot of things the University of Colorado basketball team did well on Tuesday night.

The Buffs played well on defense. They played well on offense. They limited their turnovers. They played remarkably better than they did three days earlier at Oklahoma.

As good as the Buffs were at times, however, it wasn't enough to beat Kansas. Colorado took the No. 6 Jayhawks down to the wire at Coors Events Center but lost 82-78.

"We lost to a hell of a team," CU head coach Tad Boyle said.

Unfortunately for the Buffs, they've lost to that team a lot over the years. The Buffs (14-7, 3-3 Big 12) have dropped 16 straight and 43 of their last 44 against Kansas (19-1, 4-1). Since 1985, CU is 3-55 against the Jayhawks.

"Kansas, you don't get in the top five or top 10 by accident," said Boyle, who knows that well, considering he played at Kansas. "You've got to play your way in there. They've got good players, they're well coached, they're well prepared. Nothing comes easy."

It certainly didn't on Tuesday.

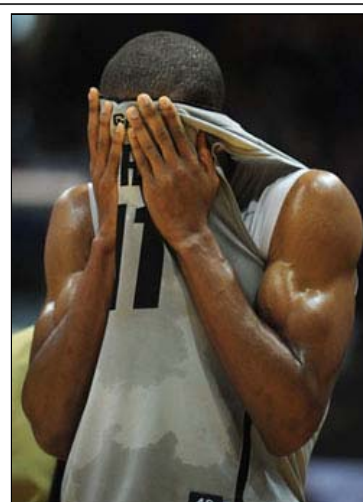
CU's Alec Burks led all scorers with 25 points, while Cory Higgins added 19 and Marcus Relphorde 15.

Kansas countered that with four players scoring at least 14 points, led by Josh Selby's 17. That balance helped the Jayhawks, who suffered their first loss Saturday against Texas, hold off the Buffs in the final minutes.

KU's Tyrel Reed scored six straight points to give the Jayhawks a 69-59 lead — their biggest advantage of the night — with 6 minutes, 16 seconds to play.

The Buffs chipped away at that deficit and got within two on a Higgins layup with 23.9 seconds to play. CU never could claw all the way back, though.

"It's tough playing catch-up," Relphorde said. "We tried to get off to a good start, because it's always hard playing catch-up, no matter what the team is, but especially a good team like that. We still had chances, though. Stuff just didn't



Colorado's Cory Higgins reacts to an 82-78 loss to Kansas at Coors Events Center. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

No. 6 KANSAS 82, COLORADO 78

KANSAS — Marc. Morris 5-6 5-6 15, Mark. Morris 3-6 0-0 6, Taylor 2-4 4-4 9, Reed 4-11 4-6 14, Selby 7-14 0-0 17, Withey 1-2 1-2 3, Morningstar 5-9 0-0 14, Johnson 1-3 0-0 2, Little 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 29-57 14-18 82.

COLORADO — Dufault 0-1 0-0 0, Tomlinson 3-6 0-0 8, Relphorde 5-13 2-2 15, Burks 7-14 10-11 25, Higgins 8-15 2-2 19, Sharpe 0-0 1-2 1, Roberson 1-3 0-0 2, Knutson 3-4 0-0 8, Eckloff 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-56 15-17 78.

Halftime — Kansas 43-39. 3-Point Goals — Kansas 10-24 (Morningstar 4-7, Selby 3-6, Reed 2-8, Taylor 1-1, Johnson 0-2), Colorado 9-13 (Relphorde 3-4, Knutson 2-3, Tomlinson 2-3, Higgins 1-1, Burks 1-2). Fouled Out — None. Rebounds — Kansas 37 (Mark. Morris 11), Colorado 23 (Burks 6). Assists — Kansas 19 (Selby 5), Colorado 14 (Dufault, Relphorde, Tomlinson 3). Total Fouls — Kansas 19, Colorado

go our way.”

The difference? That was unanimous among Boyle and the players.

“It was just rebounding — second-chance points for them,” Higgins said. “That was the biggest difference.”

Kansas outscored the Buffs 21-2 on second-chance points, thanks to 12 offensive rebounds.

“We got some stops; we just couldn’t finish the possession,” Boyle said. “Our guys, I thought they executed the game plan that was put in front of them as well as we can ask. We just have to finish possessions defensively. That was the difference in the game, without a doubt.”

Considering how the Buffs played last week, Tuesday’s effort was a positive for CU.

After starting Big 12 play at 3-0 — including two wins against ranked opponents — the Buffs lost a pair of road games last week against unranked Nebraska and Oklahoma. The Oklahoma loss, a 67-60 defeat on Saturday, was most disappointing. So coming back three days later to take the Jayhawks to the limit wasn’t so bad.

“We’ll never be happy with this result that happened tonight,” Boyle said. “But I’ll go to the end with this group when they put out that kind of effort. I thought we took a step forward tonight, even though we didn’t win the game. Sometimes results are all that matter, but when you’re a basketball coach coaching within the season, you just want to see improvement. I think we took a step forward tonight.”

Higgins, despite being disappointed about the loss, agreed.

“We don’t take moral victories,” he said. “We feel like we’re a good enough team to where we can beat anybody. But I guess it was a good step getting back to how we should be playing.”

That’s as close as the Buffs likely will ever come to accepting a moral victory. But as history has shown, moral victories are easier to get against Kansas than actual victories are.

“We talked as a coaching staff going in tonight, if we will compete for 40 minutes, we’re going to give ourselves a chance to win this game,” Boyle said. “We had a chance to win it; we just couldn’t get over the hump.”

Brian Howell can be reached at bhowell@times-call.com.

17. A — 11,203.

Tonight’s Colorado women’s game

Kansas State (13-5, 3-2 Big 12) at Colorado women (11-7, 2-3)

When/Where: 7 p.m. tonight, at Coors Events Center in Boulder

TV/Radio: FSN/760-AM

The series: In 66 meetings with the Wildcats, CU is 33-33. The Buffs are 16-12 against Kansas State in Boulder. Kansas State has won four of the last five meetings against Colorado.

Leading scorers: Kansas State — Brittany Chambers (14.9 points per game); CU — Brittany Spears (18.0)

Notes: Tonight would be Spears’ 112th straight start, tying a school record (Amy Mathern, 1989-93). ... CU is 11-2 at home this year. ... Both teams have played well on defense this season. CU is allowing 57.3 points per game, while Kansas State is allowing 52.2. ... Senior Chelsea Dale has started three straight games for CU, averaging 3.3 assists in those contests.

Brian Howell

[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado
Friday, January 28, 2011

Publish Date: 1/26/2011

CU looking for next win

By Brian Howell
© 2011 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — With three straight losses and no easy games in sight, the University of Colorado men's basketball team is in danger of sliding down the Big 12 standings.

CU head coach Tad Boyle isn't worried about the three losses, however. He's worried only about getting the next win.

"I don't worry about streaks, positive or negative," he said after his team lost to No. 6 Kansas, 82-78, on Tuesday. "I worry about the next game; I worry about the next practice. I'm not into streaks. It's about who is next on the schedule, and that's Baylor in Waco on Saturday."

The Buffaloes (14-7, 3-3 in the Big 12) were riding high after a 3-0 start to conference play. Now, they've got to find a way to get back in the win column.

"We expected to win tonight, so when you don't, it's disappointing, it's disheartening," Boyle said. "But the resiliency of this team is going to be tested now, and I believe in our guys 100 percent."

ROCKIN' HOUSE: As usual, attendance was high for Tuesday's game against Kansas. The attendance of 11,203 was the third-largest crowd in Coors Events Center history. Including Tuesday's game, seven of the top 11 crowds in CEC history have come with Kansas in town.

One difference was the ratio of Colorado to Kansas fans. Generally, the arena is more Kansas blue than CU black and gold. On Tuesday, there appeared to be a higher percentage of Buff fans in attendance.

"Our fans were great," Boyle said. "Our guys, I thought, rose to the challenge and fed off of it."

Even with fewer KU fans than normal, Boyle said there were "a few too many KU fans for my liking in our building."

STEPPING UP: Point guard Nate Tomlinson played one of his better games of the season. He scored eight points, dished three assists and didn't turn the ball over.

"I'm just getting healthy again," said Tomlinson, who has spent the past few weeks recovering from a hip injury.

Tomlinson had scored a total of one point in the first five Big 12 games. His 29 minutes were the most he's played in nine games.

"Nate was good," Boyle said. "He helped us on both ends of the floor. Nate took a major step forward tonight in the way he helped our team. He's not a turnover risk. That's why I like having him out there."

HITTING FROM DOWNTOWN: Kansas surprised the Buffs on Tuesday by coming out firing from 3-point range. The Jayhawks drained 10 from beyond the arc. Brady Morningstar hit four, and Josh Selby hit three.

"We weren't expecting them to come out hot like that," CU's Cory Higgins said. "We don't feel like they really have a

consistent knock-down shooter, outside of (Tyrel) Reed, but everybody was hitting shots.”

CU was impressive from 3-point range, too, hitting nine of 13. Marcus Relphorde was 3-for-4.

GETTING TIRED: CU hit a couple of stretches in the game where it couldn’t score. A costly stretch came in the second half, when CU went 4 minutes, 25 seconds between field goals. In that time, a four-point Kansas lead stretched to 10.

“We were exhausted,” Boyle said. “Our guys battled. We played a lot of guys a lot of minutes.”

TIP-INS: The Buffs were outrebounded 37-23. They had been outrebounded in only one of their first five Big 12 games. “(Rebounding) is all effort and heart,” Higgins said. “We’ve shown that we can rebound people. We just didn’t get it done today.” ... Higgins moved into fifth place on CU’s all-time scoring list (1,732 points).

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Multimedia](#)

- [Subscribe](#)

CU men's basketball falls to No. 6 Kansas

Rebounds prove fatal to Buffs

By Mark McNeillie on January 26, 2011

Like

8 people like this.

2

tweets

[CU vs. Kansas Men's Basketball: Click here for video.](#)

retweet

The slide continues.

CU men's basketball (14-7, 3-3 Big 12) fell to the No. 6 Kansas Jayhawks (19-1, 4-1 Big 12) in front of a crowd of 11,203 at the Coors Events Center Tuesday night. It was the Buffs third straight loss and the Jayhawks 16th straight win against the Buffs.

"I think we took a step forward tonight, even though we didn't win the game," said Colorado Head Coach Tad Boyle. "Results are what matter, but when you are a basketball coach, coaching within a season, you want to see improvement."

Sophomore guard Alec Burks led all scorers with 25 points, shooting 7-of-14 from the floor, and 10-of-11 from the foul line. Senior guard Cory Higgins shot 2-of-2 free throws en route to 19 points, and senior guard Marcus Relphorde had 15 points. Freshman guard Josh Selby led the Jayhawks with 17 points, four rebounds and hit 3-of-6 from behind the arc.

Kansas shot 50.9 percent, and 85.7 percent of their free throws. Colorado hit 48.2 percent of their field goals, 88.2 percent from the foul line and 69.2 percent of their three-pointers. The Buffs were out-rebounded 37-23 and on converted two second-chance points to the 21 of Kansas.

The Jayhawks set the tone from the start, as senior guard Tyrel Reed hit a three-pointer on the opening possession. The Buffs responded and got out to an early lead, but Kansas was strong behind the arc and quickly got back in front. A pair of three from senior guard Brady Morningstar at the 11:15 and 10:24 marks gave the Jayhawks a 10 point lead, but the Buffs hung around, never letting the lead get over 10.

At the half, Kansas led 43-39.



Kansas freshman Josh Selby drives between junior guard Nate Tomlinson and senior guard Cory Higgins during the first half of the Buffaloes' 82-78 loss to the Jayhawks on Tuesday night. (CU Independent/Patrick Ghidossi)

It was more of the same in the second half. Colorado would cut the Jayhawks' lead, and the Jayhawks would respond by either getting stops, or hitting three-pointers. Burks brought the game within four at the 9:48 mark after netting his free throw to complete a three point play.

Kansas again stretched their lead to 10 but a Burks lay-up at 3:53, and a Relphorde trey at 2:43 brought the Buffs closer.

Despite having their lead cut to four in the final minute, Kansas hit their free throws down the stretch, preserving, and eventually sealing the win.

Even in an improved performance from their last two games, Higgins said he wasn't happy with the loss.

"We don't take moral victories," Higgins said. "We feel like we are a good enough team to where we beat anybody, but I guess it was a good step back to how we should be playing."

Relphorde said playing from behind was a hard task.

"We tried to get out to a good start, because it is always hard playing catch-up, no matter what the team, but especially against a good team like [Kansas]," Relphorde said. "We had a chance, but stuff just didn't go our way."

Of the few things that went right, Boyle said that he was impressed with how the Buffs took care of the ball.

"We only turned the ball over six times; that is phenomenal in a game like that," Boyle said. "With how KU pressured us on defense, we took care of the ball."

Colorado will hit the road next, as it heads to Waco, Texas to take on Baylor at 11:30 a.m. Saturday Jan. 29.

Boyle said that he won't let the losing streak affect the way his team prepares for Saturday's game.

"It will be a totally different going against [Baylor's] zone, but we have to bounce back, so I don't really worry about streaks, positive or negative," said Boyle.

Contact CU Independent Sport Editor Mark McNeillie at Mark.mcneillie@colorado.edu.

Related Posts:

- [Men's basketball loses 82-78](#)
- [CU men's basketball falls in Norman](#)
- [CU men's basketball beats Bengals](#)
- [CU men's basketball get overtime win against CSU](#)
- [CU men's basketball beat OSU](#)

Like

8 people like this.

Share This:

Tweet

Facebook

StumbleUpon

Digg

Delicious

Posted in [Front Page](#), [News](#), [Sports](#) | Tagged [Big 12](#), [buffs](#), [Coors Events Center](#), [CU](#), [CU Men's Basketball](#), [kansas jayhawks](#), [Sports](#), [University of Colorado daily news](#)



Posted on Fri, Jan. 28, 2011

KU thinks of Robinson while beating Colorado

By J. BRADY McCOLLOUGH
The Kansas City Star

BOULDER, Colo. | The Kansas Jayhawks returned to the visiting locker room at Coors Events Center for what could be the last time on Tuesday night. They were greeted with messages from their biggest fan, who had been watching on television 1,700 miles away.

Thomas Robinson's cell phone was busy around 10 p.m. in Washington, D.C., as he congratulated his teammates on a key 82-78 victory over Colorado that kept the Jayhawks from falling into a deeper hole in the Big 12 championship race. KU forward Marcus Morris said Robinson told him, "Way to hold it down, cousin."

"We call each other cousin," Morris said, "even though we're brothers."

The actual relations can get a bit confusing. But in the four days since Robinson's mother, Lisa, died of a heart attack, it has become all too clear that the Jayhawks love Robinson like family. KU wore jerseys with a black emblem that featured the initials "LR" against the Buffaloes, and, before each of Morris' game-icing free throws with 16 seconds left, he tapped the symbolic piece of fabric.

"We're gonna hold it down for him," Morris said.

It would not be at all surprising if Robinson didn't recognize the team that played Tuesday night as he helped his family prepare for a Thursday morning memorial service. The Jayhawks escaped with their eighth-straight win in Boulder — a streak that should hold for quite a while with the Buffaloes headed to the Pac-10 next season — because they reversed some troubling trends.

For starters, No. 6 KU, which entered the game making just two-thirds of its free throws, hit seven in a row to close it out and 14 of 18 overall. This was in front of a Colorado student section that was going bonkers in the background.

"That wasn't tough," Morris said. "I've definitely seen better. I just had to step up and play the role of being one of the best players on the team and knock down free throws. At the end of the game, every point counts."

Then there was the play of freshman guard Josh Selby, who got the Jayhawks going with 15 first-half points that included a three-pointer that may have been taken from Folsom Field. A turned ankle hindered Selby in the second half, but he still finished with a team-high 17 points and added five assists.

The last positive change that occurred against Colorado is one Kansas fans had probably given up on happening. Senior guard Brady Morningstar, who has been in a shooting slump so long that the term slump doesn't really do it justice, scored 11 first-half points and finished with 14 — his first double-digit scoring game since Jan. 30 of last year at Kansas State, when he also had 14.

Morningstar made 42 percent of his threes during his sophomore season but was hitting just 24 percent entering Tuesday.

"It's been tough," Morningstar said. "Because I've never been through something like this."

Morningstar has been working with KU assistant coach Joe Dooley, who is considered quite a shooting guru around Allen Fieldhouse.

"Flick your wrist, keep your (butt) down," Dooley has repeated over and over again.

The Jayhawks, now 19-1 and 4-1 in the Big 12, can only hope that Morningstar's shooting wasn't related to the high altitude.

"We've been waiting for this for so long," KU guard Tyshawn Taylor said.

Kansas' victory, as usual, had its warts. KU struggled to contain the penetration of guards Alec Burks (25 points) and Cory Higgins (19) and allowed Colorado to shoot 48 percent as a team.

But, considering the Jayhawks' minds could have been elsewhere, with the 19-year-old Robinson in the nation's capital, this felt like a win to relish.

"It has been a rough week," Morningstar said. "We are thinking about him when he's back home. But we've still gotta play these games. We can't not play them because of a tragic thing happening."

SUPPORT FOR TEAMMATE

•KU's basketball team will leave today for Washington D.C. for a memorial service Thursday honoring Thomas Robinson's mother, Lisa, who died Friday of a heart attack. | **B4**

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