

Lappe's squad looking to move up

Consistency will be key as Buffs take on Wildcats

By Joshua Lindenstein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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The Colorado women's basketball team has proven its resilience after losses this season. The Buffaloes are 5-2 following defeats.

On the flip side, they've won consecutive games just once in the last 11 outings.

So how much importance are they placing on starting a little win streak tonight against Kansas State after a nice victory over Missouri on Saturday?

"It's not so much the two in a row but ... it will put us in fifth position in the Big 12 if we win this next game," CU forward Julie Seabrook said. "That's more of the focus than getting two in a row. Fifth in the Big 12 is a new spot for us."

Talk about a shift in mindsets. It's been at least since CU's 2007-08 WNIT season that the Buffs have been able to think about climbing so highly on the conference ladder six games into the Big 12 Conference slate.

The Buffs (11-7, 2-3) are one of only six teams with multiple wins in Big 12 play. They sit just a game behind Kansas State (13-5, 3-2) and Texas Tech (16-3, 3-2). A win over the Wildcats tonight at Coors Events Center (7 p.m., FSN Rocky Mountain) boosts the Buffs into at least a fifth-place tie with KSU. A win and a Texas Tech loss to Texas puts the Buffs in a three-way tie for fourth.

"All of us want to accomplish that and we'll do whatever it takes to do it," Seabrook said of the Buffs' preseason goal of finishing in the top half of the conference.

Big picture aside, the Buffs know a lack of consistency has been a stumbling block for them this season. And a win tonight helps them sustain a little momentum for the first time since beating overmatched Colgate (Dec. 30) and North Dakota (Jan. 4) in back-to-back games.

After tonight, the Buffs play six of their next nine on the road.

"We play Texas on the road, and we have yet to win a road game," freshman Brittany Wilson said. "So we need that momentum."

CU coach Linda Lappe said consistency is something she and her staff have been preaching all season. She said there are various factors that have played into the Buffs' up-and-down nature of late, including multiple players missing time with injuries.

Essentially, though, Lappe said it comes down to juniors and seniors being steadying forces for the two sophomores and three freshmen in the rotation.

"A lot of it is just challenging the upperclassmen to just bring it and have a certain level of expectation that they hold themselves to and they hold everybody else to," said Lappe.

Blythe, Dale to start

Guards Britney Blythe and Chelsea Dale are both slated to start for the fourth game in a row tonight despite point guard Chucky Jeffery returning to action against Missouri after missing two games with a concussion.

Lappe said she didn't have any set timetable for Jeffery's return to the starting lineup. The coach said Blythe has proven invaluable lately with the shut-down defense she is playing, a role that will likely see her matched up against KSU leading

scorer Brittany Chambers tonight.

"We can't replace that right now," Lappe said.

Practice privacy

CU's 6 p.m. men's game against Kansas Tuesday turned the women's practice into a bit of a circus as television crews and photographers set up around the Coors Events Center court and myriad NBA scouts, fans and the Jayhawks themselves began arriving early for the sellout.

The situation is one the Buffs won't have to deal with next year when their new practice facility is completed.

"It was tough because it was tough to keep (the players) all focused," Lappe said. "It was tough for me to stay focused on the floor with so many people moving around. I'm excited for our practice facility."

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CU women's coach Linda Lappe getting most from her team

By TOM KENSLEER |  No Comments

Armed with a roster lacking frontcourt size and exceptional jump shooters, first-year Colorado women's basketball coach [Linda Lappe](#) ^[1] sure has her team playing hard and smart.

Who would have guessed that a victory today in the 7 p.m. home game (FSN) against [Kansas](#) ^[2] State would already match the Buffs' conference win total (three) of a year ago?

Colorado (11-7, 2-3 [Big 12](#) ^[3]) ranks just 10th among [Big 12](#) ^[3] teams in scoring (63.7), 10th in field-goal shooting (.404) and dead last in free-throw shooting (.616).

But Lappe is getting the most out of her team's skill level with solid defense and scrappy effort. That should bode well for the future of the program as Lappe adds more talent.

[Kansas](#) ^[2] State (13-5, 3-2) has been victorious in its past two trips to Boulder. But in an oddity, the all-time series between the programs is even: 33-33.

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^[10]

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