

CU Buffs' rally comes up short vs. K-State

Jeffery leads CU with 20 points

By Joshua Linden Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Missed opportunities.

The Colorado women's basketball team is racking them up and getting tired of it.

Add Wednesday's 72-59 loss to Kansas State at the Coors Events Center to the list of games the Buffaloes would like to have back.

Playing with a chance to grab a share of fourth place in the Big 12, the Buffs (11-8, 2-4) fell behind early, rallied to take the lead in the second half and then went cold again down the stretch as the scrappy Wildcats made the plays necessary to win.

The Buffs lost for the fourth time in six games. Three of those -- Kansas, Oklahoma State and Kansas State -- have come in toe-stubbing fashion against beatable foes. And two of those setbacks have come at home.

"It's frustrating because we know these teams that we're losing to we should be beating," CU sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery said. "And it's like we're playing one half and not the other."

Instead of CU climbing the conference ladder, it was the Wildcats (14-5, 4-2) who seized sole possession of fourth place in the league. Instead of the Buffs equaling their Big 12 win total from a year ago with 10 games still to play, it was the Wildcats who did so.

"This is a huge win for us," Wildcats coach Deb Patterson said.

The Buffs admittedly lacked focus to start the game against a KSU squad with which they matched up favorably at most positions.

CU committed 13 first-half turnovers and fell behind 30-23 at the break against the defensive-minded Wildcats.

The Buffs woke up in the second half with a 15-2 run that gave them a 43-39 lead with 11 minutes, 5 seconds to play in the game. Brittany Spears drained a 3-pointer and hit a layup. Then Britney Blythe sank back-to-back treys. Chucky Jeffery finished it with a pair of buckets. And it looked as though the Buffs had taken control.

But just as quickly -- whether the Buffs were tired from playing catch-up or as Jeffery noted their minds wandered again -- KSU answered with a 13-2 spurt to take a 52-45 lead on a 3-point play by Taelor Karr with 7:33 left.

The Buffs got the deficit down to four with 4:18 to play, but the Wildcats reeled off eight points in a row, taking a 62-50 edge on a 3 by guard Brittany Chambers.

"That's why we have to play in the first half, because it is tough to fight and come back and claw," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "You're doing everything you can and your run is catching you up versus having your run put you up by 10."

The Buffs struggled to find any offensive flow against KSU for most of the night despite shooting decent (22 for 52, 42 percent) from the field. The Wildcats out-scored the Buffs 20-6 in the paint in the first half and 36-20 for the game. And CU

had several possessions that ended or nearly ended in shot-clock violations.

"I don't think it was them," CU forward Brittany Spears said. "It was us not moving the ball and finishing. We missed 18 layups.

Chambers led all scorers with 20 points on 7-of-12 shooting as she got to the basket for easy layups on multiple occasions. Her night led the way for four Wildcats with double-digit points. Forward Jalana Childs had 17. Taelor Karr added 13. And Kelsey Hill pitched in 12.

Jeffery, coming off the bench for the second game since returning from a concussion, looked like she was back to her old self again, especially in the second half when she scored 12 of her 19 points. She finished with seven rebounds, four assists, three steals and no turnovers.

Spears scored 13 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Blythe finished with nine points. And the Buffs committed just four turnovers in the second half.

But the sluggish start proved too much to overcome and left the Buffs again lamenting one that slipped away.

"It's the same story," Lappe said. "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results, and we have to quit doing it. We have to step up and know that every game is important."

K-State 72, Colorado 59

KANSAS STATE (72)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Karr 38 4-13 2-9 3-3 4 2 13

Childs 31 7-15 0-0 3-5 5 1 17

Chambers 35 7-12 1-4 5-7 3 0 20

Caron 6 0-3 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

White 19 2-3 0-0 0-0 1 1 4

Hill 28 4-6 3-5 1-2 1 2 12

Voronko 7 1-2 0-0 0-0 1 2 2

Brown 36 2-2 0-0 0-0 1 2 12

Totals 200 27-56 6-18 12-19 33 12 72

Assists (12): Karr, Childs 2, Chambers 2, White 2, Hill, Voronenko 2, Brown 2.

Steals (8): Karr 2, Chambers 2, White, Hill, Brown 2.

Turnovers (12): Karr 2, Childs 2, Chambers 3, White, Hill, Voronenko, Brown 2.

Blocked shots (2): Karr, Voronenko.

COLORADO (59)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Seabrk 29 0-3 0-1 0-0 8 2 0

Spears 30 4-10 2-4 3-4 7 2 13

Blythe 33 3-6 3-5 0-0 0 2 9

Wilson 26 2-9 0-1 0-0 2 1 4

Dale 26 3-5 1-2 0-0 0 4 7

MM-Peck 15 1-6 1-2 0-0 2 2 3

Jeffery 27 8-11 1-1 2-5 7 4 19

Hargis 14 1-2 0-0 2-2 6 0 4

Totals 200 22-52 8-16 7-11 33 17 59

Assists (11): Seabrook, Spears, Blythe 4, Wilson, Jeffery 4.

Steals (4): Blythe, Jeffery 3.

Turnovers (17): Seabrook 4, Spears 4, Wilson 5, Dale, Malcolm-Peck, Hargis.

Blocked shots (0).

Halftime score: Kansas State 30, Colorado 23.

Technical fouls -- none. **Attendance** --1,272.

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Spears becoming CU's 'Ironwoman'

By **Joshua Linden**stein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/27/2011 12:03:15 AM MST

If Brittany Spears' indifference toward all of the school records she's taking down wasn't genuine, her answers in regard to the feats would be merely cliché.

But for a Colorado basketball player who has more than once said her sole focus is on closing out her career with a winning season and some postseason flair, post-game exchanges like Wednesday's only seem to affirm Spears' tunnel vision.

Asked after the Buffs' 72-59 loss to Kansas State at the Coors Events Center about the significance of tying CU's all-time consecutive games started streak at 112, Spears responded, "I didn't even know about that. I guess it's nice."

The Buffs' new iron woman, of course, means no disrespect to Amy (Mathern) Lai -- with whom she now shares the record until likely breaking it on Sunday -- or any of the other Buff greats she's passing up. She's said she'll reflect on the marks after the [season.Spears](#) is just trying desperately to end her career on a high note after sophomore and junior seasons in which there was little for the Buffs to celebrate.

Nonetheless, the record Spears tied Wednesday might be the most impressive one she gets unless she takes down Lisa Van Goor's all-time scoring mark.

Lai, now an accountant in Boulder, started the final 112 games of her 1989-93 career. The only other Buff besides her and Spears to start 100 straight is Van Goor (1980-85). No Buff, however, has started every game of her career as Spears has the opportunity to do.

"Knock on wood that she keeps it going and something doesn't happen," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "I think it shows the amount of work she's put into her game and this program. Any time you can have that many starts in a row I think is something very, very special. Only a select few get those and she definitely is part of that select few."

The school record for most total starts in a career is 127 by Erin Scholz. With only 10 regular season games left, Spears will have to reach her goal of some postseason magic to attain that mark.

Spears (1,870 points) also on Wednesday passed Tera Bjorklund (1,858) for third place on the school's scoring chart.

Bench shortened

With only nine healthy players at best this season, every Buff in uniform has played in every game until Wednesday night.

Freshman guard Ashley Wilson didn't get into the CU loss, and freshman Rachel Hargis and sophomore Meagan Malcolm-Peck played only 14 and 15 minutes, respectively, as six players chewed up most of the playing time.

Lappe said she shortened her bench mainly to try and get her starters and top players in a rhythm after a sluggish first half.

"It wasn't any preconceived thing going in," the coach said. "It was just kind of how it worked out."

Notable

CU's bench scored 26 of its 59 points in the loss. ... The Buffs hit 8 of 16 3-pointers. ... KSU's 48-percent shooting was a CU opponent season high. ... With the win, KSU takes a 34-33 lead in the all-time series.

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THE DENVER POST

kansas state 72, colorado 59

Wildcats' Chambers steals the show

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 01/27/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

BOULDER — Colorado senior forward Brittany Spears tied a school record Wednesday night by making her 112th consecutive start. This game probably won't find a place in her scrapbook however.

Another Brittany, Kansas State sophomore guard Brittany Chambers, stole the show by scoring 16 of her game-best 20 points in the second half to lead the Wildcats to a 72-59 victory at the Coors Events Center.

Colorado was hoping to match last year's total of three conference wins, but the Buffaloes (11-8, 2-4 Big 12) went cold after a one-handed driving layup by Spears put the home team up 45-44 with 9:11 to go.

"We just lost focus after we caught up," said Spears, who finished with 13 points, five below her season average.

Kansas State (13-6, 4-2) won for the third straight time in Boulder and took a 34-33 overall advantage in a series that will be remembered for its close, competitive games.

"We're disappointed," CU first-year coach Linda Lappe said. "This was one we thought we could have. We let it slip."

Trailing 30-23 at halftime, CU finally pulled even with 13:02 to go when senior guard Britney Blythe swished a 3-pointer from the left corner to make it 39-39. But Kansas State players maintained their composure, worked for open shots and regained control with an 8-0 run.

"It's frustrating," said Chucky Jeffery, who led CU with 19 points. "After we got up, we lost focus a gain. We have to be aggressive all through the game."

KANSAS STATE (14-5, 4-2 BIG 12)

Karr 4-13 3-3 13, Childs 7-15 3-5 17, Chambers 7-12 5-7 20, Caron 0-3 0-0 0, White 2-3 0-0 4, Hill 4-6 1-2 12, Voronenko 1-2 0-0 2, Brown 2-2 0-2 4. **Totals 27-56 12-19 72.**

COLORADO (11-8, 2-4)

Seabrook 0-3 0-0 0, Spears 4-10 3-4 13, Blythe 3-6 0-0 9, B. Wilson 2-9 0-0 4, Dale 3-5 0-0 7, Malcolm-Peck 1-6 0-0 3, Jeffery 8-11 2-5 19, Hargis 1-2 2-2 4. **Totals 22-52 7-11 59.** **KSU 30-23. 3-point goals — KSU 6-18 (Hill 3-5, Karr 2-9, Chambers 1-4), CU 8-16 (Blythe 3-5, Spears 2-4, Jeffery 1-1, Malcolm-Peck 1-2,**

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Dale 1-2, B.Wilson 0-1, Seabrook 0-1). Fouled out — None. Rebounds — KSU 33 (Brown 11), CU 33 (Seabrook 8). Assists — KSU 12 (Childs, Chambers, White, Voronenko, Brown 2), CU 11 (Blythe, Jeffery 4). Total fouls — KSU 12, CU 17. A — 1,272.

Halftime —

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Lack of focus stings Buffs

By Brad Cochi

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BOULDER — How long a player can go without missing a start says a lot about her talent, character and toughness.

Brittany Spears made her 112th consecutive start against Kansas State on Wednesday, tying Amy Mathern's school record for most consecutive starts in Buffaloes history.

But, in her record-tying start, Spears scored just 13 points, and the Buffs lost 72-59 to the Wildcats at the Coors Events Center.

Spears, who didn't know about the record until after the game, said she was just unfocused.

"It was just me not being focused in the game," said Spears, who came in as the fourth-leading scorer in the Big 12 (18.0 points per game). "That was just it, just focus. It was nothing special that they did."

Spears wasn't the only unfocused Buff on Wednesday.

The Buffs (11-8, 2-4 Big 12) felt they let another game slip through their fingers, just like they felt after losses to Kansas and Oklahoma State. Head coach Linda Lappe said the loss is disappointing because Wednesday's home game was one they could have won and needed to win.

"It's the same story," Lappe said. "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results, and we have to quit doing that."

Sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery did her best to ignite the struggling Buffs, shooting 8-for-11 from the field to lead the team with 19 points. She also finished with seven rebounds, four assists and three steals.

But the Wildcats (14-5, 4-2 Big 12) had four players — Brittany Chambers (20 points), Jalana Childs (17), Taelor Karr (13) and Mariah White (12) — score in double figures.

Again, Jeffery chalked the disparity up to a lack of focus on game day.

"We have focus in practice, but if it's not in a game, it doesn't matter," said Jeffery, who looked good in her second game back since missing two games with a concussion. "It's just frustrating, because we know these teams we're losing to, we should be beating. It's like we're playing one half and not the other."

On Wednesday, the Buffs' poor half was the first, during which they committed 13 of their 17 turnovers to fall behind 30-23 at halftime. They fought back to briefly take the lead midway through the second, but couldn't keep it up.

With 10 games remaining in the Big 12 season, Lappe said the Buffs need to focus for two periods so their second-half runs will put them ahead, rather than momentarily catch them up.

The good news for the Buffs: They're 11-3 at home this season, and they will play three of their next five at Coors

Events Center.

Brad Cochi can be reached at bcochi@times-call.com.

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KANSAS STATE 72, COLORADO 59

KANSAS STATE (14-5, 4-2 BIG 12)

Taelor Karr 4-13 2-9 13, Jalana Childs 7-15 3-5 17, Brittany Chambers 7-12 5-7 20, Chantay Caron 0-3 0-0 0, Mariah White 2-3 0-0 4, Kelsey Hill 4-6 1-2 12, Alina Voronenko 1-2 0-0 2, Branshea Brown 2-2 0-2 4. Totals 27-56 12-19 72.

COLORADO (11-8, 2-4 BIG 12)

Julie Seabrook 0-3 0-0 0, Brittany Spears 4-10 3-4 13, Britney Blythe 3-6 0-0 9, Brittany Wilson 2-9 0-0 4, Chelsea Dale 3-5 0-0 7, Meagan Malcolm-Peck 1-6 0-0 3, Chucky Jeffery 8-11 2-5 19, Rachel Hargis 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 22-52 7-11 59.

Halftime—Kansas State 30-23. 3-Point Goals—Kansas State 6-18 (Hill 3-5, Karr 2-9, Chambers 1-4), Colorado 8-16 (Blythe 3-5, Spears 2-4, Dale 1-2, Malcolm-Peck 1-2, Jeffery 1-1, Wilson 0-1, Seabrook 0-1). Rebounds—Kansas State 33 (Brown 11), Colorado 33 (Seabrook 8). Assists—Kansas State 12 (Childs, Chambers, White, Voronenko, Brown 2), Colorado 11 (Blythe, Jeffery 4). Steals—Kansas State 8 (Karr, Chambers, Brown 2), Colorado 4 (Jeffery 3). Total fouls—Kansas State 12, Colorado 17. A— 1,272.