

Baylor rallies past CU Buffs

Boyle's squad falls to 3-4 in Big 12 play

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/29/2011 02:05:22 PM MST

WACO, Texas -- It was the perfect scenario for Colorado to steal a road win.

Down by two points. Final possession. Cory Higgins takes an open shot at the top of the key for a potential win.

Tad Boyle said he would want the senior captain to be the one with ball in his hands anytime.

This time Higgins missed, and Baylor hung on for a 70-66 victory over the Buffs on Saturday at the Ferrell Center.

"I'll shoot it again if I get the chance," said Higgins, whose miss came with 18 seconds left and CU trailing 64-62. "But that was just one shot."

The problem is it was the Bears who stole this game, outscoring CU 49-31 in the second half.

The Buffs -- after opening up a 17-point lead late in the first half -- had plenty of chances to silence Baylor's predictable surge down the stretch.

CU mostly took good shots but finished 11-for-34 (32.4 percent) from the field in the second half. Meanwhile, LaceDarius Dunn and his talented supporting cast made 15 of 25 shots (60 percent) after trailing 35-21 at the intermission.

"We didn't withstand their run like we needed to," said Levi Knutson, who finished with 10 points on a rare off game shooting (3-for-9). "They switched up defenses on us a little bit, but that shouldn't bother us. We battled, but we just couldn't get stops in the second half."

After an 8-0 run capped with two free throws by Alec Burks, the visitors led 35-18 with 44.7 seconds left before halftime.

But an offensive rebound and dunk by Stargell Love after a missed free throw cut the deficit to 14 points. Baylor extended the run to 10-0 after scoring the first seven points of the second half.

The tide had turned, and eventually Dunn gave the Bears their first lead (58-57) on a jumper with 2:58 to play. The Big 12's leading scorer finished with a game-high 26 points after CU held him to nine before halftime.

"We talked about winning the second half. Boy, they came out and instead of us punching them in the mouth, they punched us in the mouth," Boyle said. "We couldn't get stops and everything we worked for in the first 20 minutes was gone in the first part of the second half. They got the momentum on their side and the crowd in the game."

The Bears (14-6, 4-3) -- who were 0-6 this season when trailing at halftime -- had a five-point lead entering the final minute, but an old-fashioned three-point play by Burks brought CU to within 64-62.

After A.J. Walton missed a pair of free throws, Higgins attempted the shot that could have ended CU's losing streak. Dunn went 6-for-6 at the line after Higgins missed.

"We'll take that shot," Boyle said. "Cory is a guy I believe in, our players believe in him, our coaching staff believes in him."

The Buffs (14-8, 3-4) have now lost four consecutive games after a 3-0 start to Big 12 play.

"We just didn't get stops or make shots when we needed to," Higgins said of the second half. "I think we played good enough to win and the timely plays just didn't go our way."

CU will try to get back to .500 in conference play against Iowa State on Tuesday at the Coors Events Center.

"It's tough," Knutson said. "Every game in the Big 12 is going to be this way. We have to bounce back."

Baylor 70, Colorado 66

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Dufault 26 2-5 0-2 2-5 0 3 4

Tmlnsn 16 1-3 1-2 0-1 2 2 3

Rlphrde 27 2-7 0-2 1-3 1 4 4

Burks 34 6-19 8-8 2-6 1 3 20

Higgins 34 6-15 2-2 1-5 2 3 16

Sharpe 7 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 1 0

Coney 0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Rbrsn 27 3-7 3-4 10-11 1 4 9

Knutson 29 3-9 2-2 2-4 1 4 10

Totals 200 23-65 16-22 19-38 8 24 66

Percentages: FG .354, FT .727.

3-Point Goals: 4-16, .250 (Knutson 2-4, Higgins 2-5, Roberson 0-1, Tomlinson 0-1, Relphorde 0-1, Burks 0-4).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Dufault 2, Higgins).

Turnovers: 10 (Burks 4, Higgins 2, Roberson 2, Knutson, Tomlinson).

Steals: 12 (Knutson 4, Burks 3, Roberson, Sharpe, Dufault, Relphorde, Tomlinson).

Technical Fouls: None.

BAYLOR

FG FT Reb

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

P Jones 38 6-12 2-4 3-6 2 2 14

A Jones 27 1-4 0-0 1-5 0 1 3

Morgan 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Walton 28 3-4 0-2 1-3 4 3 8

Dunn 36 6-18 11-11 2-7 6 3 26

Ellis 22 1-2 0-0 1-3 0 3 2

Acy 32 4-5 5-7 1-9 0 2 13

Love 14 2-4 0-0 2-3 0 2 4

Totals 200 23-49 18-24 12-38 12 16 70

Percentages: FG .469, FT .750.

3-Point Goals: 6-13, .462 (Dunn 3-7, Walton 2-2, A. Jones 1-2, Ellis 0-1, Love 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 5 (Ellis 2, Acy 2, P. Jones).

Turnovers: 18 (Walton 4, Acy 4, Dunn 3, Love 2, A. Jones 2, P. Jones 2, Ellis).

Steals: 3 (Dunn, Acy, Ellis).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 35 31--66

Baylor 21 49--70

A -- 6,095.

Officials -- Duke Edsall, Rick Crawford, Brent Hampton.

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Roberson puts on show for Texas family, friends

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 01/29/2011 11:12:50 PM MST

WACO, Texas -- There were at least 50 Colorado fans at the Ferrell Center on Saturday.

That's how many family and friends Andre Roberson estimated made the trip here, including his parents, to see the freshman from San Antonio play a Big 12 game in the Lone Star State.

And Roberson responded to the support very well, finishing with a game-high 11 rebounds (10 offensive) during CU's 70-66 loss to Baylor.

"It kind of brings back the old days when they could watch me play in high school," Roberson said. "I just tried to focus on the game, but we lost."

With at least 10 games remaining, Roberson is already sixth on the CU freshman rebounding list. He only needs 59 more boards to break the record.

This was the 13th time the 6-7 forward has led the team in rebounding. And the Bears have one of the most physically gifted front lines in the country.

"Ten offensive rebounds by a true freshman against a group of athletes like that ... I mean, that kid continues to get better and grow and he amazes his coach," CU head coach Tad Boyle said. "He's going to be a good one. He just goes after every rebound, he's long, and he's a quick jumper."

"I couldn't be prouder of his effort."

CU and Baylor each had 38 rebounds. That effort on the glass gave the visitors a chance to win, but the Buffs shot 35.4 percent from the field.

"I'm very pleased with how we battled," said Roberson, who was averaging a team-best 7.1 rebounds entering the game. "I just wish we could have pulled it out and did some different things. You just learn from it and go on."

CU will play one more conference road game in Texas -- on Feb. 23 at Texas Tech -- before moving to the Pac-12 next season.

Bohn 'deeply

disappointed'

CU athletic director Mike Bohn e-mailed a letter to students thanking them for their support against No. 6 Kansas and also admonishing them for a profane cheer directed at the Rock-Chalk visitors.

"Your excitement has made a significant difference in our home game environment and overall growth and prominence of the program over last couple of years," Bohn wrote. "You are engaged in the game, know basketball and serve as the heartbeat of the contest along with your colleagues in our pep band."

During parts of CU's 82-78 loss, the students responded to cheers by Jayhawks fans with an (expletive) Kansas! chant.

"However, I must say how deeply disappointed I and so many other Buff fans were in other aspects of your behavior at the game (Tuesday) night vs KU. The chanting of expletives at the opposing team is, quite frankly, an embarrassment to our university, athletic department, alumni and our team," Bohn, a KU graduate, continued. "We know that you know better and YOU should expect better behavior from your fellow students who attend the University of Colorado."

Meanwhile, Baylor's students made their feelings about the CU players -- "You suck!" -- clear while throwing in a few "Kill the ref!" chants during Saturday's game against the Buffs.

Series update

CU leads the all-time series 15-9 with a 3-6 record in Waco.

The Buffs beat No. 22 Baylor 78-71 last season at the Coors Events Center.

Quotable

"We liked the second half a lot better than the first half," said Baylor head coach Scott Drew, whose team erased a 17-point deficit by outscoring the Buffs 49-31 after the intermission.

Notable

Both coaching staffs wore tennis shoes as part of the Coaches vs. Cancer awareness campaign. ... A scout from the Portland Trailblazers made the trip to Waco to watch the game from press row. ... Dunn tied Kansas' Nick Collins for third place on the Big 12's all-time scoring list with 2,097 career points. ... Cory Higgins moved into 11th place on the CU assists list (283), passing Chauncey Billups (282, 1995-97).

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THE DENVER POST

college basketball

Baylor rallies in second half to knock off Colorado 70-66

By John Werner
Special to The Denver Post

Posted: 01/29/2011 01:59:48 PM MST

Updated: 01/30/2011 01:54:56 AM MST

WACO, Texas — Playing with great defensive intensity, Colorado appeared on the verge of making its last Big 12 trip to Baylor a memorable one.

But the Buffaloes watched a 17-point lead slip away as Baylor sharpshooter LaceDarius Dunn buried one big shot after another Saturday.

Dunn nailed eight straight free throws in the final 1:27 and finished with 26 points, leading the Bears to a 70-66 win over the Buffaloes before 6,095 fans at the Ferrell Center.

It was a tough loss for Colorado, which has dropped its last four Big 12 games after winning the first three. The Buffaloes (14-8, 3-4) have lost their last three games to Oklahoma, Kansas

and Baylor by seven points or fewer.

"I liked our guys' intensity,

focus and effort," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "I can't fault them for anything except not making enough shots. We've been right there on the road. It's a long season, and we're not counting ourselves out of it. It's time to regroup and pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and go get them."

The Buffaloes raced to a 12-2 lead and stretched it to 35-18 late in the first half. Colorado held the Bears (14-6, 4-3) to 33.3 percent shooting and forced 13 turnovers to go into halftime with a 35-21 advantage.

But the Bears scored the first seven points of the second half and kept pushing until they grabbed their first lead of the game at 58-57 when Dunn nailed a short jumper with 2:58 remaining.

A.J. Walton followed with a 3-pointer, and the Buffaloes played catch-up the rest of the way. Colorado pulled within two points four times in the final 1:38 and had a chance to take the lead when Cory Higgins missed a 3-pointer with 18 seconds remaining.

"I'd shoot it again if I had the chance," said Higgins, who finished with 16 points. "But that was just one shot. We should have had the game won by then. We just couldn't get stops when we needed to and couldn't make shots when we needed to."

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THE DENVER POST

Dunn hit six straight free throws in the final 17.2 seconds to seal Baylor's win. The Bears held Colorado to 35.4 percent shooting overall and 4-of-16 shooting from 3-point range.

"We got on our heels in the second half," Boyle said. "In the first half, we got the ball inside and to the high post and attacked the basket, and that's why we had success."

Alec Burks led CU with 20 points, but Burks and Higgins combined to go only 12-of-34 from the field.

The Buffaloes play Tuesday at home against Iowa State.

"We know we can win close games," Colorado guard Levi Knutson said. "We know there are a lot of games left to play and we've got a chance to make it up this week, and we've got to be ready to play Tuesday."

FG FT Reb

CU (14-8, 3-4) Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Dufault 26 2-5 0-2 2-5 0 3 4

Tomlinson 16 1-3 1-2 0-1 2 2 3

Relphorde 27 2-7 0-2 1-3 1 4 4

Burks 34 6-19 8-8 2-6 1 3 20

Higgins 34 6-15 2-2 1-5 2 3 16

Sharpe 7 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 1 0

Coney 0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

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Team rebounds: 2. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Dufault 2, Higgins). **Turnovers:** 10 (Burks 4, Higgins 2, Roberson 2, Knutson, Tomlinson). **Steals:** 12 (Knutson 4, Burks 3, Roberson, Sharpe, Dufault, Relphorde, Tomlinson). **FG FT Reb**

BU (14-6, 4-3) Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

PJones 38 6-12 2-4 3-6 2 2 14

AJones 27 1-4 0-0 1-5 0 1 3

Morgan 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Walton 28 3-4 0-2 1-3 4 3 8

Dunn 36 6-18 11-11 2-7 6 3 26

Ellis 22 1-2 0-0 1-3 0 3 2

Acy 32 4-5 5-7 1-9 0 2 13

Love 14 2-4 0-0 2-3 0 2 4

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Colorado 35 31 — 66

Baylor 21 49 — 70

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Longmont, Colorado
 Sunday, January 30, 2011

Publish Date: 1/30/2011

Taking the Lead

By Brian Howell
 © 2011 Longmont Times-Call

Cory Higgins has been an All-Big 12 performer — twice.

He has started nearly every game of his collegiate career. Now a senior, he's breaking records at the University of Colorado.

Hard to believe nobody wanted this guy coming out of high school.

"I feel I don't have that eye-popping athleticism, the eye-popping skills that other people have," Higgins said of why he didn't get a lot of attention from recruiters. "I just take pride because I know the game and I'm a lot smarter than other players. I really feel I can out-smart them, out-work them."

During the past four years, Higgins' intelligence and work ethic have led to him producing one of the great careers in CU basketball history.

Chauncey Billups may be the best player in CU history. Guys like Donnie Boyce, Jay Humphries, Cliff Meely, Richard Roby and Shaun Vandiver certainly left their marks on the program.

The impact Higgins has had at Colorado can't be overlooked, however.

Higgins is currently the fifth-leading scorer in CU history. He has a good chance of passing Vandiver for fourth and an outside shot of passing Meely for third.

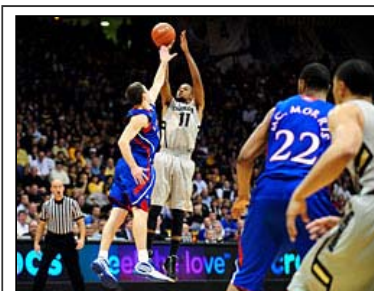
Higgins' spot on the scoring list isn't important to him, however. CU's spot in the Big 12 standings — and it's potential postseason destination — are what matter most.

"It's great now that it's coming in my senior year, having a lot more wins," said Higgins, who has helped the Buffs to a 14-8 record to this point. "I think I'm really going to walk away from this year knowing it was my best."

Higgins grew up in Northern California, near the San Francisco Bay. His father, Rod Higgins, played 13 seasons in the NBA and is currently the general manager of the Charlotte Bobcats.

"I think I have a huge advantage just because of the way I grew up," Higgins said. "There's not many kids that grew up like I did. I saw the work ethic that it takes for great players to be great. I saw what makes them good, outside of the obvious things."

It seemed destined that Higgins would succeed on the court, too. And, he did. At Monte Vista High School, he was



Colorado's Cory Higgins, center, puts up a jumper in front of Kansas' Tyrel Reed at Coors Events Center in Boulder on Tuesday. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

The Cory Higgins file

What: Senior on the University of Colorado men's basketball team

Date of birth: June 14, 1989, in Danville, Calif.

Honors: All-Big 12 Conference third-team in 2009 and 2010.

In the record books: Through Saturday, Higgins ranks first in CU history in free throws made (496) and minutes played (3,911). He is fifth in scoring (1,748 points).

Streak snapped: Higgins has started 115 of 116 career games. The only one he began on the bench was game No. 98, vs. Alcorn State on Nov. 23, 2010.

league MVP as a junior. He helped his team to a 69-15 record over three seasons, and he averaged 21 points per game as a senior.

Yet, despite his pedigree and his success, Higgins did get much attention from college recruiters.

"I just wanted to play in a big-time conference, and Colorado was the only school that would give me a chance," he said. "It was the best offer I had, so that's pretty much how I ended up here."

Higgins admits he didn't know a whole lot about CU's basketball history. But, he said, "To be honest, I knew we weren't that good of a program."

The Buffs went 7-20 the year before Higgins arrived. Their last NCAA Tournament appearance came when Higgins was in eighth grade. They've only been there twice in his lifetime.

"By my senior year, that was my goal, to have it turned around," he said.

It's been a slow process.

When Higgins was a freshman, the Buffs went 12-20. His sophomore year, the Buffs went 9-22. A year ago, they finished 15-16.

"It was very tough," he said of the losing seasons.

That's one area where being around his father helped. Higgins said he learned that NBA players battle adversity all of the time.

"Nothing's going to come easy," he said. "The easy way is to walk out and transfer. But, I didn't want to do that. I didn't want to be the guy that people think that's the type of person I am."

Piling on to the losing, Higgins lost the coach that brought him to Colorado. Jeff Bzdelik left CU to take the head coaching job at Wake Forest last spring.

"I felt like I put too much in, and I felt like we were way too close for me to leave now and have this whole thing fall apart," Higgins said.

Although initially upset about losing Bzdelik, Higgins said his understanding of the business end of basketball helped him. Higgins' maturity and understanding of the situation helped new coach Tad Boyle, too.

"I remember the first team meeting that I had with this squad when I got the job back in April and their eyes were the size of half-dollars," Boyle said. "There was a lot of emotions going through the team and individuals on the team. Cory is a guy that I pulled aside and, being his senior year, I said, 'You've got to keep the group together, not for my sake but for Colorado basketball's sake.' He really took that on as a challenge. He's been terrific."

Higgins knew the Buffs needed to stick together. That meant he needed to convince star Alec Burks, a freshman at the time, to stay. Burks entertained thoughts of going to the NBA or to another school.

"At first, I wasn't really with (the coaching change)," Burks said. "(Higgins) talked to me man-to-man and said I should stay. I listened to him. He had a big (influence) on the reason I'm here still."

Higgins knew he and Burks were pivotal if CU was to finally produce a winning season. So far, that has been true.

Burks is averaging 19.8 points per game, while Higgins is posting 16.2.

With Burks — who is projected as a first-round pick in this year's NBA Draft if he chooses to leave school — leading the way in scoring, Higgins' point production is down a bit from the 18.9 he had a year ago. Not that Higgins minds.

“It’s definitely the best year I’ve had since I’ve been here,” Higgins said. “I think the effort (from the team) is much more consistent. I just think we play so much harder than we have in the past and we pride ourselves on defense and rebounding more than in past years.”

That includes Higgins, who has developed his defensive game this season.

“That’s part of being a leader, knowing how you’re going to best help this team,” Higgins said. “We have more scorers than we’ve had in the past, so I don’t have to score as much. I need to do other things. I can’t just be a scorer. I need to be a defensive stopper, I need to get rebounds, I need to set people up. It’s allowed me to expand my game.”

Boyle said Higgins’ impact on the team this season can’t be measured in stats alone.

“He means a lot more to this team than just points, or even rebounds or assists,” Boyle said. “He’s our leader.”

Leading the Buffs is what Higgins has always set out to do. He came to a struggling program three years ago and made it his goal to leave CU as a winner.

“Once I knew I could make an impact when I got here, I felt like I had a good chance, if I just stuck to the course, that I could get it turned around by the time I was a senior,” he said. “A lot of people said there was no way that was going to happen, but I’d like to talk to a lot of people that said that now.”

“It’s real gratifying, knowing that hard work does pay off.”

Of course, Higgins knows the Buffs have a long way to go. On Saturday, they lost at Baylor, giving them four losses in a row. To earn consideration for the NCAA Tournament, the Buffs may need to win at least six of their last nine regular season games.

The goal is within reach and with Higgins leading the way, the Buffs could achieve it.

“It would mean everything to the people that support this program, too,” Higgins said. “If we could do that, that would be huge. Just knowing that I was a main part of the group that got this team back to the NCAA Tournament, that would be huge for me.”

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

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Longmont, Colorado
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Buffs' skid continues in Waco

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Colorado couldn't keep the ball out of LaceDarius Dunn's hands down the stretch, and the Baylor senior made the Buffs pay.

Dunn scored 26 points, including six straight free throws in the final 17 seconds, as the Bears rallied from 17 points down to beat Colorado 70-66 on Saturday and end a four-game losing streak against Big 12 North opponents.

Perry Jones III scored 14 points for Baylor (14-6, 4-3 Big 12), which had not beaten a Big 12 North school since outlasting Missouri 64-62 on Feb. 13 in Waco. Quincy Acy added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Alec Burks had 20 points to lead Colorado (14-8, 3-4), which lost its fourth straight conference game after a 3-0 start. Cory Higgins added 16 points for the Buffaloes, Levi Knutson had 10 and freshman Andre Roberson finished with nine points and 11 rebounds, including 10 on the offensive end.

Baylor took its first lead of the game on Dunn's short jumper from the left wing with 2:55 remaining, and A.J. Walton drained a 3-pointer seconds later to make it 61-57.

Baylor held a 64-62 lead in the closing seconds.

After Higgins' 3-pointer from the top of the key bounced high off the rim, Dunn beat everyone to the rebound, drew a quick foul and made both shots to make it 66-62 with 17 seconds left.

Twice more in the final 11 seconds, Colorado made quick buckets to cut the lead to two only to have Dunn work free on the inbounds play, draw the foul and make his free throws.

CU tried to deny Dunn on the final possession but couldn't contain him.

"We had a breakdown defensively," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "We wanted to keep the ball out of his hands. We wanted Walton to catch it because he had missed a couple of free throws. But Dunn is a good player. He stepped up like seniors do."

Boyle didn't second-guess Higgins' 3-point attempt.

"We wanted the first good shot we could get," he said. "If that's a 3 by a good shooter, we'll take it. I can't fault our guys in the last minute and a half of the game for trying to attack."

Higgins liked his chances, too.

"It felt good," he said. "I'd shoot it again if I get the chance. But that was just one shot. We should have had the game

CU women (11-8, 2-4) at Texas (13-7, 2-4)

When/Where: 1 p.m. today at Frank Erwin Center in Austin, Texas

TV/Radio: Longhorn Sports Network/760-AM

The series: Texas leads 15-4, including 7-1 in Austin.

Leading scorers: CU — Brittany Spears (17.7); Baylor — Chassidy Fussell (17.6).

Notes: Texas ranks second in the Big 12 in scoring (81.9 points per game), but is last in scoring defense (68.4). ... CU is 10th in scoring (63.4) and seventh in scoring defense (58.1). ... CU's Chucky Jeffery leads the Big 12 in rebounding (8.8 per game) and steals (3.2) and ranks 12th in scoring (14.8).

won by then.”

The Buffaloes raced out to a 35-21 halftime lead, outplaying the taller Bears in the paint and taking advantage of 13 Baylor turnovers, which they turned into 12 points.

Baylor opened the second half with a 21-9 run behind eight points from Jones to cut the deficit to 44-42 with 11:35 remaining. Colorado hung onto the lead for another seven minutes, but never regained the momentum.

“We talked (at halftime) about winning the second half, but they came out and instead of us punching them in the mouth, they punched us in the mouth,” Boyle said. “We couldn’t get stops. Everything we worked for in the first 20 minutes was gone in the first part of the second half.”

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WACO, Texas (AP) — Colorado couldn't keep the ball out of LaceDarius Dunn's hands down the stretch, and the Baylor senior made the Buffaloes pay.

Dunn scored 26 points, including eight straight free throws in the final 2 minutes, as the Bears rallied from 17 points down to beat Colorado 70-66 Saturday and end a four-game losing streak against Big 12 North opponents.

"Lace is as good a free-throw shooter as there is in the nation, if not the best," Baylor coach Scott Drew said after Dunn swished 6 of 6 in the final 17 seconds to thwart the Buffaloes' comeback. "Our players did a good job of finding him, and he did a good job of getting open."

Perry Jones III scored 14 points for Baylor (14-6, 4-3 Big 12), which had not beaten a Big 12 North school since outlasting Missouri 64-62 on Feb. 13 in Waco. Quincy Acy added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Alec Burks had 20 points to lead Colorado (14-8, 3-4), which lost its fourth straight conference game after a 3-0 start. Cory Higgins added 16 points for the



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Buffaloes, Levi Knutson had 10 and freshman Andre Roberson finished with nine points and 11 rebounds, including 10 on the offensive end.

Baylor took its first lead of the game on Dunn's short jumper from the left wing with 2:55 remaining, and A.J. Walton drained a 3-pointer seconds later to make it 61-57. But after Dunn made a pair of free throws at the 1:27 mark, Acy missed one and Walton missed two more with 38 seconds left to give Colorado the ball, trailing by only two.

Then Dunn took over.

After Higgins' 3-pointer from the top of the key bounced high off the rim, Dunn beat everyone to the rebound, drew a quick foul and made both shots to make it 66-62 with 17 seconds left.

Twice more in the final 11 seconds, Colorado made quick buckets to cut the lead to two only to have Dunn work free on the inbounds play, draw the foul and make his free throws.

"The most important thing is the coaches and players have trust in me and try to get the ball to me," said Dunn, who came into the game shooting almost 82 percent from the line and finished 11 of 11. "It's my responsibility to knock down the free throws."

Colorado tried to deny Dunn on the final possession but couldn't contain him.

"We had a breakdown defensively," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "We wanted to keep the ball out of his hands. We wanted Walton to catch it because he had missed a couple of free throws. But Dunn is a good player. He stepped up like seniors do."

Boyle didn't second-guess Higgins' 3-point attempt.

"We wanted the first good shot we could get," he said. "If that's a 3 by a good shooter, we'll take it. I can't fault our guys in the last minute and a half of the game for trying to attack."

Higgins liked his chances, too.

"It felt good," he said. "I'd shoot it again if I get the chance. But that was just one shot. We should have had the game won by then."

The Buffaloes raced out to a 35-21 halftime lead, outplaying the taller Bears in the paint and taking advantage of 13 Baylor turnovers, which they turned into 12 points. Colorado held a 21-19 rebounding edge, and Higgins and Knutson each hit two 3-pointers.

Baylor opened the second half with a 21-9 run behind eight points from Jones to cut the deficit to 44-42 with 11:35 remaining. Colorado hung onto the lead for another seven minutes, but never regained the momentum.

"We talked (at halftime) about winning the second half, but they came out and instead of us punching them in the mouth, they punched us in the mouth," Boyle



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said. "We couldn't get stops. Everything we worked for in the first 20 minutes was gone in the first part of the second half."

Drew gave Dunn much of the credit for that as well.

"Lace did a great job being the only senior of keeping us together," he said. "When you're down 17 at home, it's easy to get separated and become individuals. We came of age to come back and win this game in the manner that we did. Earlier in the year, we wouldn't have won this game. I've seen a lot of progression."

Dunn, who is second on Baylor's all-time scoring list with 2,097 points, moved to within 92 of Terry Teagle's school-record 2,189. He needs 160 to surpass Texas Tech's Andre Emmett (2,256) as the Big 12's career leader.

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Q&A: University of Colorado coach Tad Boyle is focused on Colorado but still follows the University of Northern Colorado men's basketball team

BY [MATT SCHUMAN](#)
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University of Colorado men's basketball coach Tad Boyle has received a lot of national attention recently for the success he's had turning around the Buffaloes program.

While Boyle, the Greeley native and former University of Northern Colorado men's basketball coach, has seen his team lose four straight Big 12 Conference games, the Buffs have still surprised many by beating a pair of then nationally-ranked teams (Missouri, Kansas State) on their way to a 3-4 mark in conference and an 14-8 record overall.

While Boyle is the CU coach now, he keeps a watchful eye on his old team at UNC which is off to a rousing 7-0 undefeated record in the Big Sky Conference, 11-7 overall — before Saturday's game with Weber State University.

Boyle chatted with The Tribune recently in a phone interview and talked about everything from his current team to the impact his decision to leave UNC for the Buffs job has had on his former players and their fans.

The Tribune — You've had some success so far and garnered some national attention for what you've been able to do with the program up there. Has the success come maybe a little quicker than even you thought this early in the season?

Tad Boyle — You know, when you take over a program you never know what you have until you get into a season and figure out where your strengths are and where your weaknesses are and how your guys are going to handle being challenged and how they are going to handle adversity when it hits. So I don't know what I expected coming in, but I know my expectations here are no different than they were when I was at Northern Colorado in Greeley. We want to get better every day. We want to keep plugging and keep working. Obviously, we have got a couple talented players in our program and they have responded very well towards our staff and the new system.

Tribune — Are you surprised at how well your kids have adapted to what is a very different style of offense and defense than they have been used to over the last few years under (former CU coach) Jeff (Bzdelik)?

Boyle — One of the things that has been most rewarding is how open they are to the change and to our commitment to defense and rebounding. The one thing when I took over here in April is you look at the stats from the previous year, the one thing that jumped out at me is we were last in the league in defensive field-goal percentage and we were last in the league in rebounding. Those are two numbers that we were going to have to change if we wanted to move up in our league. So that is our plan every game we go into. Those are the two things we are looking to improve upon.

Tribune — You talked a little about facing this same challenge at CU that you did at UNC and changing the program and changing the culture there. How is it similar to what you experienced here and how is it different?

Boyle — Well, it's similar in that it comes back to your relationships with your players and how hard they are working on a day-to-day basis, and it's similar in the fact that you've got to recruit to your style and to your system going forward. We have hit the recruiting trail hard here just like we did at Northern when we got the job there. So there are a lot of similarities in what we're doing. I'm not reinventing the wheel. But as far as the differences, I think we have a couple of pieces to the puzzle in place here — a couple pretty talented players — all-league type guys that were here that may not have been at Northern when we got there. We had to recruit those guys or develop those guys. So the program is a little bit further along in the player-development part than it was probably at Northern Colorado when I got there.

Tribune — I know (UNC men's coach) B.J. Hill said the other day that he has basically two teams on his ESPN scoreboard that are his favorites — one is his team and one is your team. Is it kind of the same for you?

Boyle — Absolutely ditto. Without a doubt, I follow every score. I know who they are playing and when they are playing. My son knows how to get the bigskytv.org games on the computer, so when I've got a free night and they are playing, I am listening on the computer and certainly checking every box score. I have kept my distance with the players. I respected B.J. and their staff because they've got a job to do and it's his team. But I certainly have an emotional attachment to those guys that's pretty darn strong.

Tribune — I don't know how much you've had a chance to watch them this year, but what have you seen that maybe B.J. is doing differently then you did when you were here?

Boyle — The whole thing with B.J. that I talked to him about when I left was 'B.J., you've got to be yourself. Don't try to be Tad Boyle and be somebody that you're not. Just be yourself.' There are some similarities, but I can also see B.J. is putting his stamp on the program which he needs to do. I left him with a schedule that was a little harder, especially early, then maybe it needed to be or should have been. But that's the nature of our business. Some years, schedules really work out to your favor and other years, they might be a little tougher than you would like them to be. But they really bounced back well (from the nonconference season) and that is a testament to coach Hill and the players.

Tribune — I asked you if you were kind of surprised at how quickly it has turned around for you up there (at CU). Are you surprised at all how quickly (UNC) have gotten out of the gate in the Big Sky, going 7-0?

Boyle — No, not at all. I know what those players are capable of doing. They've got some great seniors — four seniors who have been in that program for years and have grown and developed and know what the Big Sky is all about. So I'm not surprised at all, and I am just pulling for them to win every darn game.

Tribune — I know you said that CU was your destination job. I'm sure there are a lot of people up here who were sad to see you go and maybe had some positive and negative reaction to your leaving. What's been the reaction from fans that you've kept in contact with from here to the success you've had at CU?

Boyle — Listen, when you're a fan, if you're a true fan, you've got an emotional attachment to your team — hopefully to the players and hopefully to the coaches. So when somebody breaks away from that, it is human nature to be angry and to feel that you were let down a little bit. That's part of human nature. So to me, that's a good sign if somebody is mad. That means they wanted you there in the first place. So I look at that as a positive. Obviously, personally, it doesn't make you feel good because you don't want people to be mad at you or distrust you. But I made a decision that was certainly best for my family and for me professionally, and that is the hard part about the business of college athletics. Like it or not, it is a business and unfortunately sometimes you've got 18-, 19- and 20-year-old kids who you are having to deal with that who are learning those lessons the hard way. I learned it as a player at Kansas, having gone through the coaching change there and the players at UNC have experienced it this year. But they will all be better and stronger for it, I promise you that.

Tribune — Do you think a lot of those fans are now CU fans? Have you seen a lot of familiar faces from Greeley at games?

Boyle — I have. I think time heals a lot of wounds, and the one thing I want every UNC Bear fan to know is that I love that university. I love that community. I wouldn't be who I am and where I am today without the support that they have given me personally, professionally and our basketball program. But at the end of the day it is about the kids and that is what fans need to know and need to understand. That's why I love seeing the crowd support being so good in Greeley right now because they are showing up and supporting those young men who've worked awful hard to get the program where it is. So that's a good sign.

Tribune — Speaking of that fan support, one of the things fans would love to see is CU and UNC play in the future. You said you wanted to wait until the guys you recruited here graduated. Do you still feel that way? Do you still see that maybe being three or four years down the road?

Boyle — Yeah, we'll see. That is something B.J. and I can talk about. Obviously, this year there was no way that I was going to do it. But maybe it's not three or four years down the road, maybe it's one or two. I don't know. We'll talk and discuss. Again, if I can help Northern Colorado in any way, whether it is scheduling a game with them or not a game with them, I am going to do whatever I can to help that program from afar. Not that there's a lot I can do. I'm out of it now, but I care deeply for it and for everybody in Greeley, so we'll see. I don't know if it will be three or four years, but if I can help them, I will.

Tribune — As popular as you were, I think your son Pete was almost as popular with his dancing while mopping up the floors between timeouts at games. Has he garnered as much fan support up there (in Boulder) as he has down here?

Boyle — It's funny you ask that, because he has. He's still the same dancing ball boy or sweeper or whatever you want to call it. He's got his own cult following here in Boulder and people enjoy his uninhibited sense of being out there and moving his body to the beat of his own drummer.

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