

CU Buffs earn first true road win of season

Burks leads way with 19 points in road win

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. -- It appears anything is possible in 2011.

On a day when a heavy snowstorm moved through the San Gabriel Mountains, closing a stretch of I-5 and snarling traffic in both directions between Los Angeles and Bakersfield, the Buffs recorded their first true road triumph of the season.

Colorado improved to 10-4 with a business-like 85-73 victory over Cal State Bakersfield on Sunday night at Rabobank Arena.

The Buffs' last out-of-state non-conference road victory in the continental United States was a 60-59 victory over Utah on Nov. 21, 2006.

"It was a good win," CU head coach Tad Boyle said during his postgame radio interview on KKZN. "I thought our guys' mental approach was really good. I noticed it (Saturday) in practice before we flew out here. The guys were dialed in."

Five different CU players scored in double figures, led by Alec Burks' 19 points. Cory Higgins added 16 points.

The Buffs shot 49.2 percent from the floor and held the Roadrunners (8-6) to 35.4 percent.

"We'll take that every night, those are terrific numbers," Boyle said. "The thing we didn't do well was rebound the basketball, they had 14 offensive rebounds."

Overall, CU had 40 rebounds and Cal State Bakersfield finished with 38. Andre Roberson had 10 boards, Austin Dufault added nine, and Burks pulled down eight.

Alex Johnson scored 26 points to lead the Roadrunners, but Higgins was able to frustrate star guard Alec Johnson, who had 13 points on 4-for-15 shooting.

"I thought Cory was terrific on him. (Carter) got really tired," Boyle said. "He was 1-for-7 at halftime. Every shot he took was contested. Cory took it on as a challenge and did a good job on him."

"The Johnson kid made some deep 3s, NBA range. We talked about that at halftime, make him a driver and be there on his catch, and make him put the ball on the floor. We did that in the second half."

Cal State Bakersfield had won its previous five home games. CU beat Indiana on a neutral court just before Christmas but was 0-3 in true road games before getting the breakthrough victory on Sunday.

That made the Buffs' long bus ride to their hotel at LAX -- about a three-hour detour due to the inclement weather -- a little easier to deal with.

"This is a good basketball team we beat," Boyle said of the independent Roadrunners, who beat San Francisco last month, an opponent CU lost to early in the season. "They're not great, but they're a solid team. They have some kids who can shoot the ball."

The Buffs will wrap up the non-conference schedule against Western New Mexico on Wednesday at the Coors Events Center (7 p.m., no television).

Colorado 85, CS Bakersfield 73

COLORADO (85)**FG FT Reb****Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

Rlphrd 25 3-7 5-5 1-4 2 2 11

Burks 30 7-14 5-6 4-8 4 4 19

Dufault 27 4-9 2-5 3-9 2 3 10

Tmlinsn 19 2-3 0-0 0-2 0 3 6

Higgins 28 7-14 2-2 0-1 3 0 16

Sharpe 18 0-1 4-4 0-1 0 0 4

Coney 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Rbersn 25 3-5 1-2 1-10 0 1 7

Knutson 23 4-8 0-0 0-2 1 3 10

Mills 4 1-2 0-0 2-3 0 0 2

Totals 200 31-63 19-24 11-40 12 16 85

Percentages: FG .492, FT .792.**3-Point Goals:** 4-16, .250 (Tomlinson 2-3, Knutson 2-5, Roberson 0-1, Relphorde 0-1, Dufault 0-1, Burks 0-2, Higgins 0-3).**Team Rebounds:** 0.**Blocked Shots:** 1 (Higgins).**Turnovers:** 11 (Sharpe 3, Burks 2, Roberson 2, Dufault, Higgins, Relphorde, Tomlinson).**Steals:** 10 (Tomlinson 3, Roberson 2, Higgins, Dufault, Burks, Sharpe, Knutson).**Technical Fouls:** None.**CS BAKERSFIELD (73)****FG FT Reb****Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

Savage 32 2-8 0-0 9-16 1 0 4

Carter 31 4-15 5-6 2-6 3 2 13

Brown 13 1-1 0-0 0-2 0 3 2

AJhnsn 36 10-21 0-0 0-4 0 1 26

Bragg 26 3-8 7-8 0-2 3 3 15

Jones 10 0-0 1-2 1-3 0 0 1

Hayes 3 1-2 0-0 0-1 0 2 3

Kale 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

DJhnsn 17 0-4 2-2 1-2 0 4 2

Baker 22 1-4 3-4 0-0 2 4 5

Albright 7 1-2 0-0 0-0 1 0 2

Totals 200 23-65 18-22 14-38 10 19 73

Percentages: FG .354, FT .818.

3-Point Goals: 9-21, .429 (A. Johnson 6-13, Bragg 2-4, Hayes 1-2, Carter 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 0.

Turnovers: 13 (Carter 3, A. Johnson 3, Baker 2, Jones, D. Johnson, Savage, Brown, Bragg).

Steals: 9 (Carter 3, A. Johnson 2, Baker, Bragg, D. Johnson, Brown).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 47 38--85

CS Bakersfield 38 35--73

A -- 1,464.

Officials -- Mike Scyphers, Deron White, Milt Stowe.

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JANUARY 3, 2011, 9:26 AM

CU's weekend foe Missouri sweeps Big 12 weekly honors

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

From the Not-Exactly-Ideal-Timing File:

The Colorado men's basketball team (10-4) will open its final Big 12 season on Saturday with an 11:30 a.m. home game against a hot Missouri squad (13-1) featuring the conference's two reigning players of the week.

On Monday, Missouri junior guard Marcus Denmon was named Big 12 player of the week, and Tigers junior guard Matt Pressey, a junior college transfer, earned Big 12 newcomer-of-the-week honors.

Denmon, 6-feet-3, averaged 23 points last week in blowout victories over Northern Illinois (97-61) and Old Dominion (81-58).

The 6-2 Pressey averaged 16.5 points in those two games.

Colorado will complete its nonconference schedule Wednesday night in the Coors Events Center with what should amount to a warm-up game against Division II Western New Mexico.

Missouri also will have a breather on Wednesday when Savannah State visits Columbia.

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Longmont, Colorado
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Burks leads Buffs

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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — The University of Colorado men's basketball team finally got a win on the road.

Alec Burks scored 19 points to lead four Colorado players in double figures as the Buffaloes defeated Cal State Bakersfield 85-73 Sunday night.

CU (10-4) beat Indiana at the Las Vegas Classic on Dec. 23, but Sunday was the Buffs' first true road win since March 2, 2010, at Nebraska.

Cory Higgins had 16 points and Marcus Relphorde 11 for Colorado. Austin Dafaault contributed 10 points and nine rebounds for the Buffaloes.

Colorado has won 10 of its last 11 games when at least four players have scored in double figures.

Alex Johnson led all scorers with 26 points for the Roadrunners (8-6). He was 6-of-13 from 3-point range and 10-for-21 overall, but Cal State Bakersfield shot just 35 percent from the field. Colorado shot 49 percent.

Donavan Bragg added 15 points and Stephon Carter 13, while Rashad Savage pulled down 16 rebounds for Cal State Bakersfield, which had won its previous five home games.

It was the first meeting between the schools.

Freshman Andre Roberson also had a good game for CU. He had seven points and 10 rebounds — marking his fourth game this season with at least 10 rebounds.

Colorado led 47-38 at the half, as it shot 52.9 percent from the floor.

The Buffs wrap up the non-conference portion of their schedule on Wednesday, when they host Western New Mexico at Coors Events Center.

NOTES: CU has won back-to-back out-of-state games for the first time since Nov. 15-16, 2007, when it won two in a row during the America's Youth Classic in Madison, Wis. ... Burks had a season-high eight rebounds. ... CU had 11 turnovers, while the Roadrunners had 13. CU has had fewer turnovers in 13 of its 14 games.

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CSUB

Rusty Roadrunners fall to Colorado, 85-73

BY JEFF EVANS, Californian staff writer

jevans@bakersfield.com | Sunday, Jan 02 2011 09:14 PM

Last Updated Sunday, Jan 02 2011 09:35 PM

Images



Felix Adamo / The Californian

Roadrunner guard Donovan Bragg drives past Colorado's Alec Burks in CSUB
Arena.





Felix Adamo / The Californian

Rashad Savage of CSUB grabs a rebound from Colorado's Austin Dufault at Rabobank Arena.



Felix Adamo / The Californian

Colorado's Levi Knutson gets a hand in the face of CSUB's Donald Johnson as Johnson looks to pass.

The 11-day Christmas break came at the wrong time for Cal State Bakersfield.

The Roadrunners, who won five of six before Christmas, ran into a big and athletic University of Colorado team Sunday night. The Buffaloes cooled off CSUB, 85-73, in Rabobank Arena.

"Ideally we would have liked to have had a game before this one," CSUB coach Keith Brown said.

The Roadrunners started slowly, and twice trailed by 18 in the first half. They seemed a split-second slow on passes inside and struggled offensively, a marked difference from several hot-shooting games before Christmas.

"It wasn't because of lack of preparation or anything like that, I can assure you," Brown said.

The only effective CSUB scorer in the first half was junior guard Alex Johnson, who had 19 of his game-high 26 points by halftime. He was 5-of-6 on 3s in the first half.

"It's always tough when you take 10 days off," said Johnson, who tied his career-best scoring performance. "It's not that we didn't practice good enough. It's very hard to simulate the same rhythm and tempo in practice that you have in a game. Everyone was trying to figure out how to get that game tempo at the start of the game."

Colorado (10-4) won for the eighth time in its last nine games and snapped an eight-game, out-of-Colorado, non-conference road losing streak that dated to November, 2006.

CSUB (8-6) got its rhythm late in the first half, going on a 9-0 run to make it 47-38 at halftime.

Twice CSUB pulled within six in the second half. After a Colorado turnover, Johnson had an excellent look at the basket on a 3-point try that would have cut the Buffaloes' lead to three, but the ball bounced off the rim.

Donald Johnson's two free throws with 10:20 remaining pulled Bakersfield within 60-53, but Colorado's Levi Knutson sank two straight 3-pointers and Andre Roberson added a fastbreak dunk for an 8-0 run that made it 68-53 with 8:01 left. Colorado led by at least 11 points the rest of the way.

"I think this is the best team we've played this year," Johnson said.

Donavan Bragg added 15 points and Stephon Carter scored 13 for the Roadrunners. Rashad Savage added 16 rebounds, 11 in the second half.

"It's a setback, but Colorado's a good team," said Carter, who was only 4-of-15 from the floor with 6-foot-5 senior guard Cory Higgins the main defender against him. Higgins matched Carter's quickness and had a two-inch height advantage.

"He did a good job," Carter said. "He's a good player. I wouldn't mind having Cory Higgins guard me all the time."

Sophomore guard Alec Burks had 19 points and Higgins scored 16. Five Colorado players reached double-figures.

Brown noted that Colorado is a top-10 team in the nation in average points per game, field goal percentage and free throw percentage.

"They're very explosive offensively and every good in transition," Brown said. "We knew this game wouldn't come down to one stretch -- you'd need a couple of runs. ... We didn't have as much movement or flow as we had in our last four games, but you've got to credit them, too. They took some things away from us."

Sunday's game marked the first of several straight tough matchups. The Roadrunners travel to New Mexico for a game on Wednesday, then play in Stockton against UOP on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

"We knew these stretch of games after Christmas would be tough for us," Brown said. "We have nothing to hang our heads over tonight. This team is resilient and will be resilient again."