

# Storm rains on Boyle`s 'parade`

## Weather alters plan to reward players for work over holidays

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

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LOS ANGELES -- It's a good thing the Buffs won.

After Colorado's 85-73 victory at Cal State Bakersfield on Sunday night it took the team over six hours to bus back to the hotel at LAX.

A wicked snowstorm wreaked havoc on the Southern California roadways, closing I-5 in the Angeles National Forest and forcing the Buffs to eke their way back to Los Angeles through the San Gabriel Mountains on the equally treacherous Highway 14.

CU left Bakersfield at about 7:30 p.m. local time and finally checked into the hotel at 1:45 a.m.

"It would have been miserable," head coach Tad Boyle said when asked what the journey would have been like after a loss. "We wouldn't have had the same attitude."

The Buffs did not fly back to Colorado until Monday night. Boyle had planned on taking the team to the beach as a reward for their hard work during the holiday break, but it was still raining in Los Angeles throughout the day.

"I let them sleep in," Boyle said. "Then we went and ate at In-N-Out Burger."

While coaching at Northern Colorado, Boyle's teams made some tough road trips in the Big Sky Conference. But he never experienced a travel nightmare like the Buffs endured getting back to Boulder from Bakersfield.

"No, this was unusual," Boyle said. "But I do think this makes us a little tougher and appreciative of the way we normally travel in the Big 12."

CU uses chartered flights for conference games. However, the Pac-10 traditionally does not allow its member schools to fly charter, something the Buffs will have to deal with next season in the Pac-12.

Entering Monday's action, CU ranked first in the Big 12 in free throw shooting (77.9 percent), second in field-goal percentage (50.2 percent) and in scoring (84.3 ppg).

The victory over Cal State Bakersfield was the program's first out-of-state non-conference road win in the continental United States since a 60-59 victory over Utah on Nov. 21, 2006.

"It was a great trip because we won," Boyle said. "The guys were focused and dialed in."

CU wraps up non-conference play against Western New Mexico on Wednesday at the Coors Events Center.

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