



Senior Guard Brittany Spears led the team scoring 23 points against the Cowgirls.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



03/24/2011 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

Bufs Shock Cowgirls, Advance To WNIT Quarterfinals

LARAMIE, Wyo. - If the Colorado Buffaloes had forgotten how much fun the postseason could be, it's coming back to them pretty fast.

Surprising and suddenly with-it CU won its third consecutive WNIT game here Thursday night, stunning Wyoming 70-58 to advance to the tournament's quarterfinals. Drawing a future Pac-12 opponent for the second time, the Buffs will play Southern California on Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Coors Events Center, where CU played its first- and second-round WNIT games. (The Buffs defeated UC-Riverside 71-62 and California 81-65.)

Sunday's quarterfinal game should have the Buffs' full attention. USC defeated CU 68-54 in the Women of Troy Holiday Tournament in December, but the Buffs believe they're a different team - and the Cowgirls would be forced to agree after losing for only the fourth time this season (14 wins) in their Arena Auditorium (15,028 capacity).

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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03/25/2011



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Linda Lappe
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Statistics

The saucer-shaped venue was about half-full Thursday night, the third-round WNIT game drawing a season-high 7,247 after Wyoming had averaged 3,552 in the regular season. Half full or not, the volume was turned to the max.

"It was kind of nerve-wracking at times . . . I don't think I've ever played in any gym louder than that," CU sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery said. "It was pretty exciting - and pretty fun to make it go quiet, too."

The Buffs administered the silent treatment early. Senior Brittany Spears scored 19 of her team-best 23 points in the first half as CU (18-15) rolled to a 39-28 halftime lead. Wyoming (24-9) closed to within three points in the second half, but the Buffs turned deaf ears to the homefolk, regained their composure after a couple of slips and never lost the lead.

"The Nebraska game (a 64-61 CU win in Lincoln) really helped us out . . . it was Senior Night and they had about 5,000 there," said Coach Linda Lappe, whose team has won six of eight games since Feb. 23. "But this was completely different. I don't know that I've been in a building that was louder than this one . . . the crowd was into it and for us not to give up the lead was just huge. You have to give our players a lot of credit. We lost our composure for a little period of time and then we were able to regain it."

It happened with a collective effort. In addition to Spears' total, Jeffery added 16 points and freshman guard Brittany Wilson 15. But there were a handful of "step up" plays in the final half by other players that made the difference - a layup and a three-pointer by senior Britney Blythe, a three-point play by junior Julie Seabrook, a steal and layup under the Cowboys basket by Brittany Wilson, all coming when CU was desperately trying to hold a lead it had taken at 19-16.

"That's a huge part of how we've grown," Lappe said. "At the beginning of the year we didn't have players doing that, players who were ready to step up. Now, it doesn't matter who it is, everybody's ready to step up. They're not waiting for other people, they're taking it on themselves in the right way without being selfish."

In addition to her offensive work, Jeffery did a defensive job on Wyoming's Aubrey Vandiver, the MWC player-of-the-year and owner of a 19.1 average. Vandiver managed only seven first-half points and finished with 15.

"Chucky did a great job on her," Lappe said. "Our goal was to keep her to 15 or under. We knew we couldn't do much more than 15, but we didn't want to give her 20 to 30 points. (Jeffery) really kind of gave her fits throughout the night; she was physical with her and didn't let her get position. She did a nice job of not letting her get too many easy cuts to the basket or post up."

The Buffs had a tougher time with Cowgirls center Hillary Carlson, who scored a game-high 27, including going 12-of-16 from the foul line. Seabrook called Carlson "a great player . . . we all had a hard time guarding her."

The Cowgirls went to their locker room at halftime hoping the Buffs would chill out. Shooting 55.2 percent from the field and 53.8 percent from behind the three-point arc, CU led by as many as 13 (39-26) in the first half and was up 39-28 at intermission.

After a 14-14 tie, CU outscored Wyoming 25-12 to take a 39-26 lead on a banked-in three-pointer by Jeffery as the shot clock expired.

Spears scorched the Cowgirls in the first 20 minutes, during one stretch accounting for 15 straight points. She finished the half hitting eight of her 14 field goal attempts and half of her six three-point attempts. The Buffs finished the game 8-of-16 from three-point range.

"The ball kind of felt light to me," Spears said. "I thought if I could get it up it would go in. It felt different from ours."

Spears' 19 first-half points ties her seasonal high this season for a half (Cal) and matches Jeffery's total for the second half of the Colorado State game. Going into the locker room at halftime Thursday night, Spears had scored 52 points in her last three halves - the two against Cal and the first against Wyoming. She has been in double figures in 31-of-33





Quotes

Notes



Statistics

games this season and in 110-of-126 career games.

While CU was blazing, Wyoming was frigid, hitting just eight of its 27 first-half field goal attempts (29.6 percent) and only three of its dozen trey tries (25.0 percent).

Carlson, a senior from Cheyenne and a crowd favorite, scored the first two points of the second half and converted a conventional three-point play during a 12-4 Cowgirl run that cut the Buffs' lead from 45-34 to 49-46 with 12:33 to play.

In that nearly 5-minute span, CU didn't hit a field goal, managing only a pair of free throws each by Jeffery and Spears. Jeffery ended that drought with a drive through the lane and a layup. Over the next 4 1/2 minutes, CU held either a five- or three-point lead, but Brittany Wilson stole the ball under the Cowgirls' basket and hit a layup to send the Buffs ahead 57-50 with 6:30 left.

CU was back in control, eventually rebuilding its double-figure advantage.

"We never felt (the game) was out of our control, but there was a sense of urgency," Seabrook said. "We got a little flustered when we were up by only three points. But we've learned a lot about composure this year. We've had a lot of close games and it's taught us a lot . . . we were able to keep our composure and that was really a big thing."

Spears picked up her third and fourth personal fouls - No. 3 at 6:51, No. 4 at 6:00 - and went to the bench. The Buffs knew they had no choice but to play harder without her.

"We huddled when their girl was shooting free throws and said Spears is going out, so we've all got to pick it up, go the extra mile and do what we have to do," Jeffery said.

Added Seabrook: "We didn't ever want to give up our lead; that was a major thing."

Instead, with Spears on the bench, the Buffs increased their lead to 60-51 on Seabrook's three-point play with 4:22 remaining. And when Jeffery drained a three at the 3:30 mark, sending CU up 63-51, the big and boisterous Wyoming crowd was hushed.

The Buffs sealed the win by hitting seven of nine free throws in the final 2:05, then saluted about 150 CU fans who made the drive and boarded their bus for Boulder - anticipating Sunday's rematch with USC.

Said Spears: "We're totally different now; we've been through the Big 12, we've played against tough competition, we're more focused - just like we came in here (Thursday) night."

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SHOW MENU



CU Buffs women hold off Wyoming to advance in WNIT

Bufs next host USC in quarterfinals on Sunday

By Joshua Linden Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 03/24/2011 09:01:06 PM MDT

LARAMIE, Wyo. -- Don't board up the Coors Events Center for the season just yet.

The Colorado women's basketball team is coming back home for at least one more game.

Facing a spirited second-half rally from the Wyoming Cowgirls and a raucous Arena Auditorium crowd, the Buffaloes gritted out a 70-58 triumph on Thursday night to advance to the WNIT quarterfinals.

Brittany Spears scored 23 points, including 19 in the first half. And Chucky Jeffery and Brittany Wilson added 16 and 15, respectively, to pace the Buffs in front of 7,247 mostly Cowboy fans.

"I don't think I've played in any gym louder than that," Jeffery said. "It was pretty exciting. It was pretty fun to hear them go quiet, too."

By the time the Buffs had finally sealed things up with an 11-point lead and only 1:19 to play, it was the contingent of 100 or so CU fans who made the trip who were belting out their school's fight song from high in the stands.

The Buffs (18-15) now host future Pac-12 rival Southern California at 1 p.m. Sunday in a rematch of USC's 68-54 win back in December.

For a while Thursday, it looked like it might be the Cowgirls (24-9) moving on.

After the Buffs led by as many as 13 in the first half and 39-28 at halftime, Wyoming stormed back.

After a wild loose-ball scramble, former Broomfield High star and Wyoming forward Chaundra Sewell converted on a 3-point play to make it 49-46 CU and send the crowd into a frenzy.

The Cowgirls cut CU's lead to 3 two more times after that but could get no closer despite the Buffs getting into foul trouble and turning the ball over seven times after the intermission.

Spears drove to the bucket to make it 55-50 CU. Wilson got a steal and layup after a miss of her own. Julie Seabrook made good on a 3-point play thanks to a crisp bounce pass through the lane from Britney Blythe. And Jeffery drained a 3-pointer from the top of the key. The 12-1 surge made it 63-51 Buffs with 3:33 to play.

"We've learned a lot about composure this year," said Seabrook, who admitted there were a couple of points where the Buffs got rattled as the Pokes rallied. "We've had a lot of close games. I think especially on the road against Nebraska and Missouri (in wins), it's taught us a lot. And I think we were able to keep our composure and that was the key thing."

Tasked with guarding Mountain West Conference player of the year Aubrey Vandiver for most of the night, Jeffery rose to the occasion.

Vandiver, the daughter of former CU men's great Shaun Vandiver, scored 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds after averaging 19 and nine coming in. But she made just 5 of 16 shots from the field and found getting clean looks at the basket difficult all game long.

"Chucky did a great job," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "Our goal on (Vandiver) was to keep her at 15 or under. We knew we probably couldn't do much more than 15. But we didn't want to give her 20 to 30 points."

Wyoming managed to stay in the game after a hot-shooting first half by the Buffs thanks to dominant play inside by center

Hillary Carlson, who finished with 27 points and 11 rebounds. It was largely Carlson's play, for which CU had no answer much of the night, that led to Spears and Malcolm-Peck both getting four fouls.

Spears left the game with her fourth with 6 minutes to play in the middle of CU's 12-1 run, but the Buffs stayed the course and held on by hitting 7 of 9 free throws in the final two minutes.

Colorado's big first-half lead came thanks to 16-for-29 shooting from the field.

Spears scored 15 points in a row for the Buffs at one point as CU took a 14-14 tie and turned it into a 29-21 lead before Spears' run was done. The Buffs' largest lead was 39-26 after a Jeffery 3.

Spears added nine rebounds, while Jeffery had five rebounds and five assists.

"It feels good to win, especially on the road because it's everyone against you," Spears said.

Colorado 70, Wyoming 58 COLORADO (70)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

M-Peck 24 0-2 0-2 2-2 4 4 2

Seabrook 27 2-3 0-0 1-1 5 3 5

Spears 33 9-22 3-7 2-2 9 4 23

Blythe 33 2-2 1-1 2-2 0 0 7

B. Wilson 25 7-12 1-2 0-0 4 2 15

A. Wilson 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Dale 23 0-0 0-1 2-2 1 1 2

Jeffery 32 5-5 3-3 3-5 5 2 16

Hargis 1 0-1 0-0 0-0 1 2 0

Totals 200 25-50 8-16 12-14 32 19 70

Assists (6): Malcolm-Peck, Jeffery 5.

Steals (4): Blythe, B. Wilson, Jeffery 2.

Turnovers (12): Malcolm-Peck, Spears 2, Blythe 2, B. Wilson, A. Wilson, Jeffery 4.

Blocked shots (3): Spears 2, Jeffery.

WYOMING (58)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Kennedy 38 1-7 1-6 4-4 5 0 7

Sewell 30 3-6 0-0 1-1 4 4 7

Carlson 38 7-21 1-4 12-16 7 4 11

Richardson 37 1-2 0-1 0-0 1 4 2

Vandiver 40 5-16 1-4 4-6 8 1 15

Campigli 13 0-2 0-1 0-0 2 1 0

Sickles 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Landry 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 3 0

Totals 200 17-54 3-16 21-27 34 14 58

Assists (12): Carlson 5, Vandiver3, Richardson 2, Kennedy, Campigli.

Steals (4): Carlson 2, Sewell, Vandiver.

Turnovers (10): Carlson 2, Vandiver 2, Campigli 2, Kennedy, Sewell, Richardson, Landry.

Blocked shots (2): Carlson, Sickles.

Halftime score: Colorado 39, Wyoming 28.

Technical fouls -- None.

Attendance -- 7,247.

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CU women draining 3s in WNIT

By Joshua Lindenstein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 03/25/2011 12:03:10 AM MDT

LARAMIE, Wyo. -- When Chucky Jeffery is banking home not one but two 3-pointers, you know it might just be your night if you're the Colorado Buffaloes.

Wyoming fought back in the second half of CU's 70-58 win at Arena Auditorium on Thursday night. But the Cowgirls didn't quite have enough to catch the Buffs thanks to a 13-point first half lead that was sparked by 3-point shooting by the Buffs that has been deadly during their WNIT run.

CU made 7 of 13 treys in the first half in going up 39-26 and eventually 39-28 at halftime.

Brittany Spears, who scored 19 of her 23 points before halftime, made three from long range. Britney Blythe and Brittany Wilson each hit one. And Jeffery banked home two in the first half from the top of the key and made 3 of 3 for the game.

Jeffery's first banker pulled the Buffs even at 12 early, while her second made it 39-26. Her third came with 3:33 left in the game to make it 63-51.

The sophomore's long-range success was significant because it's not usually her game as she is most dangerous driving to the basket or pulling up for 15-footers. Jeffery had made just 10 of 31 3-pointers all year coming in to Thursday's game.

CU coach Linda Lappe said the team's 3-point shooting as a whole of late has been a sign of a healthy offense.

The Buffs made 10 of 22 treys in a second-round win over Cal and 6 of 15 in the first round versus UC Riverside. They were 8 for 16 Thursday.

"We're knowing where our shots are coming from and we're getting our feet set and taking them," Lappe said. "I like the pace of our offense right now. We're not in a rush. We're not trying to do things we can't. We have great ball reversals. We're moving it. And we're just taking what the defense gave us. It's the second time in a row we're just playing. Whatever the defense gives us we're taking it and stepping in with confidence and knocking down shots."

Proud papa

Former CU great Shaun Vandiver put his arm around daughter Aubrey after her last college game at Wyoming and consoled her as she walked down the tunnel at Arena Auditorium.

Aubrey Vandiver, the Mountain West Conference player of the year, scored 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds to finish off her decorated career.

As a Wyoming men's assistant in recent years, Shaun Vandiver had gotten to watch 10 or 11 of his daughter's games per season. But Thursday's game was only the fourth he'd seen this season because he is coaching at Boise State this season. The Broncos lost in the CBI men's tourney on Wednesday night.

"My boss gave me the blessings to come down and watch it after a tough loss," Shaun said. "It was a crazy day. I was stranded down in Denver the majority of the day trying to get up here. But other than that, as a father as a competitor as a former player, it was good to see her career."

Impressive atmosphere

It's one thing when CU's players call Arena Auditorium the loudest gym they've played in. When Lappe is doing the same, that's saying something after her career of playing in the Big 12 Conference and coaching at various stops.

The Arena Auditorium, which holds 15,000 fans, was rocking with 7,247 Cowgirl faithful and made for a hostile

environment for the Buffs as Wyoming rallied in the second half.

"I don't know that I've been in a facility that's been louder than it was tonight a few of those times," Lappe said. "You really couldn't hear and the crowd was into it. For us not to give up the lead I thought was huge. You've got to give our players a lot of credit. We lost our composure for a little period of time and then we were able to regain it and that shows a lot of growth."

Notable

CU improved to 2-6 all-time in postseason play on opponents' home courts. ... Colorado's bench outscored Wyoming's 18-0, with 16 of those points coming from Jeffery. ... Former Broomfield standout Chaundra Sewell finished with seven points and four rebounds for the Cowgirls. ... Spears' 23 points gave her 616 on the season, good for third on CU's all-time charts. Lisa Van Goor (678 in 1981-82) and Jackie McFarland (637 in 2007-08) top the list.

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Colorado beats Wyoming in WNIT

BOB MOEN, Associated Press

Updated 11:31 p.m., Thursday, March 24, 2011

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — There's another Colorado team making a run in the postseason.

Brittany Spears scored 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds as Colorado beat Wyoming 70-58 in the third round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament on Thursday night.

Colorado (18-15) advances to play Southern Cal in the quarterfinals.

First-year Buffaloes coach Linda Lappe spoke proudly of how her team played on the road in front of a hostile crowd of 7,247 fans in UW's Arena-Auditorium.

"This is a tough place to play," Lappe said. "I told our team coming in that only tough teams can win in this place. You can see why, it got so loud in that second half. I thought our players stepped up and never let the lead go, and I think that was huge to kind of keep the momentum."

Spears, an All-Big 12 first team selection this season as a senior, scored 19 of her points in the first half to help Colorado to an 11-point halftime advantage. The Buffaloes would never relinquish the lead despite Wyoming closing to within 3 points in the second half.

"When you're first team Big 12 that speaks volumes of how talented you are," Wyoming coach Joe Legerski said. "And we knew we were going to have a tough matchup and how we had to play."

Sophomore guard Chucky Jeffery added 16 points and five assists, and freshman guard Brittany Wilson contributed 15 points for the Buffaloes, who shot 50 percent from the field (25-50).

Wyoming (24-9) was led by senior forward Hillary Carlson's 27 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

Colorado gained a 39-28 lead at the half, but the Cowgirls closed to within 53-50 on a basket by Carlson at the 8:40 mark.

But Spears answered with a basket to start a 10-1 run that killed the rally, and the Buffaloes hit 7-of-8 free throws in the last 2 minutes to seal the win.

"We wasn't worried at all because we had the lead the whole game," Spears said. "We just knew we had to play defense, keep our hands up and stop fouling and stopping the clock."

Senior Aubrey Vandiver added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Cowgirls, who shot 31.5 percent from the field (17-54), including 3-of-16 3-pointers.

"I know their athleticism bothered us a little bit, but we just rushed some shots," Vandiver said.

Lappe said her team focused on trying to limit Wyoming's long range shooting.

"Our goal coming in was to keep them to five 3s or less, and we did that with three," she said. "We're really good when we play with our hands high, and I thought we discouraged a lot of their passes, a lot of their 3-point attempts."



Legerski likewise knew the Cowgirls had to shoot the ball well.

"We knew going into the game that there was some mismatches that didn't work in our favor and you just try to hope that you have a great shooting night to overcome that, but we didn't tonight," he said.

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Three-point shooting woes end Cowgirls' WNIT run

By ERIC SCHMOLDT

Star-Tribune staff writer

| Posted: Friday, March 25, 2011 12:30 am

LARAMIE — After Monday night's victory, Joe Legerski talked about his team's improved 3-point shooting.

He said he knew if his team shot 20 percent from beyond the arc against a Big 12 team, he'd be sitting at the postgame news conference speaking of how good the season was. After a loss.

Three nights later, he found himself in that predicament.

His Wyoming Cowgirls made just 3 of 16

3-point attempts, a number they couldn't overcome in a 70-58 loss to Colorado that ended their season in the third round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament on Thursday.

"You've got to shoot the ball better than this to be able to advance at this time of year," Legerski said.

The Cowgirls made just 3 of 12 3-point attempts in the first half before focusing more on pounding the paint.

Uncharacteristically, UW attempted just four shots from beyond the arc in the second half, missing all of them.

"Sometimes what happens is you think someone's closing to you a little quicker than what they are and you think you have to rush your shot when you really don't," Legerski said.

The Buffaloes came in focused on stopping the Cowgirls from outside.

The Cowgirls shot 31 percent or worse from outside just 10 times all season, but six of their nine losses came on those occasions.

They made three or fewer outside shots just four times all season — all double-digit losses.

"Our goal coming in was to keep them to five 3s or less," Colorado coach Linda Lappe said. "We're really good when we play with our hand high, and I thought we discouraged a lot of their 3-point attempts."

The Buffaloes discouraged enough of them to end a season that far exceeded the expectations that most held for the Cowgirls.

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THE DENVER POST

wnit

Spears sparks CU by Cowgirls in WNIT

Denver Post wire services

Posted: 03/25/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

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"This is a tough place to play," Lappe said. "I told our team coming in that only tough teams can win in this place. You can see why, it got so loud in that second half."

Spears, an All-Big 12 first-team selection as a senior, scored 19 of her points in the first half to help Colorado to a 39-28 halftime lead.

The Cowgirls closed to within 53-50 on a basket by Hillary Carlson at the 8:40 mark, but Spears answered with a basket to start a 10-1 run that killed the rally, and the Buffaloes hit 7-of-8 free throws in the last two minutes to seal the victory.

"We wasn't worried at all because we had the

lead the whole game," Spears said.

COLORADO (18-15)

Malcolm-Peck 0-2 2-2 2, Seabrook 2-3 1-1 5, Spears 9-22 2-2 23, Blythe 2-2 2-2 7, B. Wilson 7-12 0-0 15, A. Wilson 0-0 0-0 0, Dale 0-3 2-2 2, Jeffery 5-5 3-5 16, Hargis 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals 25-50 12-14 70.**

WYOMING (24-9)

Kennedy 1-7 4-4 7, Sewell 3-6 1-1 7, Carlson 7-21 12-16 27, Richardson 1-2 0-0 2, Vandiver 5-16 4-6 15, Campigli 0-2 0-0 0, Sickles 0-0 0-0 0, Landry 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 17-54 21-27 58. Colorado 39-28. 3-point goals —Colorado 8-16 (Jeffery 3-3, Spears 3-7, Blythe 1-1, B. Wilson 1-2, Dale 0-1, Malcolm-Peck 0-2), Wyoming 3-16 (Vandiver 1-4, Carlson 1-4, Kennedy 1-6, Richardson 0-1, Campigli 0-1). Fouled out —None. Rebounds —Colorado 32 (Spears 9), Wyoming 34 (Carlson 11) Assists —Colorado 6 (Jeffery 5), Wyoming 12 (Carlson 5). Total fouls —Colorado 19, Wyoming 14. A — 7,247.**

Halftime —

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Sports

Coming up short

Playing with a short bench catches up with the Cowgirls

By **SCOTT NULPH** /
snulph@wyosports.net

Published:
Mar 25, 2011

The University of Wyoming Cowgirls lived on the edge with a short bench all season.

It caught up with them one last time Thursday night in the third round of the WNIT.

The Cowgirls fell behind Colorado by double digits in the first half, climbed back within three on three different occasions, but had little left for the finish as the Buffaloes held on for a 70-58 victory before a season-best crowd of 7,247 at the Arena-Auditorium.



Wyoming's Jade Kennedy (14), left, Randi Richardson (3) and Ashley Sickles (13) make their way off the court after a 70-58 loss Thursday to Colorado. James Brosher/WyoSports photographer

Colorado (18-15) advances to host a quarterfinal game on Sunday against USC.

Wyoming saw its season end at 24-9. The 24 wins ties for third-most all-time. The loss also marks the second straight year UW ends its year in the third round of the WNIT.

"We worked really hard to get back from that deficit we were at halftime," UW senior Hillary Carlson said.

"We were there, I think it just took making those little plays, and unfortunately, we didn't make those small plays that make a big difference in the end."

Colorado led by 13 in the first half and by 11 at the break.

Twice Wyoming got within three and had the ball in the final 10 minutes of the second half. Each time the Cowgirls missed a 3-pointer.

Down 55-50, Carlson missed a one-and-one. CU missed on the other end, but Brittany Wilson stole the rebound from Jade Kennedy and made a layup for a 57-50 lead.

Colorado then pushed the margin to 63-51 on a 3-pointer by Chucky Jeffrey. Wyoming got no closer than eight points the rest of the way.

"We've been going with a short bench since November," UW coach Joe Legerski said. "You just never know when the legs leave 'em or the confidence."

One thing that didn't leave the Cowgirls was the play of its top two seniors.

Carlson, who averaged 22.5 points in UW's first two WNIT wins, went down swinging against the Buffs,

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scoring 27 points to go with 11 rebounds and five assists.

All three were team highs. The double-double was Carlson's seventh of the season and 14th for her career.

"It seemed like if we kept being aggressive they were going to foul us or we'd be able to score on them in the post," Carlson said. "That's where we had an advantage tonight."

Fellow senior Aubrey Vandiver added 15 points and eight boards while spending most of the second half guarding CU's top threat, Brittany Spears.

Spears scored 19 points in the first half, but just four in the final 20 minutes to finish with 23 to lead the Buffs.

"The second half we decided to put our senior on their senior," Legerski said of the matchup. "But it gets very difficult to ask an offensive player to also be your best defensive player."

Colorado also got 16 points off the bench from Chucky Jeffrey and 15 from Brittany Wilson, eight more than her season average.

CU shot 50 percent from the field (25 of 50), just the third team to do that against UW this season.

"They were athletic, but I don't think that was the difference," Vandiver said. "What really was the (difference was the) hole in the first half.

"I think at one point they were shooting 80 percent from three. I don't think they typically do that."

Wyoming finished the game shooting 31.5 percent (17 of 54) and only 18.8 percent (3 of 16) on 3-pointers.

Wyoming's four seniors — Carlson, Vandiver, Kennedy and Randi Richardson — ended their careers on Thursday as one of the most decorated senior classes in UW history.

"We're just really sad that our careers ended on a loss," Vandiver said. "But I'm really proud I got to play here and represent the university and I think we gave a really great effort tonight. I'm really proud of that."