

Cyclones spoil CU Buffs' NCAA bid

Colorado falls at Iowa State, 95-90

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 03/02/2011 07:39:40 PM MST

AMES, Iowa -- Tad Boyle didn't have any answers after the Buffs had their bubble burst here.

Colorado's first-year head coach did have a question for his assistants as they exited a somber losing locker room together:

"How did we not get beat by 30?"

The Buffs only lost 95-90 to Iowa State on Wednesday night at the CU house of horrors that is Hilton Coliseum.

It certainly could have been worse considering the Cyclones shot 70.4 percent (19-for-27) in the second half -- including a 12-for-18 barrage from 3-point distance -- and out-rebounded CU 40-32.

Losing in that fashion to the Big 12's last-place team spells NIT for the Buffs -- barring, of course, an improbably deep run at the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City., Mo., next week.

"Very surprised," Boyle said of his team's lackadaisical effort defensively and on the glass. "I knew what this game meant, our players knew what this game meant, our coaching staff knew what it meant, the whole nation knew what it meant. Those are the things that we can control.

"Extremely disappointing. There's no other way to put it."

The Buffs (18-12, 7-8) -- who entered the game as one of the "last four out" of the projected NCAA Tournament bracket at espn.com -- had a chance to move into a fifth-place tie in the Big 12 standings with No. 22 Missouri (22-8, 8-7).

But it was the Cyclones (16-14, 3-12) -- a team locked into the 12th seed for the conference tournament -- that came out ready to play and send seniors Darion Anderson, Diante Garrett and Jamie Vanderbeken off on a winning note.

CU missed 10 of its first 13 shots and fell behind 14-4 in the first five minutes after allowing Scott Christopherson to score seven consecutive points.

"Our goal is to win as many games as we can and get on a roll for the Big 12 Tournament," Vanderbeken said. "If we play spoiler, sorry."

CU trailed by as many as 12 points before a 19-6 run, capped with a Levi Knutson 3-pointer, gave the visitors their first lead (27-26) with 6:23 remaining in the first half. After a basket by Cory Higgins, the Buffs had a 35-30 advantage before the Cyclones answered with an 8-2 run before the break.

Iowa State led 38-37 at the intermission after out-rebounded the Buffs 23-15.

"We weren't defending from the get-go," CU freshman Andre Roberson said. "That all started from the beginning and it shouldn't have carried over to the second half. But unfortunately it did."

The Cyclones -- who were 2-for-10 from behind the arc in the first half -- made three quick 3-pointers to take a 49-39 lead with 16:16 remaining.

A 3-pointer by Christopherson gave Iowa State a 12-point cushion (54-42) before Higgins answered with a swish from behind the arc and Knutson added two more 3-pointers to cut the deficit to 57-53.

Marcus Relphorde added another timely 3-pointer, and an old-fashioned three-point play by Nate Tomlinson tied the score 64-64. But the Cyclones went on a 7-0 run from there and never really looked back.

"Of course, I'm second-guessing myself for not calling a timeout and saying, 'OK guys, we've made a major comeback here. Let's start from scratch,'" Boyle said. "Boom! We went down by seven."

CU, which fell to 1-19 at Hilton Coliseum in the last 20 trips to Ames, lost the offensive shootout despite getting 22 points from Alec Burks, 21 points from Relphorde, 16 from Knutson and 15 from Higgins.

Five different Iowa State players also scored in double figures, led by Calvin Godfrey's 23 points. The freshman was averaging 4.9 points per game on the season.

"It was just his night," said Roberson, who was guarding Godfrey when both were in the game. "I know most of it is my fault. Can't let that happen."

The Buffs will close out the regular season with their final Big 12 game against Nebraska on Saturday at the Coors Events Center.

The seniors will then try to do everything in their power at the Sprint Center to get into the Big Dance and avoid the possibility of playing another home game in the NIT.

"There's still basketball to be played, no question about it. We just made it a lot more difficult on ourselves," Knutson said. "Until that Big 12 Tournament is over, we've still got a chance."

Iowa State 95, Colorado 90

COLORADO (90) FG FT Reb

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

Tomlinson 22 3-6 1-1 0-2 3 1 8

Relphorde 32 8-16 0-0 4-7 1 3 21

Burks 36 9-19 5-7 3-9 4 1 24

Higgins 36 4-12 6-8 1-4 2 2 15

Dufault 16 1-4 0-0 0-0 0 3 2

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

Roberson 25 2-6 0-1 4-7 2 3 4

Knutson 29 5-8 2-2 0-3 1 4 16

Totals 200 32-72 14-19 12-32 14 17 90

Percentages: FG .444, FT .737.

3-Point Goals: 12-30, .400 (Relphorde 5-10, Knutson 4-4, Higgins 1-4, Tomlinson 1-4, Burks 1-5, Sharpe 0-1, Roberson 0-1, Dufault 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 0.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Roberson 2, Burks).

Turnovers: 7 (Relphorde 2, Higgins 2, Tomlinson 2, Sharpe).

Steals: 2 (Roberson 2).

Technical Fouls: None.

IOWA ST. (95) FG FT Reb

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

Ejim 21 4-6 0-1 0-3 2 0 8

Anderson 31 5-8 3-6 1-7 2 2 16

Garrett 40 6-16 3-3 1-3 7 3 16

Christopherson 37 7-11 0-0 0-2 6 1 17

Vanderbeken 35 4-9 5-7 3-10 1 3 15

Palo 12 0-2 0-0 0-2 0 3 0

Godfrey 23 10-11 3-3 4-11 0 2 23

Mitchell 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Totals 200 36-63 14-20 10-40 18 14 95

Percentages: FG .571, FT .700.

3-Point Goals: 9-20, .450 (Anderson 3-5, Christopherson 3-7, Vanderbeken 2-4, Garrett 1-2, Ejim 0-1, Palo 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 0.

Turnovers: 14 (Garrett 4, Anderson 4, Godfrey 3, Ejim 2, Christopherson).

Steals: 4 (Garrett, Vanderbeken, Anderson, Christopherson).

Technical Fouls: Godfrey.

Colorado 37 53--90

Iowa St. 38 57--95

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season.

Notable

Iowa State leads the all-time series 77-69, including a 48-18 edge in Ames and a 37-5 mark at Hilton Coliseum. ... The Buffs were 12-for-30 from 3-point distance. That was the exact same number of makes and misses CU had from behind the arc during a loss at Nebraska earlier in the season. ... CU finished 2-6 on the road in Big 12 play. The last time the Buffs won three conference road games was 1996-97 when Billups led the team to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. ... NBA scouts from the New York Knicks, Indiana Pacers and Cleveland Cavs attended the game.

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sports | CU basketball

Bufs' NCAA Tourney chances take big hit with loss at Iowa State

By **Adi Joseph**
Special to The Denver Post

Posted: 03/03/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

AMES, Iowa — The Colorado men's basketball team got into a 3-point contest with the Big 12's most prolific marksmen, and now the only long-shot is the Buffaloes' hope for an NCAA Tournament bid.

CU's 95-90 loss at Iowa State on Wednesday night leaves a team once squarely on the bubble after upsetting Texas with a bleak reality. The Buffs are now 3-9 on the road, and, at No. 77 in the Ratings Percentage Index, look to be an unlikely candidate for an NCAA at-large bid.

The loss was a product of a lack of discipline on both ends. Entering with a game plan based on penetration and drawing fouls, the Buffs fired up 30 3-pointers, making 12, but Iowa State made 9-of-20 and shot 70.4 percent from the field in the second

half.

"I was very surprised," CU coach Tad Boyle said of his team's lackluster play. "I knew what this game meant. The players knew what it meant. The coaching staff knew what it meant. The whole nation knew what it meant.

"Those (rebounding and defense) are things we can control. Extremely disappointed. There's no other way to put it."

The Buffs couldn't shoot with the Cyclones, who lead the Big 12 in 3-point attempts. They couldn't rebound with them, either.

Iowa State freshman Calvin Godfrey, who entered averaging 4.9 points and 5.0 rebounds per game off the bench, was a dominant force. Godfrey had 23 points — on 10-of-11 shooting — and 11 rebounds, paving the way for his team's 40-32 edge on the glass and a 19-9 advantage in second-chance points.

"I don't know — I guess it was just his night," said CU forward Andre Roberson, who broke Stephane Pelle's freshman rebounding mark and now has 221. "I know most of it was my part. I can't let that happen. It won't happen no more."

Iowa State led by 12 in the first half, but the Buffs mounted a comeback, taking the lead before entering the locker room down one. The Cyclones then opened the second half with another run,

but CU again mounted a comeback and tied it at

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Iowa State's Calvin Godfrey, who had 23 points and 11 rebounds, fights for a rebound with CU's Andre Roberson during the second half. (Charlie Neibergall, The Associated Press)

64.

Levi Knutson (16 points, including 4-of-4 from 3-point range) and Marcus Relphorde (21, 5-of-10) shot the Buffs back into it each time. But star guard Alec Burks wasn't his usual self. Despite a game-high 24 points along with nine rebounds and four assists, Burks was tentative early and made just 1-of-5 from beyond the arc.

A Relphorde 3-pointer brought CU within two at 83-81 with 2:03 remaining, but Iowa State made

7-of-10 free throws down the stretch. Cyclones senior Jake Anderson ripped the ball from Buffs senior Cory Higgins, who scored 15 points in his program-record 124th game, with 18 seconds remaining to seal the win.

With only Saturday's home game against Nebraska to play, CU's road to an NCAA Tournament bid will likely require a strong showing in next week's Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

"There's still basketball to be played," Knutson said. "We just made it a little more — a lot more — difficult on ourselves."

FG FT Reb

CU (18-12, 7-8) Min M-A M-A O-T A PF Pts

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0-1, Roberson 0-1, Dufault 0-1). **Team**

rebounds: 0. Blocked shots: 3 (Roberson 2,

Burks). **Turnovers: 7** (Relphorde 2, Higgins 2,

Tomlinson 2, Sharpe). **Steals: 2** (Roberson 2).

Technical fouls: None.

FG FT Reb

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ISU (16-14, 3-12) Min M-A M-A O-T A PF Pts

Ejim 21 4-6 0-1 0-3 2 0 8

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Technical foul: Godfrey.

Colorado 37 53 — 90

Iowa State 38 57 — 95

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Iowa State men's basketball: Cyclones pull away from Colorado, 95-90



Written by

RANDY PETERSON

3:56 PM, Mar. 2, 2011|

Ames, Ia .— The Iowa State men's basketball team that suddenly is winning is popping postseason tournament bubbles, all right.

The Cyclones may have knocked Nebraska out of the NCAA Tournament last Saturday, and Wednesday's 95-90 victory against Colorado at Hilton Coliseum may have done likewise to the Buffaloes' postseason bubble.

"The goal is to get on a roll for the Big 12 Tournament," Jamie Vanderbeken said. "If we play spoiler — sorry."

The Cyclones are rolling after answering a 10-game losing streak by winning two conference games in a row for the first time since beating Missouri and Oklahoma State in January 2008.

"I continue to look back at what could have been had we won a few of those close

games," said Iowa State coach Fred Hoiberg, whose team lost six games by six points or less.

Iowa State improved its records to 16-14 overall and 3-12 in the conference, while Colorado is 18-12 and 7-8.

"I knew what this game meant," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "The players knew what it meant. The coaching staff knew what it meant.

"The whole nation knew what it meant."

And it was a freshman, on a night otherwise dedicated to Iowa State seniors playing their final regular-season game at Hilton, who made the biggest difference.

Cyclone reserve Calvin Godfrey scored 23 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and missed only one of 11 shots in 23 minutes while providing a crowd of 10,679 a glimpse of the future.

"I didn't really mean to," he said of stealing

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the thunder of three senior starters. “I just wanted to do as much as I could and whenever I could.”

Vanderbeken, a senior, had a 15-point, 10-rebound performance. Senior Diante Garrett scored 16 points and had seven assists.

Senior Jake Anderson’s 16 points included a 3-pointer from the corner that provided his team an 86-81 lead with 1:38 left.

“No matter how many games we lost, we weren’t going to lose this one,” Anderson said.

Among many other reasons Iowa State won was 70 percent shooting after leading by a point at halftime.

That eye-popping 19-of-27 second-half accuracy included 7-of-10 from 3-point range in a game in which the teams combined to make 21 of 50 long-range shots.

“When you’re down one at half and a team comes out and shoots 70 percent, I mean — wow — how are you going to win?” Boyle asked. “I don’t know how we didn’t lose by more.”

Iowa State, which lost by 26 points at Colorado last month, had an 18-point edge on points in the free throw lane, and 19 second-chance points.

And they had Godfrey.

Cyclone blog: Tell Randy Peterson which Big 12 game are you going to — men or women?

“It was a reality check,” he said. “It shows me what I can do.”

It showed his teammates, too.

“He had a beautiful game, Anderson said. “That’s what we need from him the rest of the season if we’re going to continue on a roll for the Big 12 Tournament.”

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Posted on Thu, Mar. 03, 2011

Iowa State beats Colorado 95-90, wounding Buffaloes' tourney chance

Star news services

AMES, Iowa | It might have been senior night, but it was Iowa State freshman Calvin Godfrey who drew raves from the faithful at Hilton Coliseum on Wednesday night as the Cyclones downed Colorado 95-90, putting a dent in the Buffaloes' late-season push for an NCAA Tournament berth.

Godfrey scored a career-high 23 points and gobbled up 11 rebounds for his second double-double. Scott Christopherson added 17 for the Cyclones, 16-14 overall and 3-12 Big 12), who have won two straight after dropping 10 in a row.

"I knew what this game meant," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "Our players knew what it meant, the coaching staff knew what it meant and the whole nation knew what it meant. I am extremely disappointed."

Thanks to a full-court drive by Diante Garrett with 4 seconds left, Iowa State took a 38-37 halftime lead. But the Cyclones erupted after the break, hitting seven of their first eight shots to build a 10-point lead.

But Colorado — led by Grandview's Alec Burks, who had 24 points, and Marcus Relphorde, who had 21 — whittled away at the lead and finally forged a 64-64 tie.

Iowa State forged back in front and didn't trail again.

The Buffaloes, 18-12 and 7-8, did make a final run. Relphorde buried a three-pointer to pull his team within two, 83-81, with 2:03 left. But Jake Anderson answered with a three, and then Burks missed a scoop on the other end.

Godfrey punctuated his career night with a raucous slam with 37 seconds left.

He got a technical foul for the dunk, but it didn't end up hurting the Cyclones, who shot a blistering 70.4 percent in the second half.

"He had a beautiful game," Anderson said of Godfrey, who entered play averaging just 4.9 points and five rebounds. "That's the type of play that we need from him for the rest of the season for us to go further."

TOP 25 GAMES

- New Mexico 82, at No. 3 BYU 64
- No. 4 Pittsburgh 66, at South Florida 50
- At No. 4 Duke 70, Clemson 59
- At No. 11 Louisville 87, Providence 60
- No. 13 North Carolina 72, at Florida State 70
- At West Virginia 65, No. 16 Connecticut 56
- At No. 23 Xavier 68, Charlotte 48
- No. 25 Utah State at New Mexico State, late

OTHER BIG 12

- At Texas Tech 84, Oklahoma 58

HIGHLIGHTS

- Phillip McDonald** had 23 points — one of four Lobos in double figures — as New Mexico handed BYU just its third loss of the season.
- Nasir Robinson** scored 18 points and **Ashton Gibbs** added 16 as Pittsburgh clinched at least a share of the Big East championship.
- Duke's **Nolan Smith** scored 21 points and **Kyle Singler** had 18 in their final game at Cameron Indoor Stadium.
- Xavier secured at least a share of its fifth straight Atlantic 10 regular-season title, tying the league record.

- Louisville clinched one of the top four spots in next week's Big East tournament and a coveted double-bye into the quarterfinals.
- Freshman **Harrison Barnes**' three-pointer from the top of the key with 3 seconds to play gave the Tar Heels the victory.
- Oklahoma lost its eighth straight, hitting just 21 of 64 shots from the field, or 32.8 percent.

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