

CU Buffs roll in Lappe's debut

Jeffery, Spears lead way for women's basketball team

Joshua Lindenstein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/12/2010 07:45:25 PM MST



Click on any photo to see full gallery

Linda Lappe didn't want to term opening night for the Colorado women's basketball bittersweet.

The Buffaloes started off the new coach's CU career with a 76-38 rout of Division-II Regis at the Coors Events Center after all. Guard Chucky Jeffery nearly had a triple-double, and senior Britney Blythe had a career night.

But the victory was certainly tempered by news that promising freshman forward Shae Kelley has left the team for personal reasons and asked for a release from her scholarship.

With injuries and eligibility issues already leaving the Buffs shorthanded, CU suited up just eight players Friday night but still rolled to open a doubleheader with the men's team.

"It's a great win," Lappe said. "A win is never bittersweet. We're excited to be 1-0. We're excited to get the win. We wish Shae the best of luck. But we're really focused on our team and moving forward and getting better every day."

Jeffery scored 13 points, grabbed 12 rebounds, notched six assists and snared six steals -- most of which came before halftime. Blythe scored a career high 15 points, going 5-for-7 from 3-point land.

After a sluggish start that saw the Buffs go scoreless for the first three minutes as the two teams traded turnovers, CU dominated the rest of the way. The Buffs broke a 17-16 game open with a 38-1 run that spanned 11 minutes of the first and second halves. The Buffs led 55-17 with 15 minutes, 25 seconds to go in the game, and extended the advantage to as much as 43 at one point.

"It felt good," Blythe said. "Honestly, our teammates, we were all believing in each other and running on a high from the exhibition game, and this feels good. You could tell we had confidence and the ball was moving."

Blythe echoed Lappe's sentiments in wishing Kelley the best of luck. And CU players said the news didn't contribute to their rough start.

"I think we just came out to a slow start, but it had nothing to do with Shae," said senior forward Brittany Spears, who scored a game-high 20 points.

Regis (0-1) tied up the Buffs' offense early as CU struggled to get good looks against the Rangers' 2-3 zone defense.

But once the Buffs found the remedy it didn't take long to pull away. And while Colorado mended many of its own turnover problems, the Buffs' own pressure defense caused the Rangers fits all night.

Regis committed 35 turnovers to the Buffs' 22. But CU also took greater advantage of the miscues by outscoring Regis 42-7 off turnovers.

The Buffs also held Regis — led by Meagan Nickell's 11 points — to 32 percent shooting from the field.

"Any time your offense is struggling you use your defense, and our defense spurred our offense," Lappe said. "Any time you can get easy baskets, I don't care if it's a layup or a free throw, it really helps you feel confident on the offensive end in general."

Four Buffs scored in double figures, with Meagan Malcolm-Peck chipping in 10. Forward Julie Seabrook added nine and freshman guard Brittany Wilson scored six.

But it was Jeffery who shined brightest, racking up 12 points, nine rebounds, five steals and five assists before intermission.

"She's doing some really good things for us right now," Lappe said. "Tonight I thought she was unbelievable."

Colorado returns to action with its first road game of the season on Tuesday night against Denver.

Notable

Announced attendance was 2,183. ... With her four rebounds, Brittany Spears moved up to a tie for seventh on CU's career charts with Britt Hartshorn at 724. She passed Tera Bjorklund (723) and sits one behind Bridget Turner (725) for sixth. ... Coach Lappe officially announced the signing of three players to the 2011 recruiting class — 5-11 guard Lexy Kresl of Paradise Valley, Ariz., 6-2 forward Jen Reese of Clackamas, Ore., and 6-1 guard Jasmine Sborov of Round Rock, Texas.

Close Window

Send To Printer