

Boyle's CU Buffs can't finish comeback bid at Georgia

CU rallies from early 17-point deficit, but comes up short

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/16/2010 07:27:42 PM MST

ATHENS, Ga. -- It was the night the lights were shot out in Georgia.

At least early on.

Georgia made its first seven shots, built a 17-point lead and held on for an 83-74 victory over Colorado on Tuesday at Stegeman Coliseum.

With 9.9 seconds remaining, Tad Boyle received his first technical foul at CU after Cory Higgins fouled out on a questionable whistle. The argument with the official had more to do with the new head coach's appreciation for the Buffs' effort than the weak call.

"I told our players in the locker room, 'If you guys fight and scratch and claw, I'm going to fight and scratch and claw with you,'" Boyle said. "As long as we keep learning and get better we'll be fine. But we can never be satisfied with this result.

"And we're not. Our players aren't satisfied."

Thanks to red-hot shooting early -- combined with CU missing nine of its first 10 shots -- Georgia built a 31-14 lead with 6:22 left in the first half.

The Buffs stayed in the game at the free-throw line, knocking down 13 of 16 attempts over the first 20 minutes, and ratcheted up the defensive intensity.

The visitors capped a 19-2 run with back-to-back 3-pointers by Nate Tomlinson and Levi Knutson to tie the score 33-33 at the intermission.

"We came out too excited," Alec Burks said after scoring 21 points on 5-for-14 shooting. "We're a tough team and we played our way back in it."

CU, which had only seven turnovers in the 88-80 victory over Idaho State to open the season, had eight turnovers in the first half and 14 for the game.

Austin Dufault sparked the Buffs with eight points, including a momentum-changing steal and layup, in the first half. Burks also had eight points at the break while Higgins (two points, 0-for-3 from the field) watched the run on the bench with two fouls.

"We're disappointed," said Higgins, who finished with 15 points on 4-for-11 shooting. "We expect to win these games and we should have won. We didn't come out with enough stops when we needed them."

The Bulldogs (2-0) led 56-49 with 9:55 remaining, but a tip in by Dufault tied the score 59-59 and a rim-rocking dunk by Burks gave the Buffs a 62-61 lead with 5:39 remaining.

"We beat a well-coached Colorado team I was extremely impressed with," Georgia head coach Mark Fox said. "We got off to a great start, got in some foul trouble and gave up the lead, but I was proud that we were able to play well and come back down the stretch."

The Bulldogs were without preseason SEC player of the year Trey Thompkins (sprained ankle), but 6-foot-8 senior Jeremy Price (17 points) did enough damage in the paint to dispatch the Buffs. Gerald Robinson (21 points) also hit a clutch 3-pointer with 5:15 left to give Georgia the lead (64-62) for good.

"Every time they made a run our guys battled back, and I'm proud of them for that," Boyle said. "But we'll never be satisfied with this result, and I want our guys to keep fighting."

The Buffs (1-1) will have another road game on Saturday at San Francisco (8 p.m., no television).

Georgia 83, Colorado 74

FG FT Reb

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

Tomlinson 33 1-1 2-2 0-0 1 4 5

Relphorde 30 2-10 3-4 2-7 1 1 8

Burks 35 5-14 11-15 1-5 3 4 21

Higgins 28 4-11 7-8 3-4 0 5 15

Dufault 30 5-9 3-4 2-4 0 4 13

Sharpe 12 2-2 0-1 1-2 0 3 4

Roberson 16 0-1 1-2 1-7 3 4 1

Knutson 12 2-4 0-0 1-3 0 3 5

Eckloff 4 1-1 0-0 0-0 0 2 2

Totals 200 22-53 27-36 12-34 8 30 74

Percentages: FG .415, FT .750.

3-Point Goals: 3-14, .214 (Tomlinson 1-1, Knutson 1-3, Relphorde 1-5, Roberson 0-1, Burks 0-2, Higgins 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 2 (Roberson, Dufault).

Turnovers: 14 (Higgins 3, Burks 3, Knutson 2, Tomlinson 2, Sharpe 2, Relphorde, Roberson).

Steals: 8 (Higgins 4, Dufault 2, Tomlinson, Burks).

Technical Fouls: Bench.

FG FT Reb

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

Leslie 29 7-14 4-4 4-8 2 5 19

Ware 31 1-3 4-4 0-4 4 3 7

Nolte 34 1-4 2-4 1-4 1 2 5

Robinson 23 6-10 7-11 3-4 6 3 21

Price 17 7-9 3-3 0-2 0 4 17

Thornton 11 0-1 1-2 0-3 1 1 1

Barnes 21 2-6 5-13 6-8 0 4 9

V Williams 10 0-3 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

D Williams 6 0-0 0-0 1-2 0 2 0

Brantley 18 1-3 1-2 0-1 0 2 4

Totals 200 25-53 27-43 16-40 14 26 83

Percentages: FG .472, FT .628.

3-Point Goals: 6-15, .400 (Robinson 2-3, Leslie 1-1, Ware 1-3, Brantley 1-3, Nolte 1-3, Thornton 0-1, V. Williams 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 4.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Price, D. Williams, Thornton).

Turnovers: 20 (Robinson 4, Ware 3, V. Williams 2, Brantley 2, Price 2, Barnes, Nolte, D. Williams, Leslie, Thornton).

Steals: 7 (Nolte 2, Leslie 2, Thornton, V. Williams, Ware).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 33 41--74

Georgia 33 50--83

A -- 6,406.

Officials -- Mike Stuart, Jamie Luckie, Mike Thibodeaux.

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Free throws help CU stay in game

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/17/2010 12:02:41 AM MST

ATHENS, Ga. -- The Buffs are at least capable of winning a free-throw shooting contest on the road.

Colorado's 27-for-36 performance at the line kept the visitors in Tuesday's game before Georgia pulled out an 83-74 victory at Stegeman Coliseum.

"That's our motto every game: Drive and get to the line," Alec Burks said after knocking down 11 of 15 free throws and scoring 21 points. "We're a hard team to guard. We can drive and get to the line whenever we want."

Head coach Tad Boyle said CU settled for too many jump shots early in the shot clock to start the game, which is why the Bulldogs were able to seize a 17-point lead. As soon as the Buffs started playing better defense and attacking the paint they answered with a 19-2 run to tie the score 33-33 at halftime.

"Our defense really solidified those last 15 minutes of the first half," Boyle said. "It was about getting stops and playing inside-out. You have to do both of those things."

Cory Higgins was 7-for-8 from the line with 15 points. Austin Dufault also scored in double figures with 13 points and was 3-for-4 at the line.

"We started sharing the ball and attacking the basket and getting stops. When you do that you're going to create separation," Higgins said. "That's how we got back into the game. Anytime you can get to the free-throw line, that's easy points. That will keep us in a lot of these games."

Family reunion

Higgins' parents and brother, Rick, who was in the CU program last season, attended Tuesday's game and cheered the team on from the front row behind the CU bench.

Cory's dad Rod Higgins is the general manager of the Charlotte Bobcats. Rick Higgins, who had transferred to CU from Cal Poly, decided to end his collegiate playing career and is also working for the Bobcats.

Burks on Naismith list

Burks was one of 50 players named to the Naismith preseason watch list on Tuesday.

Georgia's Trey Thomkins, who did not play Tuesday due to an ankle injury, is also on the list. So are Big 12 standouts Kim English (Missouri), Perry Jones (Baylor), Marcus Morris (Kansas) and Jacob Pullen (Kansas State).

The watch list was compiled by the Atlanta Tipoff Club's Board of Selectors, which based its criteria on player performances from the previous year and expectations for the 2010-11 college basketball season.

The Naismith Trophy will be awarded at the Final Four in Houston. Burks and Higgins are also on the preseason watch list for the Wooden Award.

Series tidbits

Georgia leads 6-1, including a 4-0 edge in Athens.

Originally, former CU head coach Jeff Bzdelik had scheduled Georgia to visit the Coors Events Center this season in what would have been a midnight tip as part of ESPN's 24 hours of college basketball.

The Bulldogs will make the return trip to Boulder next season.

Quotable

"We`ve played in hostile environments before. The game was there for us to win, and we just didn`t come away with it," Higgins said.

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Bufs basketball falls to Georgia

Colorado's comeback can't prevent first loss

By Mark McNeillie on November 17, 2010

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Unlike their face-off at Folsom Field, the Bufs could not hold on against Georgia on the basketball court.

Colorado men's basketball (1-1) lost 83-74 to the Georgia Bulldogs (2-0) in Athens, Ga. at Stegeman Coliseum Tuesday night.

Buf's sophomore guard Alec Burks and Georgia junior guard Gerald Robinson led scoring with 23 and 21 points respectively.

Georgia managed to win despite shooting 27-of-43 from the free throw line, and shot 25-for-53 from the field. The Bulldogs dominated from behind the 3 point arc, shooting 6-of-15. The Bufs shot 22-of-53 from the field, and mustered only 3-of-14 from behind the arc. Georgia won the battle on the boards grabbing 40 rebounds to Colorado's 35.

The Bufs fell behind early, shooting 1-for-10, as the Bulldogs stretched their lead to 31-14 with just over six minutes left in the first half.

Colorado head coach Tad Boyle managed to get his team together, as they went on a 19-2 run, including shooting 13-of-16 from the foul line, to tie the game 33-33 at halftime.

The game went back and forth in the second half, and the Bufs used a 7-0 run to open a slight 64-63 lead with five minutes left.

The Bulldogs came on strong in the final minutes, coming up with big defensive plays and hitting clutch free throws to seal their victory.

Colorado will travel cross country to face San Francisco Saturday at 8 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Mark McNeillie at Mark.mcneillie@colorado.edu.



Sophomore guard Alec Burks goes up for a dunk during the first half versus Idaho State at the Coors Event Center Nov.12. The Bufs lost to the Georgia Bulldogs 83-74 Tuesday night. Burks led the game score with 23 points. (CU Independent file/Phil McMichael)

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Georgia holds off Colorado, goes to 2-0

By Andy Johnston
For the AJC

10:45 p.m. Tuesday, November 16, 2010

ATHENS -- Mark Fox warned his team about its poor free-throw shooting at a recent practice.

Georgia's players didn't heed their coach's words, but the Bulldogs made enough shots from the line in the final minute to hold off Colorado 83-74 at Stegeman Coliseum on Tuesday night.

Georgia struggled from the line, shooting 62.8 percent (27-for-43) for the game, but survived when Gerald Robinson and Dustin Ware combined to make seven free throws down the stretch. The Bulldogs started the season 2-0 for the first time since 2007.

"That was a real good learning experience because last year we probably wouldn't have won games like that," Georgia's Chris Barnes said. "It showed that we have grown as a team and matured a lot."

It was the second close victory in as many games for Georgia, which opened with a 72-70 victory over Mississippi Valley State.

Robinson finished with 21 points and 6 assists, Travis Leslie had 19 points and 8 rebounds before fouling out with 3:27 remaining, and Jeremy Price finished with 17 despite picking up his fourth foul with 9:38 left.

"We tried to guard them tough without fouling," Price said. "Our team motto is to guard tough without fouling. We just had a couple of rough calls, but we played through it and fought until the end."

Georgia didn't put the victory away until Colorado first-year coach Tad Boyle was called for a technical with 9.9 seconds left. Dustin Ware sank both free throws and Robinson added another to give the Bulldogs the final margin of victory.

Alec Burks led Colorado (1-1) with 21 points and Cory Higgins added 15.

The Bulldogs found themselves in foul trouble midway through the first half and sputtered offensively when Colorado finished with a 19-2 run to erase a 17-point deficit.

Georgia is still missing forward Trey Thompkins, who is out with a high ankle sprain, making depth an issue. Fox said Monday that Thompkins' recovery had not progressed and there is no timetable for his return.

Georgia was called for 26 fouls, giving Colorado ample opportunities at the line. The Buffaloes were better than their hosts, hitting 27 of 36 (75 percent).

The Bulldogs struggled throughout the game at the foul line, especially Barnes, who was 5-for-13. Barnes finished with 8 points and 9 rebounds.

"It was just funny when I made a free throw and the whole crowd just started cheering," Barnes said. "I think it was just a concentration thing. We just have to get back to the basics and knock them down. I know I shot terrible from the line."

Georgia also struggled from the line in its opener, shooting 65.5 percent (19-for-29).

"We're going to keep working and keep getting better and better," Leslie said.

The score was tied at 64 when Ware hit a 3-pointer to give Georgia a lead it wouldn't relinquish. The Bulldogs pushed their advantage to 76-70 on Ware's two free throws with a minute remaining and sealed the win from the free-throw line, hitting five more in the final minute.

"Dustin Ware and Gerald Robinson both played like upperclassmen in the final minutes," Fox said. "They made the right plays and kept us organized. It helps us to have experience like this. Close, hard-fought games will help us down the road."

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<http://www.ajc.com/sports/uga/georgia-holds-off-colorado-743971.html>

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Dawgs win a close one, 83-74

By ROGER CLARKSON

Created 2010-11-17 00:19

Summary:

ATHENS - If the first two games of this season are any indicator, what little hair left on Mark Fox's head might be a memory by March.

ROGER CLARKSON

ATHENS - If the first two games of this season are any indicator, what little hair left on Mark Fox's head might be a memory by March.

Georgia survived its second straight tight, error-plagued game, beating Colorado, 83-74, on Tuesday at Stegeman Coliseum.

The final margin did not indicate the closeness of the game. Georgia pulled away by outscoring the Buffaloes 8-2 to end regulation, aided by a technical foul on Colorado coach Tad Boyle with 12 seconds left.

"It was a really good learning experience because last year, we probably wouldn't have won a game like that," Georgia forward Chris Barnes said. "To get a win like that under our belt shows that we've grown as a team and matured a lot." Georgia (2-0), which came from behind to beat Mississippi Valley State, 72-70, in the season opener last Friday, won its second straight nail-biter without injured leading returning scorer and rebounder Trey Thompkins.

Georgia's trio of Gerald Robinson (21 points), Travis Leslie (19 points, eight rebounds) and Jeremy Price (17 points) made the difference, while Barnes added nine points and eight rebounds.

"Trey pulled me and Gerald aside towards the end of the game," Leslie said.

"He told us it's our time and we've got to man up. Our time is here. We came out there and just played our game." Colorado (1-1) closed to within 72-70 when Cory Higgins hit a pair of free throws with 1:32 remaining.

Robinson responded by hitting a layup to give Georgia a 74-70 lead. After misfiring from the line much of the night, the Bulldogs then hit 7 of 10 from the free-throw line in the last minute to put away the victory.

"This was a good win, a tough win," Price said. "It was like a tournament win. We need more of these. We knew we had to defend harder and execute late in the game..."

Georgia's mistakes on both ends of the floor helped Colorado stay close.

Georgia also finished the game without Leslie, who fouled out with 3:45 left.

The Bulldogs committed 26 fouls and the Buffaloes capitalized by shooting 75 percent (27-for-36) from the line. On the other end of the floor, Georgia hit 27 of 43 from the line, including the 7-for-10 stretch at the end.

"Our free-throw shooting was awful," Fox said. "I told our coaches in staff meeting the other day that our free-throw shooting was about to cost us and it almost did. I have not been happy about our approach when we shoot them in practice."

Barnes was one of the worst offenders. He hit his first two of the night, but went 3-for-11 the rest of the way. In one first-half stretch, he missed five in a row.

"I think it's a concentration thing," Barnes said. "We've got to get back to the basics and start knocking them down."

Georgia's fouls on the defensive side of the floor also cost the Bulldogs points and momentum. Georgia hit its first seven shots, including three 3-pointers, to start the game. Georgia took an 18-4 lead when Leslie hit a layup with 15:21 left in the first half.

But fouls to major scorers mounted up as the first half progressed. Colorado responded with a 19-2 run to end the first half as the Buffaloes hit 7 of 8 from the foul line. A 3-ponter by Levi Knutson tied the game 33-33 at halftime.

"I don't think we relaxed, everybody had two fouls," Fox said.

Alec Burks led Colorado with 21 points.


COLORADO (1-1)

Tomlinson 1-1 2-2 5, Relphorde 2-10 3-4 8, Burks 5-14 11-15 21, Higgins 4-11 7-8 15, Dufault 5-9 3-4 13, Sharpe 2-2 0-1 4, Roberson 0-1 1-2 1, Knutson 2-4 0-0 5, Eckloff 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 22-53 27-36 74.

GEORGIA (2-0)

Leslie 7-14 4-4 19, Ware 1-3 4-4 7, Nolte 1-4 2-4 5, Robinson 6-10 7-11 21, Price 7-9 3-3 17, Thornton 0-1 1-2 1, Barnes 2-6 5-13 9, V. Williams 0-3 0-0 0, D. Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Brantley 1-3 1-2 4. Totals 25-53 27-43 83.

Halftime-Tied 33-33. 3-Point Goals_Colorado 3-14 (Tomlinson 1-1, Knutson 1-3, Relphorde 1-5, Roberson 0-1, Burks 0-2, Higgins 0-2), Georgia 6-15 (Robinson 2-3, Leslie 1-1, Ware 1-3, Brantley 1-3, Nolte 1-3, Thornton 0-1, V. Williams 0-1). Fouled Out_Higgins, Leslie. Rebounds_Colorado 34 (Relphorde, Roberson 7), Georgia 40 (Barnes, Leslie 8). Assists_Colorado 8 (Burks, Roberson 3), Georgia 14 (Robinson 6). Total Fouls_Colorado 30, Georgia 26. Technical_Colorado Bench. A_6,406.

 Georgia Bulldogs guard Sherrard Brantley (23) drives the line as Colorado Buffaloes guard Cory Higgins (11) guards him as the Georgia Bulldogs defeat the Colorado Buffaloes 84-74 at Stegeman Coliseum on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010 in Athens, Ga. (Richard Hamm/Staff/richard.hamm@onlineathens.com) ^[1]

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