

# Boyle's CU Buffs missing team mindset in loss to Harvard

## Colorado falls to 2-3 with loss on Sunday

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

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- Forget about the Buffs' last stand in the Big 12 or a new beginning in the Pac-12.

Right now Colorado would struggle on the road in the Ivy League.

That was proven during CU's humbling 82-66 loss to Harvard on Sunday at Lavietes Pavilion.

First-year CU head coach Tad Boyle doesn't need to look at the film from this one to see which players wearing black uniforms played well and which didn't.

"I don't think anybody had a good game for the Buffaloes," Boyle said after CU fell to 2-3 overall and 0-3 outside of Boulder. "When you go on the road and you don't have anybody that plays particularly well, you're going to struggle. That's the way we were (Sunday). We didn't have anybody that really stepped up offensively or defensively.

"We were beat by a better team. Harvard deserved to win."

The Buffs had already traveled to the South (an 83-74 loss at Georgia) and the West Coast (an 83-81 overtime loss at San Francisco) in search of an elusive road victory.

Getting blown out by the Crimson (4-1) -- which was 0-11 all-time against Big 12 competition entering the game -- might be a new low.

"Right now they are the better team. We're not a team," senior guard Cory Higgins said after scoring a game-high 21 points on 6-for-14 shooting. "At least we haven't been one yet. We have to figure that out or we're going to struggle."

The Buffs shot 34.5 percent from the field in the first half and trailed 37-28.

With another gaggle of NBA scouts looking on, Alec Burks had just two points with two turnovers and two early fouls at the intermission. He finished with 20 points, but most of those were after Harvard had seized complete control of the game.

"Coach told us they played like a team and that's why they won," Burks said. "Can't say no more than that."

Burks only played 11 minutes in the first half due to early foul trouble. Marcus Relphorde and Austin Dufault were also on the bench after picking up two fouls before the intermission.

Harvard took an early 10-3 lead after back-to-back 3-pointers by Oliver McNally and Andrew Van Nest. Relphorde capped a 7-0 run to tie the score with a three-point play but CU would never take the lead.

Buff killer Keith Wright -- who had 18 points as a freshman during Harvard's 70-57 loss at the Coors Events Center two seasons ago -- started to take over in the paint. The 6-8 forward's rim-rocking dunk gave the home team a 28-17 lead with 6:21 remaining in the first half.

"They're a team that doesn't beat themselves and they play within themselves. They play the way that we want to play on offense," Boyle said. "They have an inside presence and then the jump shots come as a result of either drive-and-kick or post feeds. We're not there yet offensively."

Andre Roberson ended a 6 minute field goal drought for the Buffs, and Higgins added a three-point play to pull the visitors within nine points before halftime.

But McNally knocked down a pair of 3-pointers to begin the second half, and another swish from behind the arc by Webster gave Harvard a 49-32 cushion with 16:26 remaining.

"We talked (at halftime) about getting control of the game, but we didn't do that," Burks said. "They hit some 3s and went from there."

The Crimson led by as many as 21 points, but a 10-2 run by the visitors, capped by a three-point play from Higgins, cut the deficit to 61-51 with 8:48 left.

Wright (19 points, nine rebounds) answered with some more powerful post moves to squash the comeback bid.

Harvard shot 51 percent from the field, including 15-for-25 (60 percent) behind the arc, and out-rebounded CU 31-28. The Buffs shot 38.3 percent with 15 turnovers and five assists on 19 made baskets.

"We saw on film what they can do and we knew they were a good team coming in. We just weren't ready to play," Dufault said. "It's just a mindset that we have to have. We need to come into other teams' buildings with a chip on our shoulder and an us-against-the-world mentality. Right now we come in individually thinking we need to individually win the game, that we need to be the big hero and make the plays.

"It's a team thing, especially on the road, that we need to focus on."

CU will play Texas-Pan American on Tuesday night at the Coors Events Center (7 p.m., FSN) to begin a five-game homestand.

## **Harvard 82, Colorado 66**

### **COLORADO**

#### **FG FT Reb**

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

Rlphrd 25 4-9 3-6 2-4 0 3 12

Dufault 19 2-4 3-4 2-3 0 4 7

Tmlnsn 31 0-1 0-0 0-4 2 2 0

Burks 30 5-12 10-10 1-5 1 4 20

Higgins 36 6-14 8-8 2-3 1 3 21

Sharpe 14 1-3 0-0 2-2 0 1 2

Roberson 19 1-2 1-2 2-4 0 2 3

Knutson 23 0-4 1-2 1-2 1 1 1

Mills 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

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

Totals 200 19-49 26-32 13-28 5 21 66

**Percentages:** FG .388, FT .813.

**3-Point Goals:** 2-9, .222 (Higgins 1-2, Relphorde 1-2, Roberson 0-1, Burks 0-1, Knutson 0-3).

**Team Rebounds:** 1.

**Blocked Shots:** 0.

**Turnovers:** 15 (Higgins 5, Burks 3, Relphorde 2, Sharpe 2, Knutson 2, Roberson).

**Steals:** 7 (Tomlinson 3, Roberson 2, Higgins, Dufault).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

## HARVARD

### FG FT Reb

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

Georgts 6 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Wright 32 8-11 3-4 4-9 6 4 19

Curry 38 2-7 4-6 0-3 8 2 9

McNally 28 4-5 6-6 0-4 5 4 17

Webster 38 6-13 5-5 2-4 1 1 20

Rivard 26 3-7 1-1 1-3 1 2 9

Van Nest 17 2-3 2-2 2-3 1 4 7

Casey 13 0-1 1-2 1-3 0 5 1

Rouse 1 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Okam 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Totals 200 25-49 22-26 11-31 22 23 82

**Percentages:** FG .510, FT .846.

**3-Point Goals:** 10-23, .435 (McNally 3-3, Webster 3-9, Rivard 2-5, Van Nest 1-1, Curry 1-4, Casey 0-1).

**Team Rebounds:** 2.

**Blocked Shots:** 6 (Wright 3, Casey 2, Webster).

**Turnovers:** 16 (Webster 4, Curry 4, Van Nest 2, Wright 2, Rivard 2, McNally, Casey).

**Steals:** 6 (Curry 3, Rivard, Wright, Casey).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

Colorado 28 38--66

Harvard 37 45--82

A -- 954.

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# Harvard uses hot shooting to beat Colorado 82-66

By Associated Press | Sunday, November 28, 2010 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | **College Basketball**

CAMBRIDGE — Christian Webster scored 20 points and Keith Wright added 19 and nine rebounds to lead Harvard over Colorado 82-66 on Sunday.

The Crimson (4-1) used sharp shooting from the field (25 for 49, 51 percent) and free-throw line (22 for 26, 84.6 percent) to roll past Colorado.

Cory Higgins scored 21 points and Alec Burks added 20 for the Buffaloes (2-3) in the loss.

Harvard led 37-28 at halftime, but really turned it on in the second half. The Crimson shot 15 for 25 from the floor (60 percent), including 6 of 11 from 3-point range (54.5 percent) after halftime.

Colorado struggled from the floor, shooting 19 of 49 (38.8 percent) as a team.

Oliver McNally scored 14 of his 17 points in the second half for Harvard as the Crimson extended their lead to 81-60 with 1:39 left to play. McNally shot 4 of 5 from the field and 6 for 6 from the free-throw line for the game.

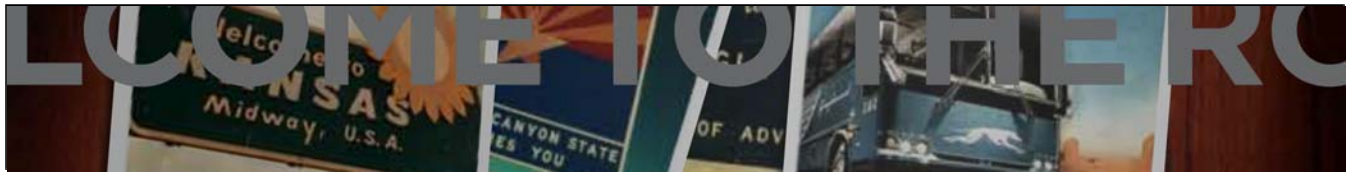
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# The Harvard Crimson

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November 29, 2010

## Harvard Men's Basketball Notches First Win Over Big 12 School

### Crimson easily handles Colorado, 82-66, at Lavietes Pavilion

By [Martin Kessler](#), CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

Some unfamiliar faces joined the usual spectators at Lavietes Pavilion yesterday, as over a dozen NBA scouts watched Colorado guards Cory Higgins and Alec Burks take on the Harvard men's basketball team.

But that wasn't all that was unusual about the matchup. For the first time since 2007, the Crimson hosted a BCS-conference opponent, and for the first time in program history, Harvard defeated a Big 12 team.

Behind 19 points and nine rebounds from junior co-captain Keith Wright, the Crimson (4-1) handled the Buffaloes (2-3), never trailing en route to an 82-66 victory.

"Certainly an incredibly gratifying win for us," said Harvard coach Tommy Amaker, who has coached the Crimson to a win over an opponent from a power-six conference in each of the past four seasons. "I thought our ability to stay composed and show a lot of concentration and finish plays really allowed us to come away with a very good win."

A major focus for Amaker's squad was clamping down defensively and slowing Colorado's pair of talented guards—Burks and Higgins—who entered the contest averaging 23 and 18.8 points per game, respectively.

While the pair combined for 41 points on the afternoon, Harvard was pleased with its overall defensive effort, limiting the Buffaloes to 38.8 percent shooting from the field while forcing 15 turnovers.

"For the most part, we did what we wanted to do defensively, which a lot of the time means we'll do pretty well in the end," junior co-captain Oliver McNally said. "We really wanted to not let them run because they're a more comfortable team when they're getting up and down instead of in the half-court."

The strategy paid off, as the Buffaloes were held to their lowest scoring output of the season.

Offensively, the Crimson relied heavily on Wright, running the majority of its sets through the post. The Buffaloes had no answer for the 6'9" forward, who entered the contest as the Ivy League's second-leading scorer, as Wright had his way in the paint, finishing 8-of-11 from the field.

And when Wright faced double teams, the forward was able to successfully find the open man on the perimeter, dishing out a career-high six assists.

"If I see a double, I'm kicking it out," Wright said. "That's one of the emphases on the board every game is playing inside-out."

"Keith is a very unselfish player," Amaker said. "He's an easy guy to play with. He'll pitch it out, and we get a chance to step into our shots."

McNally and sophomore Christian Webster were the major beneficiaries of Wright's unselfishness, finishing with 17 and 20 points, respectively, on combined 6-of-12 shooting from beyond the arc.

McNally played a crucial role in building on Harvard's nine-point halftime lead, knocking down a pair of treys in the first 2:10 of the second frame to lead the Crimson on a 9-2 run.

McNally ignited the Harvard run on the Crimson's opening possession of the second half, stroking a deep ball from the left corner off a pass from sophomore Brandyn Curry.

On Colorado's first possession, McNally pulled down a rebound off a missed jumper from Alec Burks and then found Wright in the post for the easy two on the Crimson's next possession.

Burks answered with a reverse layup to cut the Harvard lead to 12, but McNally dialed up another deep ball—this time off a pass from Wright—to pad the Crimson lead.

Two possessions later, Webster gave Harvard its biggest lead of the contest, drilling his second of three three-pointers on the afternoon to put the Crimson ahead, 49-32.

"We came out of the blocks, and I thought our kids responded very well at the half," Amaker said. "I thought we put them on their heels right away, and it made a big difference, obviously, in the outcome of the game."

Colorado made one last push midway through the second period, going on a 10-3 run capped off by a three-pointer and an and-one layup from Higgins to cut the Crimson lead to 11 with 8:48 left to play.

But Harvard didn't let its lead dip into single digits thanks to some timely buckets from Wright down the stretch, and the Crimson cruised to the 16-point win.

"From an outside perspective, people probably [didn't] think we had a chance," McNally said. "But when we play well and together, we can beat a lot of teams, and that's what we did [yesterday]."

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