

# Baylor dominates Colorado spikers

## Bears sweep aside Buffs with ease

**By Nate Peterson** For the Camera  
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Second-year CU volleyball coach Liz Kritza pulled her players close Saturday night after a lopsided loss to Baylor and spoke with purpose.

"I reminded them what we're doing here," she said. "We're building."

The young Buffs certainly look to be adding bricks to a program that Kritza stripped down to its foundation before the start of this season, but Saturday at the Coors Event Center, that rebuilding project ran smack into the Great Wall of Baylor.

The Bears -- a Sweet 16 team last year -- out-hit, out-dug, out-blocked and flat-out overpowered CU on its home floor, rolling to a 25-13, 25-21, 25-13 win. The loss dropped CU to 5-9 overall and 2-6 in the Big 12 in its final season before jumping to the Pac-12.

Baylor's stable of middle blockers and outside hitters -- led by 6-foot-2 sophomore middle Torri Campbell -- finished with 47

kills to CU's 29, and repeatedly flustered CU's hitters at the front of the net. Campbell had 11 kills, most of which came off quick sets in the middle, something the Buffs struggled all night to defend. CU didn't make matters any easier with 17 errors.

"Obviously it's a missed opportunity and we don't want to have that," said CU freshman Elysse Richardson, who finished with three digs. "We're tired of always getting that same result, but we're all learning. Coach said we need to keep our heads high because we need to learn from it."

Kritza echoed that sentiment, but added that she wasn't sure her team improved very much in its first match after the midway point of the season.

"Not our finest night, by any means," she said. "Basically, what I told them was that we're going to get through this. We don't like the result, but it's different if we'd played amazing and we'd played great and we don't know what we could do differently to have a different result, but we clearly know, and they're all things we can control. We go back in the gym and we're diligent and we work hard and we make sure that we keep progressing."

The Buffs also need to get healthy. Freshman middle blocker Nikki Lindow, who led CU with nine kills, rolled her ankle in the middle of the second set, but stayed on the court after getting evaluated by trainers. Junior middle blocker Anicia Santos also practiced on a limited basis during the week because of a sore shoulder, but played and finished with six kills.

Baylor out-hit CU in the first set, 14-7, and stifled CU's attack at the front of net. When CU managed to put a ball through, Baylor's back line dug it up.

The Buffs' best chance to steal a set came in the second. CU rallied from as much as three back twice, but couldn't finish after knotting the score at 20.

Two of Baylor's towering middles, 6-foot-2 Ashley Byrd and 6-foot-3 Briana Tolbert, both hit through CU's block to put Baylor up two. Then Tolbert and Ashlie Christenson stuffed CU sophomore outside hitter Kerra Schroeder for another point.

CU called a timeout, and got back to within two after Baylor's Brittany Ridenour served long after the break. Tolbert smashed a kill through CU's block on the next serve, though, and Elizabeth Graham -- another 6-foot-2 middle -- finished the Buffs off with an uncontested shot off a quick set at the middle of the net.

"It's obviously very important, especially after dropping the first game, to get some momentum in the second game because the other team has had all the momentum those first two games," Santos said. "If we can get a quick turn there, we can probably force five sets. It was a little unfortunate that we got slowed down at the end of that set."

The Buffs completely imploded in the third. Baylor ran out to a 13-5 lead and led 22-9 before three CU points.

CU plays three of its next four matches on the road, which includes a rematch against the Bears (10-8, 3-4) in Waco, Texas, on Oct. 27.

"For us to come in here the last time before (CU) heads off to the Pac-12, it's nice," Bears coach Jim Barnes said. "I see what Liz is doing, and there's improvement. There's absolute improvement. She's on the right track, and I'm glad they're going to the Pac-12, because in two or three years, we don't want to play against her."

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## CU could not bear it

CU volleyball falls to Baylor

*By Marlee Horn on October 10, 2010*

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The University of Colorado women's volleyball team is recovering from a hard-hitting Baylor team.

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The Buffs fell in straight sets: 25-13, 25-21 and 25-13.

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The Buffs record falls to 5-9 overall and to 2-5 in the Big 12, and Baylor takes their record to 9-9 overall and to 3-4 in the Big 12.

CU Head Coach Liz Kritza said that the showing was not the teams finest but that they are continuing to build the program.

"We don't get an easy night in this league," Kritza said. "I reminded them what our purpose is and what our overall goal is and that's continual improvement. Tonight we didn't improve very much."

Baylor ended the night with 47 kills, compared to the Buffs' 29.

Injuries plagued the Colorado team, including freshman middle blocker Nikki Lindow, junior middle blocker Anicia Santos and junior outside hitter Richi Bigelow.

Sophomore outside hitter Kerra Schroeder was limited to an atypical six kills in the match.

Santos said the CU offensive could not stand up to Baylor's offense.

"Baylor's got a good offense," Santos said. "They're fast, and they know how to spread out the block."

The first set started off very physical, and points were being exchanged continuously by both teams. However, slowly but surely, the Bears built a lead that would become insurmountable.

A block by junior setter Alyssa Valentine narrowed Baylor's lead to 9-7. The Buffs came close again after a solid block by Santos put the Bears' lead at 12-10.

CU called a timeout when the score was 14-10, and then, after straight points by the Bears, CU had to take another timeout when the score was 18-10.

The Buffs could not battle back and fell 25-13.

The Buffs really showed up in the second set. The score remained tight for most of the game, with 12 ties and five lead changes.

Three straight points by the Buffs, including a block and a kill by Lindow, tied the game up at 11. A kill by junior outside hitter Rosie Steinhaus gave the Buffs the lead at 14-13.

Later, the Buffs would pull the score to 20 all, after kills by Valentine and Schroeder. But the Buffs would end up dropping the set 25-21.

"It's a little unfortunate that we lost momentum at the end of that set," Santos said. "It made it that much harder to come back in the third set."

The team that played so strong during the second set was nowhere in sight during the third.

The Bears went on a 10-3 run to start the set, and the Buffs never fully recovered.

A kill by Santos brought CU within seven at 13-6, and a kill by Schroeder brought them there again at 14-7. From then on, the Buffs could not get any closer and ended the set at 25-13.

Kritza said that the third set really demonstrated some of the inexperience of the young team by giving Baylor too many opportunities to score.

"I think it's frustrating when they get down three or four points," Kritza said. "They're playing catch-up the whole game because what ends up happening is players shoulder the burden when they need to."

The team refuses to be discouraged. CU freshman libero/setter Elysse Richardson said that they will take this match as a learning experience, and the team's competitive nature will help them win in the future.

"It's all about learning," Richardson said. "I think the more we learn and the more reps we get, we're going to get better. I think you'll see us progress drastically."

The Buffs face Baylor again on Oct. 27, and hopefully the .

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