



Brittany Wilson had four assists and four rebounds for the Buffs in Thursday night's win. Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: Focused Buffs Power Past Pioneers By 35

Release: 12/08/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - So much for that in-state sweep by the University of Denver women's basketball team. Colorado gleefully swept away any thought of it Thursday night, pummeling of the Pioneers 71-36 at the Coors Events Center.

CU took control late in the first half then steadily pulled away in the second, running its record to 8-0 for only the third time in school history. The only two Buffaloes teams to open more successfully were those in 1992-93 (15-0) and 1980-81 (12-0).

The Buffs are among only a dozen unbeaten teams nationally, and if this run keeps up, they just might make a run at the national rankings. "But not quite yet," said coach Linda Lappe. "We have to continue to win. I'd like to say we're a team that should be ranked, but looking at the RPI's, which came out (Thursday), we're not there yet . . . we're going to have to do

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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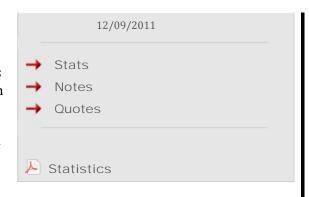
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WBB vs. Denver Replay

something in the conference. If we do well in the conference, yeah, maybe we'll get some votes in the top 25."

Thursday's RPI Index had CU at No. 146, underscoring Lappe's point that there's more work to be done before the Buffs begin dreaming those Top 25 dreams.

But that wasn't on their minds Thursday night. DU had beaten CU 70-69 last season in Denver, and this season had disposed of Colorado State, Air Force and Northern Colorado. Last stop: Boulder - and it was a dead end.



"Payback is awesome," CU senior Julie Seabrook said. "We've been really excited to play them again - just because of last year and also because they'd beaten every other Colorado team . . . we couldn't let them sweep the state."

The Pioneers will have to settle for 3-1 within the state lines. The Buffs held them to their lowest point total of the season and limited their leading scorer, Kaetlyn Murdoch - a senior forward who was averaging 17.0 points and was the Sun Belt Conference's preseason co-player of the year - to four points in each half. Her eight points were a season low.

Only one DU player - junior guard Emiko Smith - reached double figures (10). CU, meanwhile, got an eighth consecutive double-figure performance (20) from junior point guard Chucky Jeffery, who has scored 76 points in her last three games on 71 percent shooting. She hit nine-of-10 from the field - including two-of-three three-pointers - Thursday night.

Freshman guard Lexy Kresl added 13 points, 10 of them during a second-half surge when she and Jeffery keyed a 19-6 run that pushed the Buffs up 47-23. The Pioneers, dropping to 6-3, never led, never got closer than 23 in the second half and trailed by as many 35 before the final horn sounded.

"I'm really, really proud of our team," Lappe said. "I thought we played a tremendous game in all phases . . . we shared the ball and got everybody involved . . . we played with a great amount of focus; we were on a mission tonight."

CU's primary defensive mission was to slow Murdoch - and Seabrook, Rachel Hargis and Jen Reese accomplished that. Seabrook, who finished with eight points and four rebounds, and her cohorts denied Murdoch the ball for most of the night.

"We knew we couldn't let her catch it in the block," Lappe said. "She has a great turnaround fadeaway. She's not tall (5-11) but she uses her height and length really well. We wanted to make sure nothing came easy."

Nothing did, and once they settled themselves late in the first half, the Buffs were headed for a rout. They didn't pull away from the Pioneers until the first half's last 2 minutes, but it happened dramatically.

With DU staying close at 16-13, CU got six consecutive inside points from Seabrook, with two of the baskets coming on nice post feeds from Reese. The last of Seabrook's buckets put the Buffs up 22-17, then it was Jeffery's turn.

Her straightaway three-pointer at 1:39 before intermission gave CU a 25-17 advantage, and when DU rushed what coach Erik Johnson hoped would be the final shot of the half, the Buffs got control, leaving time for Jeffery to hit a half-court buzzer beater for a 28-17 advantage.

"Oh, yeah," she said. "As soon as it left my hand it felt good."

And her second half would only get better.

Both teams finished the first half with more turnovers than field goals - CU checking in at 14 turnovers and 12

made shots and DU at 10 and 7. Jeffery committed an uncharacteristic seven first-half turnovers and finished with nine - more than half of CU's total (19).

Jeffery said she was "really sloppy with the ball . . . it came from getting so excited." And Lappe said Jeffery seemed to be "driving in there to not turn the ball over versus driving to score. But I thought she really loosened up in the second half."

But neither the turnover stat nor the Buffs only going to the free throw line twice all night (they made both) swung any momentum in the direction of the Pioneers, who shot only 30 percent from the field (15-of-50).

CU opened the second half with a trey from the left corner by Kresl, got a jumper in transition from Jeffery, then another three-pointer by Meagan Malcolm-Peck to take its biggest lead to that point - 36-21.

But more Buffs points - this run courtesy of Kresl and Jeffery - were on the way. After Murdoch sank a jumper with 16:28 to play, CU went on an 11-0 run, with Kresl accounting for seven of those points.

Before the Pioneers could score again with 121/2 minutes remaining, the Buffs were up 47-23 and cruising. Lappe used all of her players, including sophomore Brenna Malcolm-Peck, who had not been on the court since February 2010 due to a myriad of injuries.

Her teammates were ecstatic to see her finally return - once she got the green light from Lappe. "I asked her if she wanted to go in and could she run the court," Lappe said.

Of course, Malcolm-Peck answered in the affirmative. She said she was at a loss "to describe the feeling. It's been about two years. It was absolutely amazing and I couldn't make the comeback without the support of my teammates."

"Brenna has been through so much adversity since we got her as a freshman," a beaming Jeffery said. "To see her overcome that and get in the game was just huge."

The Buffs are off until Saturday, Dec. 17 when they host Weber State (4 p.m.). Tickets start at \$8 and can be purchased at CUBuffs.com/tickets or by calling 303-49-BUFFS.

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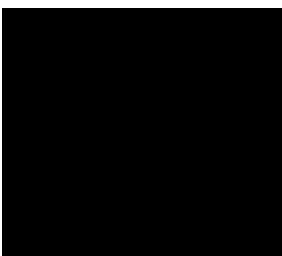


Smothering D carries CU women in rout of DU

Buffs improve to 8-0

By Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 12/08/2011 08: 46: 50 PM MST



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On paper, Thursday's game between Denver and Colorado figured to be a tough battle throughout.

On the only paper that mattered -- the postgame stat sheet -- it was a blowout.

Chucky Jeffery scored 20 points, Lexy Kresl added 13 and Colorado's defense dominated in a 71-36 rout of the Pioneers at Coors Events Center.

"We expected a really good basketball game and unfortunately CU played the only really good basketball game," said DU head coach Erik Johnson, whose team defeated the Buffs 70-69 a year ago.

After two subpar games on the defensive end, CU (8-0) played suffocating defense against the Pioneers (6-3).

"Defensively, we really stuck to the game plan," CU head coach Linda Lappe said. "We played a really smart game and I thought our players really executed and played with a tremendous amount of focus. We were on a mission and I felt like you could see that. Our players really responded to everything that DU threw at us."

CU is 8-0 for just the third time in program history, which dates back to 1975. The Buffs also started 8-0 in 1992-93 (15-0 start) and 1980-81 (12-0).

To remain unbeaten, the Buffs focused their efforts on DU's top two scorers -- Kaetlyn Murdoch and Quincey Noonan. Together, they came in averaging 17.3 points per game. They combined for 10 points, on 5-for-15 shooting, against the Buffs. Murdoch had a season-low eight points.

"That was huge," Jeffery said. "They were keys in the game plan. We knew we couldn't let them come in our gym and go off, because they're capable of it. We frustrated them a lot. Our defense was on."

Johnson said CU's defense wasn't a surprise, "but, I was just disappointed that we weren't able to handle it any better than we did."

The defense allowed the Buffs to keep the lead throughout the first half, despite 14 turnovers.

Julie Seabrook sparked the offense with six straight points late in the half, though, and then CU closed the half on an 8-0 run to take a 28-17 lead into intermission. The last two buckets of the half came on Jeffery 3-pointers, including a half-court buzzer-beater.

With the way Jeffery's been shooting lately -- 9-for-10 on Thursday and 29-for-41 (71 percent) the past three games -- it's no wonder that shot went in.

"As soon as it left my hand, it felt good," said Jeffery, who is averaging 25.3 points in the last three games.

Kresl drained a 3-pointer to start the second half and that ignited a 24-8 run.

"That run was great," said Kresl, who had all 13 of her points in that surge. "The energy was good right out of the half. We hit the first shot of the half and we just kept going. Our defensive pressure stepped up a lot and we hit the boards a lot harder. We started trying harder, I feel like."

CU's win prevented the Pioneers from a Front Range sweep. DU had already defeated Air Force, Colorado State, Northern Colorado and Wyoming this season.

"We've been really excited to play them again just because of last year and also because they have beaten every other Colorado team," Seabrook said. "We couldn't let them sweep the state. Obviously we didn't let that happen and it's awesome. We're really excited about that."

Mostly, the Buffs were thrilled to beat a quality opponent. DU is a favorite in the Sun Belt Conference and its only losses have come against undefeated foes -- Vanderbilt, UTEP and Colorado.

"They're going to win a lot of games," Lappe said. "They're picked to win their league. We thought it was going to be a tough game and we wanted to come ready. We wanted to make sure we were the aggressors. We wanted to make sure we threw the first punch."

Colorado 71, Denver 36 DENVER (36)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Michel 23 1-5 0-0 0-0 4 1 2

Murdoch 31 4-8 0-0 0-0 4 1 8

Noonan 29 1-7 0-1 0-0 3 2 2

Smith 28 3-8 0-1 4-6 2 0 10

Shell 21 1-2 0-0 0-0 2 1 2

Van Riper-Rose 27 1-7 1-4 1-2 3 1 4

Johnston 17 2-6 0-2 0-2 0 0 4

Powell 12 2-7 0-1 0-0 3 0 4

Wirth 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0

Janecek 5 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0

Tisch 5 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0

Team 2

Totals 200 15-50 1-9 5-10 23 6 36

Assists (8): Smith 5, Noonan, Shell, Powell.

Steals (10): Noonan 3, Murdoch 2, Smith 2, Van Riper-Rose, Johnston, Powell.

Turnovers (16): Noonan 4, Smith 4, Michel 2, Murdoch 2, Johnston 2, Shell, Van Riper-Rose.

Blocked shots (0): None.

COLORADO (71)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

MM-Peck 26 2-4 2-3 0-0 6 3 6

Seabrook 30 4-5 0-0 0-0 4 0 8

Hargis 18 2-7 0-0 0-0 2 1 4

Kresl 21 5-9 3-6 0-0 3 2 13

Jeffery 33 9-10 2-3 0-0 6 1 20

Lee 4 2-2 2-2 0-0 0 0 6

B. Wilson 21 1-7 1-5 0-0 4 4 3

A. Wilson 19 3-3 1-1 2-2 5 4 9

Sborov 6 0-0 0-0 0-0 3 0 0

BM-Peck 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Reese 21 1-5 0-0 0-0 4 0 2

Team 1

Totals 200 29-52 11-20 2-2 38 15 71

Assists (20): Jeffery 6, B. Wilson 4, Hargis 3, Reese 3, A. Wilson 2, M. Malcolm-Peck 2.

Steals (9): M. Malcolm-Peck 2, Hargis 2, Jeffery 2, Seabrook, Kresl, A. Wilson.

Turnovers (19): Jeffery 9, B. Wilson 4, Seabrook 2, Hargis 2, M. Malcolm-Peck, A. Wilson.

Blocked shots (0): None.

Halftime score: Colorado 28, Denver 17.

Technical fouls -- none.

Attendance -- 1,965.

"That was huge," Jeffery said. "They were keys in the game plan. We knew we couldn't let them come in our gym and go off, because they're capable of it. We frustrated them a lot. Our defense was on."

Johnson said CU's defense wasn't a surprise, "but, I was just disappointed that we weren't able to handle it any better than we did."

The defense allowed the Buffs to keep the lead throughout the first half, despite 14 turnovers.

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Ringo: Keep winning, and undefeated Buffs could crack Top-25

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 12/09/2011 12: 32: 55 AM MST

There are plenty of benchmarks and guideposts a coach can look to in any season as evidence the team they lead is playing well and is well respected for its efforts.

The suggestion that it should be or could be nationally ranked is certainly among those signs.

That suggestion came to Colorado women's basketball coach Linda Lappe late Thursday evening after her Buffs completely dismantled the Denver Pioneers 71-36 at the Coors Events Center.

The victory left the Buffs as one of just 12 Division I teams that remain undefeated a month into the season and it also marked only the third time in the program's history the Buffs have started a season 8-0.

Lappe wisely shot down the notion.

Here is why.

The Buffs haven't really played anyone yet.

The Pioneers, who are favored to win the Sun Belt Conference, might have been the toughest test to date early in Lappe's second season as coach. Perhaps it was Wisconsin last month.

Regardless, the initial RPI rankings for the season were released earlier in the day Thursday and the Buffs came in at 146, about 100 points shy of where they will need to be in March.

But the fact that the Buffs are even being asked in postgame press conferences these days about where they fit into national rankings is an indication Lappe is turning things around.

This once-proud program used to regard NCAA tournament appearances each year as a given, like Christmas and the Fourth of July. They were expected.

And now they seem possible again.

Just three years ago, the Buffs were on the other side of horror stories like the one that unfolded on the scoreboard for Denver.

But one doesn't need to go back that far even to see the progress Lappe is making.

Less than a year ago, on Jan. 12, Lappe and her team sat in a prolonged meeting after a home loss to Kansas and hashed out some things.

Most of the playersemerged from that room that day wiping tears from their eyes and cheeks.

It seems like it has been a slow, steady climb since.

The scene Thursday was drastically different.

Senior Julie Seabrook, junior Chucky Jeffery and freshman Lexy Kresl were all smiles discussing the trouncing they dealt Denver, their hot start to the season and the metamorphosis of the program under Lappe.

"We have such great balance on our team," Jeffery said. "I think (Lappe) can put anyone on the floor and I think it works as

well as the first five."

Seabrook has endured plenty of tough days in the program, losing 14 conference games as a freshman and losing 12 out of 13 at one point as a sophomore.

She said one of the biggest differences in the team now compared to when she first came to Boulder is a simple but crucial component.

Follow through.

Seabrook said in the past the Buffs set goals at the outset of a season, but didn't necessarily come back to them to check on their progress. She said that is done all the time now and it's much more refined.

"We know exactly what coach Lappe expects," Seabrook said.

The Buffs not only have team and individual goals for the season. They have them for months, weeks, games and even practices. And they're always checking where they stand in terms of achieving them and moving on to what's next.

That process was on display while Lappe fielded questions from reporters Thursday.

While she dismissed the idea that her team should be ranked with its 8-0 record, she took the opportunity to note she believes the Buffs might deserve to be ranked in the not-too-distant future if they continue to win and improve.

New goal.

"We want to make sure we keep winning and we keep doing the things it takes to win," Lappe said.

The Buffs haven't been ranked since Jan. 14, 2008, when they were No. 25 in the Associated Press poll and receiving votes in the coaches' poll.

With a home game against Weber State and two neutral floor games upcoming later this month against Texas Pan-American and Creighton, CU has a genuine chance to reach the end of the month and the start of conference play undefeated.

What better way to tip off play in a new league, than with every opponent, or almost all of them, trying to measure up.

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CU women's notebook: Brenna Malcolm-Peck makes brief return

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 12/09/2011 12: 29: 17 AM MST

Sophomore Brenna Malcolm-Peck played the final minute of Thursday's win.

It was her first chance to place since Feb. 27, 2010.

She missed all of last season with a knee injury and had missed the first seven games this year because of a concussion.

Malcolm-Peck returned to practice on Tuesday and while she still has a ways to go to get into shape, she was more than ready mentally was Lappe called her name Thursday.

"I can't really describe the feeling," she said. "It was absolutely amazing and I couldn't make the comeback without the support of my teammates."

For many of the players, Malcolm-Peck's return was a highlight of the night.

"It's just big because Brenna has been through so much adversity since we got here as freshmen," junior Chucky Jeffery said. "To see her overcome that and get in the game, it was just huge. We're just so happy that she's back with us."

Sheetz returns

Former CU star Shelley Sheetz was back in Boulder, as an assistant with Denver.

A former All-American with the Buffs, Sheetz said it's not too difficult to put her feelings for CU aside and compete for 40 minutes. Sheetz had previously returned to Boulder as an assistant for San Diego and Pepperdine.

Notable

The Buffs shot -- and made -- just two free throws. It's the fewest number of free throw attempts by the Buffs in the record-keeping era, which began in the 1978-79 season. ... The Buffs are one of just 12 undefeated teams in Division I, out of 342 schools. ... Freshman Lexy Kresl scored 13 points, the seventh time in eight games she has hit double digits. She's hit at least one 3-pointer in all eight games. ... CU had 20 assists -- it's most since 22 against Loyola Chicago on Nov. 27, 2010. ... The Buffs are 5-2 all-time against Denver.

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CU Buffs' Arielle Roberson out for year after surgery

Women's basketball freshman expected back next year

By Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 12/08/2011 09: 36: 48 AM MST

Arielle Roberson's freshman season with the Colorado women's basketball team is over before it began.

Roberson, who has not played this season for the Buffs (7-0), underwent successful surgery on Wednesday to repair torn cartilage in her left hip and she will not play this season.

"The treatment we had been trying didn't go as planned, so the decision really made itself," said Roberson, a true freshman from San Antonio, Texas, in a statement provided by CU. "I look forward to being healthy again, 100 percent."

A 6-foot-1 forward, Roberson averaged 18.2 points and 9.7 rebounds as a high school senior last year. The Buffs were hoping she would provide that same type of inside presence this year. Instead, she will use her redshirt year and have four years of eligibility remaining after this season.

"Although we are disappointed that Arielle won't see time on the court this season, we know she will work hard, have a great attitude, and make a speedy recovery," CU head coach Linda Lappe said in a statement from CU. "Injuries are never ideal but I believe there can always be something positive that comes of them. She will be a huge asset on the bench and will really have a chance to study the game from a coach's perspective in hopes that she will be better equipped when she returns next season."

Roberson has been out for weeks, yet has been involved at practices and will likely continue doing that.

"I know this year I'm playing a different role than I'm used to, but I've always been a cheerful person," said Roberson, whose brother, Andre, plays for the CU men's team. "I feel I can help bring positive energy and a spark on the bench, helping to motivate my teammates."

Recovery time is expected to be six-to-eight months, which would put Roberson ready to go by the time the Buffs start fall drills.

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women's college basketball

CU Buffs women move to 8-0 by routing Denver Pioneers

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Posted: 12/08/2011 10:30:00 PM MST Updated: 12/08/2011 10:32:17 PM MST

BOULDER — In what was expected to be among the toughest tests for the Colorado women during their non-conference schedule, the Buffaloes remained one of the nation's 12 unbeaten teams Thursday night by cruising past Denver 71-36 at the Coors Events Center.

Colorado (8-0) shot 55.8 percent from the field, often beating Denver's defense down the court before the Pioneers could set up in their zone. The Buffs pulled away with a 21-4 run early in the second half that featured seven points by freshman guard Lexy Kresl and six by junior Chucky Jeffery.

"Payback is awesome," said CU senior forward Julie Seabrook, referring to DU's victory over the Buffs a year ago.

Jeffery ended the first half with a bang, er, a bomb — a 3-pointer she let fly in full stride, a half-step before reaching the midcourt line. Nothing but net. She finished with a gamehigh 20 points.

"As soon as it left my hand, it felt good, I thought it was going in," Jeffery said of the game's highlight.

Denver (6-3) shot 30 percent and never found a rhythm. The Pioneers, favored to win the West Division of the Sun Belt Conference, made just one 3-pointer. At the other end, Colorado drained 11 shots from beyond the arc.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post



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Saturday, December 10, 2011

Classifieds



Colorado forward Arielle Roberson undergoes hip surgery, will miss season

PRINT EMAIL
OF COMMENTS

 By Ton Kensler
 POSTED: 12/08/2011 12:29:17 PM MST

 The Denver Post
 UPDATED: 12/08/2011 12:29:28 PM MST

The Colorado basketball brother-sister act will have to wait until next season.

Arielle Roberson, a 6-foot-1 freshman forward on the CU women's team and sister of CU men's hoops standout Andre Richardson, underwent successful surgery Wednesday to repair a torn labrum in her left hip and will redshirt this season, the school announced today.

Roberson's recovery time is expected to be 6-8 months and she should be ready for the start of individual workouts next fall, according to CU. She will have four years of eligibility beginning with the 2012-13 season.

A Texas all-state selection last spring following her senior year at Wagner High School in San Antonio, Roberson arrived in Boulder with back pain. Treatments prescribed by the CU Sports Medicine staff failed to alleviate the problem.

"I look forward to being healthy again ... 100 percent," she said in a news release. "I know this year I'm playing a different role than I'm used to. But I've always been a cheerful person. I feel I can help bring positive energy and a spark on the bench, helping to motivate my teammates."

Colorado coach Linda Lappe can relate. As a player for the Buffs, she suffered a seasonending knee injury after playing in just two games during her sophomore year (1999-2000).

"Although we are disappointed that Arielle won't see time on the court this season, we know she will work hard, have a great attitude and make a speedy recovery," Lappe said.

Roberson signed last spring with Colorado after also considering an offer list that included North Carolina State and Southern California. She averaged 18.2 points, 9.7 rebounds, 2.7 assists, three steals and two blocks per game as a high school senior.

Colorado (7-0) hosts Denver (6-2) today at 7 p.m. The game will be televised by Root Sports.

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