



Sophomore Ashley Wilson keeps the ball away from Arizona's Shanita Arnold
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: Jeffery's Treys Lead Buffs Past Wildcats

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BOULDER - When Chucky Jeffery set her feet, squared up and buried the game's first shot and her first three-pointer Thursday night, her coach had an inkling good things would follow.

Linda Lappe was right.

Behind Jeffery's 21 points and career-high five treys, the Colorado women's basketball team cruised past Arizona 69-59 at the Coors Events Center, winning by its largest margin in Pac-12 Conference play.

"Chucky, from the opening shot, showed how she was going to play that game . . . that set the tempo," Lappe said. "She took it with confidence and even if she missed it, she still had the same confidence . . . she really controlled the game from start to finish."

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The Buffs, breaking a three-game losing streak, improved to 16-7 overall and 5-7 in the conference. With Arizona State losing Thursday night at Utah, CU has a chance to pull even with ASU (now 6-6) when the Sun Devils visit the Events Center on Saturday (7 p.m.).

Behind 10 first-half points each from Jeffery and Brittany Wilson, the Buffs finished the first 20 minutes strong, then opened the final 20 with the same vigor. It was very close to being a performance with no dead spots, which Lappe called "huge. Our players, hopefully, learn from our mistakes. We came out in the second half really strong - and we haven't done that in a while.

"It was good for us to get back into the killer instinct mentality. I thought we did a great job playing 40 minutes of basketball."

The Buffs' 6-0 run to close the first half gave them a 40-37 lead at intermission, and five straight points to open the second half put them up eight (45-37) before the Wildcats could recover.

Arizona did, closing to 47-45 before CU surged with an 11-2 run - it featured Jeffery contributing a pair of treys - and went up 59-47. The Buffs held a double-digit lead for the final 10:22 and sent the Wildcats (13-11, 2-10) to their seventh consecutive loss.

In addition to Jeffery's game-best 21 points, CU got 12 points from Brittany Wilson and a career-high 10 from freshman Jasmine Sborov, who also contributed seven rebounds (tied with Julie Seabrook for a game high), three assists and a steal. Lappe called Sborov the team's most improved player since practice began.

Jeffery, who made five of her nine three-point attempts, snapped out of a behind-the-arc slump that had seen her make only 3-of-25 trey tries in the previous seven games.

"When I feel like my shot is good, I get encouraged to hit another one if I'm open," Jeffery said. "So I wasn't going to be hesitant. I missed a couple, but I just kept shooting when I was open. That's what I am told to do. We focus on catching the ball and getting ready to score every time."

Lappe was as pleased with Jeffery's defense as her offense, citing the clamp down job done on Arizona's Davellyn White, whose 10 points were 7.4 below her average. Also key was the Buffs' offensive board work: they outrebounded the Wildcats 41-27, snaring 20 offensive boards and outscoring the visitors 21-4 on second-chance points.

Lappe called that "the difference in the game." Her team also converted 20 Wildcats turnovers into 13 points - which also helped tip the night in the Buffs' favor.

"It was very frustrating," Arizona coach Niya Butts said of her team's miscues. "We turned the ball over and we had a lot of travels . . . we were really careless with the basketball and you can't do that when you're on the road."

The Buffs, 56-54 winners against the Wildcats last month in Tucson, opened by hitting their first three shots - all treys - and went ahead 9-5. The Wildcats finally got in a flow and tied the score at 13-13 and took their first lead at 15-13 a minute later on a layup by Candice Warthen.

From there, the lead changed hands five times before Arizona got seven consecutive points from Shanita Arnold and took its largest lead (31-26) of the half. The Wildcats led for the next 8 minutes, surrendering their advantage when Ashley Wilson hit a layup with 1:48 left before intermission to send the Buffs ahead 38-37.

Another layup by Meagan Malcolm-Peck gave CU its 40-37 halftime lead and marked the Buffs' first 40-point half

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in Pac-12 play. The Wildcats made only one field goal in the final 6:59 of the first half but wound up shooting 63.6 percent overall (14-of-22) and 71.4 percent from behind the arc (5-of-7) - and that kept them close for awhile.

Said Butts: "The first half, you're shooting 64 percent and you're down three. You're shooting 71 percent from the three-point line and 100 percent (4-of-4) from the free throw line. It comes down to that we were just not defending; we didn't get stops. And when they got the shot, they were getting the offensive rebounds."

Lappe said her team "came out ready to play . . . came with that aggressive mentality. Our defense really struggled in the first half, but we came out (strong) in the second half. Our players really did a good job of adjusting.

"Anytime you get a win in the conference it's a good thing."

Tickets for Saturday's game can be purchased on-line at CUBuffs.com/tickets for by calling 303-49-BUFFS.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

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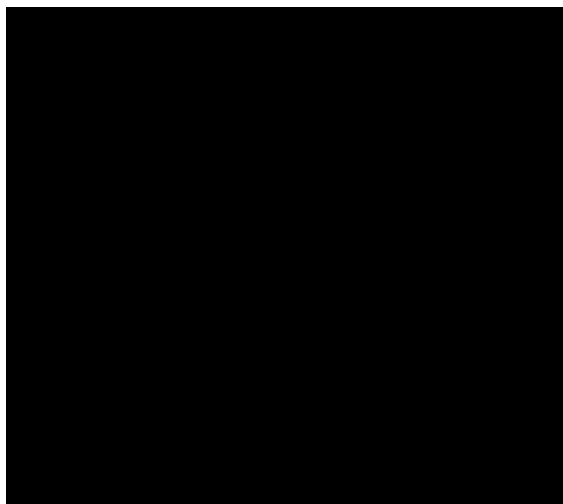


Chucky Jeffery's 21 leads CU Buffs over Arizona Wildcats

Colorado starts fast in victory at Coors Events Center

By **Brian Howell** Buffzone.com
Boulder Daily Camera

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With a confident look in her eyes, Chucky Jeffery jumped in the air, let a shot fly and drained it.

Jeffery's first 3-pointer came just 13 seconds into the game on Thursday, but it said a lot about the Colorado junior.

"From that opening shot, she really showed how she was going to play that game," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "She really controlled the game from start to finish, both on the offensive and defensive end."

Led by Jeffery, the Buffs rolled to a 69-59 win over visiting Arizona at Coors Events Center, snapping a three-game losing streak. It was also CU's largest margin of victory in conference play.

"It feels great," said Jeffery, who had a game-high 21 points and a career-high five 3-pointers. "I think a lot of our players got

a lot of confidence back. We played a full 40 minutes and I think we haven't done that in a long time -- playing defense, getting loose balls and getting on the floor -- things we weren't doing in these past few games.

"We had players step up. It was just an all-around good team win."

The Buffs (16-7, 5-7 Pac-12) clinched a winning record for the second year in a row and did it with one of their most complete games in Pac-12 play.

CU hit 41.8 percent of its shots, dominating on the boards and, for the first time since beginning the Pac-12 schedule, went into the final minute with a comfortable double-digit lead.

"We earned it," Jeffery said. "Nothing ever comes easy, so it was good to come out and look up and scoreboard and know we've got this sealed. It's a great feeling."

It all started with Jeffery, who had her best offensive output in nearly a month, while also posting six rebounds and five assists.

Brittany Wilson added 12 points and freshman Jasmine Sborov had career-highs in points (10) and rebounds (seven) for the Buffs. The Wildcats (13-11, 2-10) were led by Shanita Arnold and Candice Warthen with 13 points each.

Notoriously slow starters, the Buffs came out firing -- and hitting -- from 3-point range. CU drained its first three shots, including the initial shot from Jeffery, to take a 9-5 lead.

"We're on our home floor and we knew we had to score," said Wilson, who hit two of the first three 3s. "We knew we had to come out and we knew what we had to do to bring the dagger out early."

Arizona got in gear midway through the first half and took a 35-30 lead with 4:49 to go before intermission, taking advantage of CU's lackluster defense. The Wildcats made 63.6 percent of their first-half shots, including 5-of-7 from 3-point range.

"Our defense struggled in the first half, but I thought we made some good changes right before halftime and that led us into the second half," Lappe said.

After Arizona took its five-point lead, CU went on a 15-2 run over the next 7:23.

"That was huge," Lappe said. "We haven't done that for a while, so it was good see us get back to that mentality, that killer-instinct mentality. Then we didn't let them back in and I thought we did a great job. We kept our foot on the gas pedal and stayed focused throughout."

Arizona did pull within 47-45 with 13:30 to go, but a pair of 3s by Jeffery sparked a 12-2 run and the Buffs played the final 10:15 with a double-digit lead.

Coming in with a three-game losing streak, it was exactly what the Buffs needed. But, they feel this one was won in the previous days during practice.

"I think we had an outstanding week in practice," Jeffery said. "We learned to take on that contact and we were going up and getting boards and finishing. Everything translates, and we were extremely focused this week, without a doubt. Forty minutes we were focused the entire time."

CU Buffs freshman Jasmine Sborov hitting her stride

By **Brian Howell** Buffzone.com
Boulder Daily Camera

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Linda Lappe's most reliable bench players.

used to be a pleasant surprise whenever Jasmine Sborov would come in off the bench and play a key role for the Colorado women's basketball team.

Now the Buffs are starting to expect it.

On Thursday night, the freshman had perhaps her finest collegiate game, with career highs in points (10) and rebounds (seven) and tying her career-high with three assists.

"I think I just kind of had to find myself and slow the game down for myself to feel more comfortable," she said.

During the first 15 games, Sborov rarely played. In three games, she never left the bench, and in eight others, she played less than seven minutes.

Then, in the Buffs' 80-54 loss to Stanford on Jan. 14, she played 17 solid minutes. Ever since, she's been one of coach

"Jasmine is understanding the game," Lappe said. "She's understanding her role on the team. She's understanding how hard she has to play consistently. Jasmine's really learning what it takes to be successful at this level.

"I'm really proud with how she's playing and hopefully she keeps getting better."

At the start of the season, Lappe said Sborov had a "deer in the headlights" look. That's long gone now.

"From the first game to now, she has definitely made the most progress of anybody on the team," Lappe said.

Quite a turnaround

When CU and Arizona met on Jan. 22 in Tucson, Ariz., the Wildcats had a dominating 51-30 advantage in rebounding, with 25 boards coming on the offensive end.

On Thursday, CU out-rebounded Arizona 41-27, holding the Wildcats to eight offensive boards.

"That was the difference in the game," Lappe said. "That was a huge focal point of ours coming into the game. They were the aggressors at their place. That was something we had talked all week, something that we had worked on. I thought our players did a nice job of really setting the tone."

Moving up

With five assists on Thursday, junior Chucky Jeffery moved into 12th place on CU's all-time list, with 321. During the game, she passed Lappe and Jenny Roulier.

"She's got a long ways to go," Lappe said. "Hopefully she passes everybody on that list."

Notable

CU shot 41.8 percent from the floor, it's second-best performance in conference play. ... Jeffery made of 5-of-9 3-pointers. She had been 3-for-25 in the previous seven games. ... CU's 40-point first half was its first 40-point half in a conference game since the second half at Texas A&M on Jan. 8, 2011. ... Arizona's Davellyn Whyte, who came in second in the conference at 17.4 points per game, finished with 10. In two games against CU, she had a total of 18 points, mostly with Jeffery guarding her. ... Arizona has lost seven straight games. ... CU is now 8-3 all-time against Arizona, 5-1 in Boulder.