



Colorado's Jen Reese and Utah's Janita Badon scramble for a loose ball.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: Utes Outlast Buffs To Win In OT

Release: 02/18/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - Holding an opponent to a pair of free throws in a basketball game's final 7-plus minutes usually brings a favorable result. On the other hand, missing a pair of free throws that would yield three-point plays in a two-point game . . . not so favorable.

As a result, the University of Colorado women's basketball team must file Saturday's game against Utah in the "not so" category. The Buffaloes rallied from an eight-point deficit to force overtime, but faltered in the extra period and were beaten 61-56 by Utah at the Coors Events Center.

In truth, as fortuitous as CU's late rally was, it needed potential close-out free throws by freshman Jen Reese and junior Chucky Jeffery in the final 3:26 that would have completed a three-point play by each and perhaps have made OT unnecessary.

"It came down to a possession-by-possession game and the

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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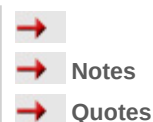
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Statistics

difference was free throws . . . I didn't hit any of mine. It's disappointing, but that's what it came down to. We had the effort," said Jeffery, whose three foul line misfires accounted for half of her team's six misses (7-of-13).



Maybe pushing the loss beyond disappointing was Utah getting only two free throws by Iwalani Rodrigues in the final 7:09, allowing CU to come back from a 48-40 deficit. Reese and Jeffery each had four points in that 8-0 run, but each left the Events Center bummed about the free throw neither hit during that stretch.

"There have been a lot of games like this," Reese said. "We like to make it hard on ourselves. We've done that all season."

And surprisingly, they've done it all too often at home, where they're now 2-5 in Pac-12 Conference play. Included in the five losses are a pair of overtime defeats, the first 62-54 against UCLA, and a 68-55 loss to California that saw CU squander a 12-point lead in the final 12 minutes.

The Utes, who entered the game tied with CU for sixth place in the conference (each team had been 5-8), improved to 13-12 and avenged a 58-52 loss to CU in the Pac-12 opener for both teams on New Year's Eve. In that game, the Buffs rallied from a 10-point deficit as the Utes missed their final 14 shots.

But Saturday brought a different game against what appeared to be a different team. CU coach Linda Lappe said the difference was easily explained: "They're hitting shots, and anytime you hit shots you become a better team . . . they have very balanced scoring; their top four leading scorers showed why they're the top four leading scorers. They all came through at different times and they hit some clutch shots. The first time we played them they missed easy shots; tonight they made them."

While disappointed with the loss, Lappe said she believed the Buffs "played Colorado basketball tonight . . . I haven't been able to say that in a while in terms of our energy, enthusiasm and our effort."

The Buffs reduced their turnovers - 24 in their previous game to 12 Saturday - and outrebounded the Utes 38-30. They also scored 23 points off of Utah's dozen turnovers and got 10 second-chance points to the Utes' four.

Still, CU lost for the fifth time in six games and dropped to 16-9 overall and 5-9 in the league. The Buffs managed only one field goal - a Jeffery layup - in eight overtime attempts while the Utes hit three of four. Jeffery led CU with 15 points, while Julie Seabrook was the only other Buffs player in double figures (10). Reese collected a game-best 11 rebounds and added eight points.

Four Utah starters reached double figures, led by 6-3 forward Taryn Wicijowski's 16. Janita Badon and Rodrigues each scored 15 - Rodrigues hit three of her five three-point attempts - and Michelle Plouffe added 13, including three of five free throws in the final 16.7 seconds of overtime.

"I'm really proud of them," Utah coach Anthony Levrets said of his team. "This is our third overtime win; we're 3-0. Backs against the wall, we seem to perform at our best . . . I told them that our bus doesn't leave until 6 tomorrow morning and we will play to 6 if that's how long it takes. They laughed and I think that loosened them up quite a bit."

Lappe said her team "did some great things down the stretch to close the gap (in regulation) . . . Chucky started driving, we started going to the rim and she hit a few shots in the last minutes. I thought Jen made some nice reads. I thought our offense was better than it had been. But in the overtime we gave up too many points; you give up four points max in overtime and we gave up too many."

The Utes scored the last five points of the first half, overcoming a two-point Buffs advantage to lead 28-25 at intermission. Utah's largest lead of the half was four points, while CU was able to lead by just two on three occasions before surrendering its advantage at the half.

The Buffs had early problems in the paint with the 6-3 Wicijowski, who hit five of her seven first-half field goal attempts and one of three free throws for 11 of her 16 points. But Lappe said the Buffs "started doubling her at the end of the half and that really helped. We kept that going in the second half."

CU got the first five points of the second half - all courtesy of freshman Lexy Kresl - to take a 30-28 lead. But things quickly went downhill from there, as Utah launched a 12-3 run and took its biggest advantage of the night to that point, 40-33, with 11:29 to play.

Lappe called a timeout, and the Buffs cut the deficit to four (42-38) on a conventional three-point play by Ashley Wilson with 8 minutes remaining. But Badon negated that on the other end with her own layup and free throw.

And less than a minute later, Rodrigues' three-pointer from the left corner pushed the Utes up 48-40 with 7:09 remaining. But that would be Utah's last field goal in regulation.

Reese hit a layup to make it 48-42, but the Buffs were running out of time and needed someone to step up. Jeffery and Reese answered, with Jeffery working inside for a layup to pull CU to within 48-44. Reese was fouled while hitting a baseline jumper, but missed her free throw.

Still, with 3:26 left, the Buffs trailed only 48-46, and Jeffery tied it at 48-48 with a layup. She, too, was fouled, but she also missed her free throw.

Kresl didn't, hitting both ends of her one-and-one to give CU a 50-48 edge with 2:04 to play. Rodrigues tied it at 50 with a pair of free throws with 49.8 seconds to play, and Jeffery - trying to drive the right lane - had the ball taken away by Wicijowski with 26 seconds left.

Utah's Rachel Messer missed from the right corner with 2 seconds showing - and OT was next.

Badon scored Utah's first four points in the extra period, Jeffery converted a steal into a layup, then Wicijowski hit one of two free throws to put the Utes up 55-52 with 2:15 remaining.

A pair of foul shots by Reese cut the deficit to 55-54 and the Buffs got a stop and a rebound by Reese at the other end. A Jasmine Sborov layup attempt was thwarted by Wicijowski - but the Utes' forward fouled out on the play, sending Sborov to the line.

She hit both free throws, giving CU a 56-55 lead, then Rodrigues' trey from the left corner pushed Utah back in front 58-56. The Buffs called time out with 27.9 seconds to play.

Jeffery took the in-bounds pass, drove the right side but could neither hit the basket nor draw the foul. CU couldn't control the rebound and was forced to foul Plouffe with 16.7 seconds showing.

Plouffe hit both free throws, giving the Utes a 60-56 advantage - and the Buffs turned it over for the final time and once again fouled Plouffe. She hit one of two free throws, giving Utah its 61-56 final advantage.

CU travels next week, playing at No. 3 Stanford on Thursday (8 p.m., MST) and at California on Saturday (3 p.m., MST).

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SHOW MENU



Women's basketball: CU Buffs fall at home to Utah Utes

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

Posted:02/18/2012 08:00:25 PM MST

Heartache has become too common for the Colorado women's basketball team this season.

On Saturday, the spirited Buffs had all the energy they needed to win a game, but Utah walked out of Coors Events Center with a 61-56 overtime win.

"Our team has great heart and we had great effort today, it's just ..." freshman Jen Reese said.

She finished the sentence with a sigh.

With Saturday's loss, the Buffs (16-9, 5-9 Pac-12) dropped to 2-5 at home in Pac-12 play. This was the second loss suffered in overtime. In another one, the Buffs lost a double-digit second-half lead.

CU women's basketball schedule

Nov. 6 - [CU 78, Regis 40, exhibition](#)

Nov. 11 - [CU 84, Northern Arizona 60](#)

Nov. 16 - [CU 71, Texas A&M 58](#)

Nov. 20 - [CU 72, CSU 53](#)

Nov. 25 - [CU 60, Valparaiso 32](#)

Nov. 26 - [CU 58, Wisconsin 48](#)

Nov. 30 - [CU 84, San Francisco 66](#)

Dec. 4 - [CU 68, Idaho 59](#)

Dec. 8 - [CU 71, Denver 36](#)

Dec. 17 - [CU 77, Weber State 59](#)

Dec. 20 - [CU 67, Texas-Pan American 49](#)

Dec. 21 - [CU 52, Creighton 49](#)

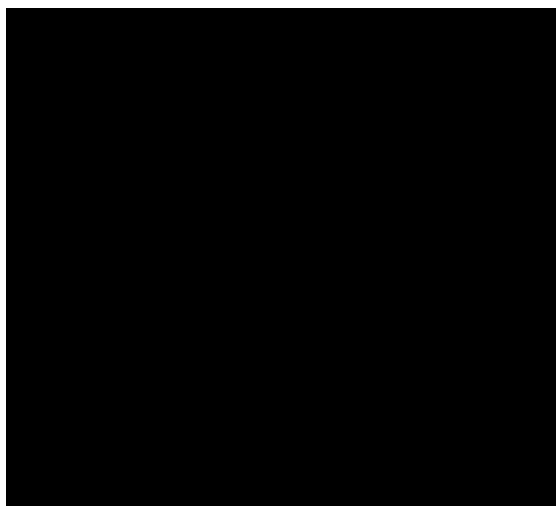
Dec. 31 - [CU 58, Utah 52](#)

Overall, the Buffs are 1-5 in their last six games and dropped below the Utes (13-12, 6-8) in the standings.

"They're worse at home, because you never want to give anything up on your home floor," said junior Chucky Jeffery, who led the team with 15 points. "You're supposed to protect your home floor at all times. It's definitely worse."

Utah scored six unanswered points in the final 31 seconds of overtime. CU took a 56-55 lead on two Jasmine Sborov free throws with 56.8 seconds left, but Utah's Iwalani Rodrigues answered with a 3-pointer and the Utes made 3-of-4 free throws in the final 17 seconds.

CU made just 1-of-8 field goals in overtime, while Utah hit 3-of-4.



[View full photo gallery](#)

"In the overtime, we gave up too many points," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "You want to make sure you give up four points max in overtime. We had a couple of key letdowns defensively where we weren't just very smart and that really hurt us."

To get to overtime, CU needed a late rally. It was the second time this season the Buffs clawed out of a big hole late against the Utes.

Utah took a 48-40 lead on a Rodrigues 3-

pointer with 7:09 to go in regulation.

That matched the eight-point deficit CU faced with 8:33 to go in Salt Lake City on Dec. 31. On that day, the Buffs outscored the Utes 14-0 the rest of the way to win.

Jan. 5 - [Washington 75, CU 67](#)

History almost repeated itself Saturday, as CU went on a 10-0 run to take a 50-48 lead with 2:04 to play.

Jan. 7 - [CU 57, Washington State 56](#)

CU couldn't score after that, however, and the Utes buried a pair of free throws with 49.8 seconds left to tie the game at 50.

Jan. 12 - [California 68, CU 55](#)

Despite Utah not hitting a field goal in the final 7:09 of regulation, a CU turnover and a Utah missed shot in the final seconds sent the game into overtime.

Jan. 14 - [Stanford 80, CU 54](#)

CU had plenty of chances in regulation, but missed six of their first seven free throws before going 6-for-6 in the final 7:04 of the game.

Jan. 19 - [Arizona 64, CU 43](#)

"The difference was free throws," said Jeffery, who was 0-for-3 at the line. "I didn't hit any of my free throws, so that's disappointing to know especially because the game can be won or lost by free throws. That's ultimately what it came down to, because we had effort. We played the entire time."

Jan. 22 - [CU 56, Arizona 54](#)

Jan. 26 - [CU 69, USC 67](#)

Lappe said she had no problem with what her players put forth.

Jan. 29 - [UCLA 62, CU 54](#)

Feb. 2 - [Oregon State 65, CU 45](#)

"All in all, I thought we played Colorado basketball tonight and I haven't been able to say that for a while in terms of just our energy and enthusiasm and our effort," she said. "I was really happy with our team in those regards."

Feb. 4 - [Oregon 67, CU 62](#)

In the end, the great effort wasn't enough.

Feb. 9 - [CU 69, Arizona 59](#)

Feb. 11 - [Arizona State 60, CU 47](#)

"That was a disappointing game for sure," Lappe said. "I thought we did work a lot harder. We didn't always work smarter."

Feb. 18 - [Utah 61, CU 56, OT](#)

"We're disappointed, but we've got to get back to work."

Feb. 23 - CU at Stanford, 8 p.m.

Feb. 25 - CU at California, 3 p.m.

Mar. 1 - Oregon at CU, 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 3 - Oregon State at CU, 4 p.m.

CU Buffs' Jen Reese rises to difficult challenge

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

Posted:02/18/2012 11:53:48 PM MST



Jen Reese drew a tough assignment on Saturday.

Colorado's 6-foot-2 freshman forward was asked to guard Utah's Taryn Wicijowski, a 6-foot-3 redshirt sophomore who ranks among the Pac-12 leaders in scoring and rebounding.

"It was hard work, but I knew coming into the game it was going to be tough guarding (Wicijowski)," Reese said. "She's bigger than me and older than me. I think I did an OK job. I could have done better in the beginning."

Wicijowski finished with 16 points and nine rebounds, but Reese and the Buffs did a nice job against her late in the game.

CU women's basketball schedule

Nov. 6 - CU 78, Regis 40, exhibition

Nov. 11 - CU 84, Northern Arizona 60

Nov. 16 - CU 71, Texas A&M 58

In the last 19 minutes, 47 seconds, Wicijowski had just one point and four rebounds before fouling out.

"We started doubling her at the end of the first half and I thought that really helped," Lappe said.

CU also did a solid job on Utah's other top forward, Michelle Plouffe. She finished with 13 points, but only two rebounds -- 6.5 below her average. Plouffe had just three points in the final 18:08.

Honored

At halftime, CU

Nov. 20 - CU 72, CSU 53

Nov. 25 - CU 60, Valparaiso 32

Nov. 26 - CU 58, Wisconsin 48

Nov. 30 - CU 84, San Francisco 66

Dec. 4 - CU 68, Idaho 59

Dec. 8 - CU 71, Denver 36

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Dec. 20 - CU 67, Texas-Pan American 49

Dec. 21 - CU 52, Creighton 49

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Jan. 5 - Washington 75, CU 67

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Jan. 26 - CU 69, USC 67

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Feb. 2 - Oregon State 65, CU 45

Feb. 4 - Oregon 67, CU 62

Feb. 9 - CU 69, Arizona 59

Feb. 11 - Arizona State 60, CU 47

Feb. 18 - Utah 61, CU 56, OT

Feb. 23 - CU at Stanford, 8 p.m.

Feb. 25 - CU at California, 3 p.m.

Mar. 1 - Oregon at CU, 6:30 p.m.



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Salina.

"Just the excitement afterwards because it was such a unique year with all that we went through and to finish with eight players," she said.

Former Niwot High girls coach Terri Ward, who was a manager on that squad, also was on hand for the celebration.

Lai, who is a tax manager and mother of two, lives in Boulder and said she still follows the Buffs closely.

"I think Linda is doing a great job," she said. "It's exciting to watch these teams play right now. They play great defense and I know that was a cornerstone of her days, as well as mine."

Shots fall

Chucky Jeffery's game-tying bucket with 2:41 to play in the regulation had the Buffs sitting at 21-for-50 from the floor -- a solid 42 percent.

From that point, the Buffs went 1-for-9, making just one field goal in the final 7:41.

"We had a lot of great shots in the paint tonight, just exactly what we designed," Lappe said. "It didn't fall.

"You've got to fight through adversity and there was a lot of adversity down the stretch tonight."

Buffzone.com Mailbag

[Have a question for our reporters about any of the CU athletic teams, ask it here in our weekly mailbag.](#)

Notable

Starting forward Meagan Malcolm-Peck was held scoreless for the second straight game and for the third time in four games. A 40-percent shooting coming into this year, she went 0-for-5 on Saturday to drop to 27.5 percent on the season. ... Jeffery moved into 23rd on CU's all-time scoring list and 15th on its all-time

honored the 1991-92 team, which went 22-9, won the Big Eight Tournament in Salina, Kan., and reached the NCAA Tournament.

"It's great and it's hard to believe it's been 20 years," said Amy Mathern Lai, who played at Lyons High School before going to CU. "It doesn't feel that way, but it's great to see all the teammates again."

Lai said her favorite memory of that season was the tournament in

Mar. 3 - Oregon State at CU, 4 p.m.

rebounding list. ... CU out-rebounded the Utes 38-30. At one point this season, the Buffs were 13-0 when out-rebounding their opponents. They are 1-4 since then. ... CU has four regular season games left, all against teams they've lost to already.

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