

Women's basketball: CU Buffs can't hang with No. 2 Stanford Cardinal

Colorado keeps it close in the first half, before getting blown out in the second

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

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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

Jan. 5 - Washington 75, CU 67

Jan. 7 - CU 57, Washington State 56

Jan. 12 - California 68, CU 55

Jan. 14 - Stanford 80, CU 54

PALO ALTO, Calif. -- Colorado did its best to hang in with the No. 2 team in the county.

Stanford was simply too much for the CU women's basketball team on Thursday night, rolling to a 68-46 win at Maples Pavilion.

The Buffs' biggest loss of the night, however, might have come 93 seconds into the game.

Freshman forward Jen Reese fouled a Stanford player, but in the process injured her left eye and did not return. After the game, in a postgame interview on KVCU AM-1190, head coach Linda Lappe said Reese's injury could be serious.

"She's at the hospital," Lappe said just minutes after the game. "She might have a fracture in one of her orbital bones. She got kicked in the face, basically, when she was trying to take a charge and can't really see straight."

Reese, who scored the Buffs' first two points of the game, provides them with good scoring punch and has been CU's top rebounder in Pac-12 play.

"I think that's a big shock to our team," junior guard Chucky Jeffery said on KVCU. "Jen is very dynamic and she brings a lot. I think she's just a great asset to our team, so that's going to hurt us for sure (if she misses more time)."

CU (16-10, 5-10 Pac-12) certainly could have used her Thursday. Stanford (25-1, 16-0) extended its winning streaks to 22 overall, 77 at home and 73 against conference opponents.

Jeffery had her first double-double in Pac-12 play (13 points, 13 rebounds) and her sixth of the year, but Stanford's Ogwumike sisters dominated, combining for 41 points and 18 rebounds. Nnemkadi Ogwumike, a senior who is a national player of the year candidate, had 23 points and 11 rebounds. Chiney Ogwumike had 18 points and seven boards. The two of them pounded the Buffs in the paint.

"Once the ball gets into one of the sisters' hands, you know it's going up," Jeffery said. "Once they got the ball in, it's kind of hard to get the ball from out of there."

In addition to missing Reese, CU forwards Meagan Malcolm-Peck and Rachel Hargis had three first-half fouls, while forward Julie Seabrook had two. Starting guard Brittany Wilson also had three first-half fouls.

Even with that adversity, CU hung with the Cardinal for most of the first half. CU took advantage of 15 first-half turnovers by Stanford, which came in averaging 12.4 per game.

With 3 minutes, 30 seconds left in the first half, Jeffery hit a bucket that pulled the Buffs within 21-18. Held to a season-low two points against the Cardinal on Jan. 14, Jeffery had eight points in the first half Thursday.

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

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

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

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

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 - [Stanford 68, CU 46](#)

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.

"I thought we came out and we played one of the best first halves we've played in a long time," Jeffery said. "We were going toe-to-toe with them, we were being aggressive."

After that bucket, however, CU scored two points in the next 10:28. Stanford closed the half on a 5-0 spurt and began the second half with a 19-2 run to turn the game into a rout. Stanford stretched its lead to 59-24 with 9:37 to play.

"I thought we battled for the entire game," Lappe said. "We couldn't score coming out of the second half. Stanford really packed it in and didn't let us get to the rim. We didn't shoot the ball well at all and to be able to be in the game at halftime, that was our No. 1 goal. We wanted to come out strong at the beginning of the second half, but I'm really proud of how we fought."

Lexy Kresl and Ashley Wilson added nine points for the Buffs and Jasmine Sborov had six, but the absence of Reese was huge.

"We have to be full strength against Stanford," Lappe said.

Notable

Stanford's starters outscored CU's starting five, 59-17. ... Malcolm-Peck was held scoreless for the third straight game and for the fourth time in five games. She has five points in the last five games combined. ... Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer improved to 699-148 as Cardinal head coach. ... The Buffs were 8-for-12 at the line, while Stanford was 27-for-33. ... The Cardinal had just four second-half turnovers. ... Jeffery's 13 rebounds were the most she's had in a game since posting 16 against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Nov. 16. ... The Buffs were held below 60 points for the 11th time in Pac-12 play and below 50 for the fourth time.

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After physical start, Colorado women fade late in 68-46 loss at No. 2 Stanford

By Associated Press, Published: February 23

STANFORD, Calif. — Colorado coach Linda Lappe watched the way her team fought, diving for loose balls and contesting every shot — even fouling hard on any attempts near the rim — and beamed with pride.

She only wishes they could maintain the momentum.

Chucky Jeffery had 13 points and 13 rebounds and Ashley Wilson scored nine points to keep Colorado close until No. 2 Stanford overwhelmed the Buffaloes in the second half in a 68-46 loss Thursday night.

“We wanted to make sure we didn’t back down. We weren’t intimidated,” Lappe said. “But too many fouls where we didn’t have to foul. I don’t mind a hard foul when it’s either a layup or a foul, but fouls away from the basket, reaching in because you’re not in position, those are the ones we have to cut down.”

The Buffaloes (16-10, 5-10) were down only eight at the half and seemed ready to give Stanford a rare home test at Maples Pavilion for 40 minutes.

Instead, Amber Orrange had three-point play to highlight a 19-2 run to open the second half to carry the Cardinal (25-1, 16-0) to their 22nd straight win and 77th in a row at Maples Pavilion — the longest active home-winning streak in the nation.

Nnemkadi Ogwumike had 23 points and 11 rebounds, sister Chiney Ogwumike added 18 points and seven rebounds for Stanford, which hasn’t lost anywhere since a 68-58 setback at Connecticut on Nov. 21.

Colorado, which started the season 12-0 for only the third time in school history, has lost three straight and six of the last seven games.

“We were really stagnant in not running our regular offense,” Jeffery said. “We weren’t really being as aggressive as we were in the first half going to the rim.

For a change, Stanford’s start didn’t overwhelm its opponent.

On the Cardinal’s second possession of the game, Nnemkadi Ogwumike drove hard to the basket and delivered an elbow to Jen Reese’s left eye while protecting the ball. Reese, who was called for a blocking foul, tumbled hard to the floor and stayed there for several minutes, emerging with light tears streaming under her bruised left eye.

The Buffaloes showed they could take a punch.

They hardly let the Cardinal coast the way they do so often at Maples Pavilion, hustling for loose balls and contesting every shot, even if it meant fouling back harder. The Buffaloes built a 12-11 lead, but had three players — Brittany Wilson, Rachel Hargis and Meagan Malcolm-Peck — with three fouls in the first 15 minutes, relegating each to the bench.

Stanford closed an ugly, physical first half ahead 26-18 behind Ogwumike’s strong inside presence despite shooting only 31.6 percent and committing 15 turnovers — seven by point guard Toni Kokenis alone. Colorado didn’t do much better, shooting 32 percent with 11 turnovers, but the sloppy play kept it close.

If only for a half.

The Cardinal came out sprinting and showing the typical tenacity of Hall of Fame coach Tara VanDerveer’s teams following the break. The Ogwumike sisters each had a pair of high-driving layups and Orrange’s three-point play over Julie Seabrook with 16:29 remaining started highlighted the huge spurt that put Stanford ahead 45-20.

Stanford already has clinched the inaugural Pac-12 title, its 12th straight conference crown and 21st overall, but VanDerveer surely knows her teams can’t afford any early lapses if the program wants to return to its fifth straight Final Four — much less break the trend of those tearful plane rides home.

VanDerveer can earn her 700th victory at Stanford on Saturday against Utah. She would become the seventh Division I coach to reach the milestone at one school.

Not that anyone on The Farm is ready to rejoice — much.

Stanford also was presented the first Pac-12 regular-season trophy following the game, which the team clinched with a victory at Oregon last week. Chiney, who had a little foul trouble early in the game, was already sporting a fresh-minted championship T-shirt.

“I think we work really hard, and sometimes you have to stop and enjoy what you’ve done so far,” Chiney said. “As a team, little things matter to us.”

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Colorado fouls up Stanford women - for a half

Tom FitzGerald

Friday, February 24, 2012



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There was an extremely long warm-up period Thursday night before the Stanford women remembered that they were the Pac-12 champions.

In the first half, they committed 15 turnovers and sank just six field goals in 19 attempts - and led by eight points.

Then came the usual second-half flurry, a 19-2 run that sent the No. 2 Cardinal off and running to a 68-46 rout of Colorado at Maples Pavilion.

Stanford (25-1, 16-0 Pac-12) sank a season-high 27 free throws in 33 tries as the 10th-place Buffaloes (16-10, 5-10) fouled more often than grade-school bowlers. They committed 25 fouls, the most against Stanford this season.

"Colorado came out and they were super-aggressive," Cardinal coach Tara VanDerveer said. "We didn't handle it well. We were more aggressive in the second half."

Nneka Ogwumike, playing the next-to-last home game of her [college](#) career, had 23 points, giving her 2,230 for her career and pushing her past Kate Starbird (2,215) into second place on the all-time Stanford scoring list. Candice Wiggins is tops with 2,629.

"I don't think there's any doubt that she's Pac-12 Player of the Year," VanDerveer said.

In the second half, Ogwumike said, "we started attacking the basket and did a good job of running the floor. We did a good job of putting the ball on the floor and drawing fouls."

She grabbed 11 rebounds, while sister Chiney Shook off early foul trouble to score 18 points. Their teammates, however, combined to go 7-for-27 from the field for just 27 points while committing 18 of the team's season-high 19 turnovers.

Buff's star Chucky Jeffery, a 5-10 junior guard, had 13 points and 13 rebounds. She also made life miserable for Toni Kokenis in the first half, harassing the Stanford point guard into seven turnovers. Kokenis scored just three points, seven under her average, and had just two assists.

After the game, the Cardinal were presented with the conference championship trophy, which they clinched last week at Oregon. It was their 12th straight conference title but their first in the expanded Pac-12.

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<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/02/24/SPJD1NBHSQ.DTL>

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