

Women's basketball: CU Buffs beaten by Cal Golden Bears

Colorado drops fourth straight game, seventh in past eight

Buffzone.com staff
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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](#)

BERKELEY, Calif. -- Another good effort, but another humbling loss for the Colorado women's basketball team.

California, sitting at second place in the Pac-12, was too much for the short-handed Buffs on Saturday, rolling to a 64-43 win at Haas Pavilion.

Chucky Jeffery scored a team-high 18 points for Colorado (16-11, 5-11 Pac-12), which played its first game since losing freshman forward Jen Reese to a likely season-ending injury.

"I think that has been the main focus, controlling what we can control and we can always control playing hard," junior forward Meagan Malcolm-Peck said. "Obviously we're extremely disappointed, but I think we're just trying to do the best we can at this time."

Reese, a 6-foot-2 forward, broke an orbital bone in her left eye in Thursday's loss at Stanford and will miss four-to-six weeks.

"We definitely missed Jen for sure," Malcolm-Peck said. "We missed her scoring, we missed her defense, we just missed her presence in there. At this point, we have to regroup and figure out how to deal without her."

Without Reese, the Buffs had a valiant effort against the Golden Bears (22-7, 13-4).

CU got within nine points of the lead near the midpoint of the second half, but Cal closed the game on a 21-8 run to pull away. It was the fourth straight defeat for the Buffs, who are 1-7 in their last eight games.

As they did against No. 2-ranked Stanford, the Buffs played hard throughout, but were simply overmatched by the Golden Bears, who are 13-2 in their last 15 games (with both losses coming in overtime).

Colorado was held below 60 points for the 12th time in conference play and below 50 for the fifth time.

Jeffery was the only Buff to score in double figures, but Malcolm-Peck finished with eight points -- her best total since scoring that much against Weber State on Dec. 17. She had been scoreless in the previous three games.

"Like I've said before, I've never really focused on my offense," Malcolm-Peck said. "I just want to help the team as much as I can. Yeah, it's nice to make a couple shots, but I'm still disappointed in the ones that I missed that I was wide open. I just have to keep getting better."

Cal threatened to run away from the start, taking a 14-2 lead. The Golden Bears flustered CU with their pressure defense, as Brittany Boyd scored eight points in that initial surge.

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 - [California 64, CU 43](#)

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

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

Colorado then showed some fight. Freshman Lexy Kresl sparked the team with a pair of 3-pointers and Malcolm-Peck found her offensive rhythm with back-to-back buckets. When Jeffery hit a shot with 7:44 to go in the half, the Buffs had completely wiped out the deficit, tying the game at 22.

"We realize we can play with all of these teams," Malcolm-Peck said. "At this point, I haven't figured out what it is that we have those lapses and let it go. But, in those times that we are playing like that, we know that we actually can beat these teams. We just have to figure out what we're doing when we get in those slumps."

After the game was knotted at 22, Cal took off again, slapping the press on the Buffs and closing the half on a 16-3 run.

The Golden Bears scored 18 of their 38 first-half points off CU's 11 turnovers, many of those caused by the pressure defense.

Early in the second half, Jeffery netted six straight points to pull CU within 40-33. After back-to-back Cal buckets, Malcolm-Peck hit a layup with 11:07 to go to cut the deficit to 44-35. That was the last time CU had the deficit in single digits, however.

Layshia Clarendon led Cal with 15 points, while Talia Caldwell and Boyd had 11 each. Boyd also had seven assists and three steals.

CU finished 0-2 on the two-game trip to Bay Area, but left knowing it gave a good effort against the top two teams in the conference.

"I think we're pleased with how hard we played, for the most part," Malcolm-Peck said of the trip. "We're definitely a little tired and beat up, but ready to keep fighting."

CU closes the regular season with a pair of home games, Thursday against Oregon and Saturday against Oregon State.

Notable

Jeffery and Ashley Wilson had seven rebounds each for CU. ... Malcolm-Peck's previous high in Pac-12 play was six points on four different occasions. ... CU's starters had just 48 points in the two-game road trip to the Bay Area. ... Freshman Jasmine Sborov got her first start. She had one point, a rebound, a steal and three assists in 18 minutes. ... Prior to this season, CU was 5-0 all-time against Cal, but went 0-2 against the Golden Bears this season.

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college women's basketball

State waiting to see a women's basketball team in NCAA field

Posted: 02/26/2012 01:00:00 AM MST **By John Henderson**
The Denver Post

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In a season in which the women's college basketball world focuses its gaze on Denver with the Final Four arriving in five weeks, the five in-state Division I college teams are barely creating a ripple on the local radar.

The highest RPI is No. 123 Colorado (16-11, 5-11 Pac-12), which has lost seven of its last eight. An in-state team hasn't played in the NCAA Tournament since Colorado in 2004. One hasn't won an NCAA Tournament game since Colorado in 2003.

The University of Denver (18-11, 10-5 Sun Belt) and Northern Colorado (17-10, 9-5 Big Sky) probably have the best shots at winning conference tournaments while CU and Colorado State (13-15, 9-4 Mountain West) are slowly improving after failed coaching hires. Air Force is, well, Air Force (5-23, 0-13 Mountain West).

The state isn't a girls basketball wasteland. Ten prep players this year have committed to Division I schools and 17 did last year. However, of the nine seniors on the last two Denver Post All-Colorado teams, only one — Denver East's Shae Kelley to Colorado in 2010 — stayed in the state.

And Kelley lasted only one exhibition before transferring to Northwest Florida State College.

With their conference tournaments at hand, starting with the Sun Belt on Saturday in Hot Springs, Ark., here's an update on area women's college basketball:

Denver

"We try to beat players that are going to the WNBA even though all our players are just going to get their MBA," DU coach Erik Johnson said.

While he jokes, he did find a couple recruiting gems in building the state's most successful Division I program. The Pioneers are on their way to their fourth consecutive winning season and stand in second place in the Sun Belt West.

Johnson inherited senior forward Kaetlyn Murdoch, the Sun Belt preseason co-player of the year, and found a coup in junior point guard Emiko Smith, who is ninth nationally in assists (6.6 per game).

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A former reserve for Cal-San Diego, Johnson learned of Smith from her high school coach who coached against Johnson while at Dominican College.

"I was a Division III scrub," Johnson said. "There are very few people who remember me as a player. He called me and said, 'E.J., I've known you for 20 years. There's a DVD package in the mail. When it gets there, don't call me until you've opened it and call me. I promise you this is your point guard.' "

In DU's path of the Sun Belt's lone NCAA Tournament berth is Middle Tennessee (23-5, 15-0) but the Pioneers may get back sophomore point guard Quincey Noonan. With a healthy Noonan, DU beat Minnesota, Oregon, Wyoming and three in-state schools.

Then she broke her left arm, missed three weeks, then broke her shooting hand.

"We are in good position," Johnson said. "Middle Tennessee is very good, but they're also very beatable."

Northern Colorado

Bears coach Jaime White is knocking on so much wood for luck, she needs to ice her knuckles every night. For three straight years, from 2008-10, she lost her best player to torn ACLs.

Finally healthy last year, the Bears went 12-4 and tied for the regular-season Big Sky championship, and White was named coach of the year. Unfortunately, that was all hidden under the hoopla over the men's team making its first NCAA Tournament in their seventh year at the Division I level.

However, the success has rubbed off on the women.

"Absolutely," said White, in her sixth year. "One thing the success that our men has done is put us in the newspaper, gotten us some national exposure."

They'd get even more if they can win the Big Sky Tournament. They're tied for third and could finish as high as second with the tournament likely at probable league champion Idaho State (21-7, 13-2).

"The next level would be winning a tournament championship and going to the NAAs," White said, "and I feel that we can do that this year."

Colorado State

Kristen Holt knows all too well the mess she inherited from Jen Warden in 2008. Holt was Warden's first-year assistant in 2007-08 when the Rams went 4-28 and 0-16 in the Mountain West.

"There was just a lot of turmoil that had gone

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on," Holt said. "A lot of people had left the program. The mentality really had to be changed. There really wasn't a desire of the people that were here to play. They just didn't know how to win."

It didn't take a lot to improve. First, tell the players not to set off chemical bombs outside teammates' apartments. Warden's tenure unraveled after starter Kelly Jo Mullaney's and reserve Raysha Ritter's prank outside teammate Kally Rae Finley's residence. Both players were suspended and eventually left the program.

No one was hurt but the program. Holt immediately tried restoring it.

"We really placed a lot more emphasis on players caring for each other and excellence in every aspect, not only on the floor but in the classroom," said the former Wichita State assistant. "We got them in the community. We had them do community service hours."

Colorado

Of the in-state Division I schools, only CU has much tradition. But reaching three Elite Eights under icon Ceal Barry seems a long way off as the Buffaloes, void of much offense, struggle near the bottom of the Pac-12.

Second-year coach Linda Lappe is trying to recapture past magic after Kathy McConnell-Miller's five-year reign produced four losing seasons.

"It takes a long time," said Lappe, a Buffaloes player from 1998-2003. "You always want it to happen right now. In very few cases does

that actually happen. Look at Kansas and where the program was when Bonnie Henrickson took over, and it's been eight or nine years and now she's just starting to getting a quality program."

Air Force

The Falcons haven't always been big losers. From 1984-97, they had a string of 11 consecutive winning seasons. However, that was in Division II. Since going Division I in 1996-97, they are 80-310, including 13-211 in conference games.

Andrea Williams arrived last season from South Florida and the Falcons' nine wins were the second most in their D-I history. But she lost her three best shooters and the Falcons have tailspinned to 5-23, including Wednesday's 61-31 pratfall at Texas Christian in which they shot 3-of-26 in the first half.

"There's a reason I was given a five-year contract," Williams said.

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