

## CU women's basketball

# CU Buffs women's basketball team crushed by Arizona State Sun Devils

## Colorado nets record-low 9 points in first half

Buffzone.com  
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TEMPE, Ariz. -- Coughing up a big second-half lead at home to Cal was heart-breaking.

Getting pounded by the No. 4 in the country, Stanford, was disappointing.

Following those two games by setting team records for futility at Arizona State, the Colorado women's basketball team is realizing it has a problem on its hands.

"I'm going to put this one me and our staff," CU head coach Linda Lappe told KKZN-AM 760 radio after Thursday afternoon's 64-43 loss at Wells Fargo Arena, "because we obviously weren't prepared coming out. We haven't been prepared to play two halves for the last three games or so. So there's something else that's going on."

CU (13-4, 2-4 Pac-12) lost its third straight game and fourth in five games as Arizona State (12-5, 3-3) pounded the Buffs early on.

The first half was one of the worst 20 minutes in team history. CU went into intermission trailing 42-9 -- setting a new school record for scoring futility in one half.

The nine points broke the previous record low of 10 on Jan. 17, 1998, vs. Texas Tech. The Buffs also tied a school record low with three field goals and had the worst shooting percentage of any half in team history, at 12 percent (3-for-25).

In addition to their poor shooting, the Buffs committed 18 first-half turnovers, en route to a season-high 27 turnovers.

"I don't have an answer for that first half," Lappe said.

It was all too similar to the first half against Stanford on Saturday. In that game, the Buffs failed to score in the first 6 minutes, 59 seconds, until reserve Jasmine Sborov hit a pair of free throws. They had 15 first-half points -- the lowest scoring first-half at home in team history.

On Thursday, CU didn't score its first point until a free throw by Sborov 8:17 into the game. By then, they were down 12-0.

Against Stanford, CU didn't hit its first field goal until 8:15 into the game. This time, it took the Buffs 12:16 before Chucky Jeffery hit the first basket.

Even with those struggles, the Buffs found themselves down by just 13, at 19-6, late in the first half.

ASU, not known as a high-octane offense, then closed the half on a 23-3 run, including 15-0 in the final minutes.

"We tried to go zone for a little while to slow them down," Lappe said. "When you're feeling good, everybody can hit shots and everybody makes 3s.

"As a defense, you can never let the offense feel comfortable. You saw in the second half where we started upping our pressure, and they didn't like the pressure any more than we like the pressure and it caused them to miss easy shots they were making in the first half."

To Colorado's credit, it outscored Arizona State 34-22 in the second half. By then, however, the outcome was no longer in

question.

Where CU goes from here is in question as it gets further away from its thrilling 12-0 start to the season.

"All the things we were doing the first 10 to 13 games, 14 games, now for whatever reason sometimes we can't find a flow and can't figure it out," Lappe said. "I can't blame the players because they're trying and they're doing some good things.

"Our staff will figure it out and we'll get them going."

This was CU's lowest score in 51 games under Lappe and its lowest overall since a 59-41 loss at Iowa State on March 6, 2010.

Jeffery led the Buffs with nine points, with seven of those in the second half, but she also had a career-high 12 turnovers. She had 11 turnovers in the previous three games combined.

Jen Reese had eight points and eight rebounds, while Brittany Wilson had eight points and four steals.

Kimberly Brandon led ASU with 20 points, seven rebounds and five steals. Kali Bennett had 12 points, five boards and four steals for the Sun Devils.

## Notable

Lappe had started the same five for nine straight games, but on Thursday put Lexy Kresl and Meagan Malcolm-Peck on the bench in favor of twin sisters Ashley and Brittany Wilson. ... CU has 24 first-half points in its last two games combined. ... Since holding a 51-39 lead against Cal on Jan. 12, the Buffs have been outscored 173-101 in 92 minutes of play. ... Jeffery had scored in double figures in 19 straight games before the Stanford loss. She has 11 points in the past two games combined. ... CU is now 9-1 all-time against the Sun Devils.

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## Arizona State women cruise past Colorado 64-43

Published 05:06 p.m., Thursday, January 19, 2012

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Kimberly Brandon scored 20 points and Arizona State ran up a 33-point halftime lead in defeating Colorado 64-43 on Thursday.

Kali Bennett added 12 points and Deja Mann had seven assists for the Sun Devils (12-5, 3-3 Pac-12), who won their second in a row. Brandon added five steals and seven rebounds.

Chucky Jeffery led the Buffaloes (13-4, 2-4) with nine points but committed 12 turnovers. Colorado dropped its third straight.

Arizona State scored the game's first 12 points before Jasmine Sborov got Colorado on the board with a free throw after 8:17 had elapsed. The Sun Devils increased their lead to 27-9 with 5:11 left in the first half, then clicked off the final 15 points for a 42-9 lead at intermission.

Arizona State shot 46 percent (25 of 55), made 4 of 8 3-pointers and hit all 10 free throws.

Colorado had won all eight previous meetings.

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by [Jeff Metcalfe](#) on Jan. 19, 2012, under [Arizona Republic Sports](#)

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The Buffaloes failed to score in the first 8 minutes, 17 seconds and didn't make a field goal until the 7:43 mark. By then ASU led 16-4 at Wells Fargo Arena en route to a 42-9 halftime lead and 64-43 victory.

"It wasn't so much the offensive eruption, it was the defensive disruption," said ASU interim coach Joseph Anders, hoarse from trying to out-yell 4,433 predominantly elementary school students on hand for the annual Sparky's Kids to College matinee. "Coming away from Oregon where we played phenomenal defense then building on that in the first 20 minutes was just great basketball."

Colorado's nine points – on 3-of-25 shooting – is the second-lowest ASU opponent total for a half in school history. The Buffs suffered their lowest ever total and shooting percentage for a half.

Senior forward Kimberly Brandon had 16 of her 20 points in the first half when she was 7 of 8 shooting. The Buffs tried to play man defense against ASU when most teams resort to zone, helping the Sun Devils to shoot 62.1 percent (18-of-29) in the first half.

"I was kind of hot and my teammates were giving me the ball in the right spots and Deja (Mann) was calling the right plays," said Brandon, who was one point shy of her career high. "I kind of had an advantage so I just kept going and kept hustling and getting offensive rebounds and putbacks. I love when people play me man. "

Anders said Brandon, who had seven rebounds and five steals, was "Jordan-like" in the first half.

Colorado (13-4, 2-4 Pac-12) was 8-0 previously vs. ASU varsity teams in a series that's been idle since 1987. The Sun Devils (12-5, 3-3) won for the first time at home since Dec. 31, having lost to USC and UCLA two weeks ago.

“We tried to feed into the kids,” center Kali Bennett said. “It was crazy energy in there first half for sure.”

Colorado, outscored 15-0 to end the first half, put a 13-4 run together at the start of the second half and cut its deficit to 17 points, 56-39, with 4:40 remaining. Still none of the Buffs reached double-figure scoring with point guard Chucky Jeffery finishing with more turnovers (12) than points (9).

“Coaches said she’s their engine,” said Mann, who often guarded Jeffery. “When she has the ball, something’s going to happen whether she’s rebounding or trying to take you 1-on-1. Trying to contain was definitely a focus.”

Mann, a junior point guard, tied her career high with seven assists. Bennett had 12 points and five rebounds. Freshman guard Promise Amukamara scored eight.

ASU hosts Utah (8-8, 1-4 before facing Arizona) at 2 p.m. Saturday.

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