



*Chucky Jeffery had 19 points, six rebounds and four assists.
Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida*



Brooks: Jeffery's Pair Of Free Throws Lifts Buffs

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BOULDER - When Chucky Jeffery stepped to the free throw line with 1.2 seconds remaining Thursday night, a calm settled over Colorado women's basketball coach Linda Lappe. Well, something close to a calm anyway.

CU and Southern California were tied at 67-67, and as Jeffery dribbled and pondered the front end of a one-and-one, Lappe began visualizing a win against a team that had defeated the Buffaloes twice last season by margins of 14 and 17 points.

Said Lappe: "You get feelings as a coach, and I visualized it going in. I guess that's what I do in that scenario. But you could tell by her facial expressions and demeanor. I felt she was confident and felt she was going to hit that shot . . . I don't think it hit the rim."

It didn't - and neither did the second one.

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Statistics

CU 69, USC 67.

It was as good a win as the Buffs have experienced this season, and it was the first they've experienced this season in the Coors Events Center as members of the Pac-12 Conference. It improved their league mark to 4-4 and their overall record to 15-4, and coupled with a two-point win at Arizona last weekend it might have signaled the beginning of a resurgence for CU.



"I think it's big for our confidence level," said Lappe, whose teams now have won their last seven games - four this season - decided by five or fewer points. "We lost to USC twice last year (and) after watching the film I thought we were the better team. I thought we could beat that team. I think (Thursday's win) is great for a lot of different reasons."

Jeffery termed the win "huge," and it was not only because of how she finished, but what she did in the previous 391/2 minutes. Not close to being up to par in the previous three games (18 points total) and having shot only two free throws in the previous four games, Jeffery bounced back nicely with 19 points, six rebounds, four assists, three steals and a blocked shot. She attempted 10 free throws, making seven, and hit six of her 13 field goal attempts.

When Jeffery went to the bench in the first half, she said assistant coach Jennie Baranczyk told her to "keep being aggressive and go to the hole - if you just go strong you'll either shoot it or get fouled . . . So I just tried to take it to the hoop as much as I could and finish and get to the free throw line."

She did exactly that in the final seconds. Even so, if her coach could visualize the pair of deciding free throws going in, Jeffery would term them "the most nerve-wracking thing ever. I just had to calm down when they blew the whistle. It was all about confidence - stepping up to the line and knowing that you're going to knock down those shots."

Jeffery's heroics were backed by sophomore Brittany Wilson and freshman Jen Reese, with Wilson scoring a game-best 21 points and Reese reaching double figures (13) for the fourth time in her last six games. Reese also collected a game-high seven rebounds.

For Wilson, the date with USC was prominent on her calendar. She and her twin sister Ashley are from Long Beach, Calif., and the USC roster was littered with familiar names.

"This meant a lot," said Brittany Wilson, who recorded the third 20-point game of her career and led CU in scoring for the second straight game. "It doesn't mean I played any differently though. I wanted to win that game so bad. I always want to win, but that was the one I had circled on my calendar since the beginning of the season."

USC (10-8, 5-3) lost for the first time in four conference road games this season. The Trojans also had three players in double figures, led by Christina Marinacci's 17 - 12 in the second half.

Both teams led by as many as four points in a first half that saw seven ties and five lead changes. But by intermission the Buffs trailed by two (35-33) as the Trojans got uncharacteristically hot from the field.

Last in the Pac-12 in field goal percentage (37.5), USC shot 55.6 percent (15-of-27), hitting half of its eight three-point attempts. Senior Briana Gilbreath led USC with 14 first-half points, making six of her eight field goal attempts and both of her tries from behind the arc.

But, with Jeffery tightening her defense, Gilbreath got only one point in the final 20 minutes and USC's shooting slipped to 43.3 percent (13-of-30).

CU stayed close in the first half by scoring 11 points off of eight USC turnovers while committing only five (13 for the game). The Buffs shot 13-of-31 from the field (41.9 percent) and hit only two of their eight three-point attempts in the first half, but improved to 46.4 percent (13-of-28) in the second.

Their second-half mission should have been to clamp down on the Trojans - and that should have included Marinacci. After scoring five first-half points, the 6-1 junior forward accounted for 10 in the first 41/2 minutes - all of USC's scoring - as the Trojans rolled to an eight-point (44-36) advantage.

But the Buffs stormed back, outscoring the visitors 8-1 and pulling to within a point (45-44) on a conventional three-point play by Reese with 13:53 to play.

"I can think of a little segment in the second half where we let down our guard," noted Lappe, who said other than that her team turned in "the best 40 minutes we've played."

CU took its first lead (54-53) of the last half on a three-pointer by Brittany Wilson 10:10 remaining - and the back-and-forth began anew in a night that finished with 11 ties and 14 lead changes.

USC senior Ashley Corral hit a layup, then followed with two free throws to put USC up 65-62 with 2:40 left. But Reese's baseline jumper pulled the Buffs to 65-64, and Jeffery tied the score at 65-65 by hitting one of two free throws with 1:07 remaining.

The Trojans countered with a jump shot in the lane by Cassie Harberts to take a 67-65 advantage, leaving the Buffs 42.6 seconds to respond. After Lappe called a timeout, Reese drained a turnaround from the baseline, tying the score at 67-67 and giving USC 29.4 seconds for a final shot at the win.

Trojans coach Michael Cooper, the former Lakers star, called timeout with 25.5 seconds to play. Afterwards, the ball went inside to Gilbreath, but she was tied up and the possession arrow pointed to the Buffs, who had 9 seconds.

Jeffery brought the ball downcourt and appeared to lose control at the right baseline. But Gilbreath fouled her. Said Jeffery: "She was on my back. I wanted to turn back and kick it out, but she was hovering there. She definitely fouled me."

After Jeffery hit both ends of her one-and-one, USC had two chances for a full-court heave and desperation shot. The first went untouched, giving the ball to the Buffs. CU turned it over, but the clock showed only two-tenths of a second remaining. Jeffery intercepted USC's second full-court heave as the buzzer sounded.

Cooper congratulated CU - sort of. The Buffs' win, he said, was attributable to "what we didn't do," before adding, "Colorado played a very good basketball game. Their record is an indication of that. But, it comes down to what we didn't do. In our four consecutive road wins, we were outrebounding teams. We just weren't doing that (Thursday). We weren't boxing out."

The Buffs play four of their next six games at the Events Center, beginning with a visit from UCLA on Sunday (2 p.m., ROOT Sports). Tickets are available at CUBuffs.com/tickets or by calling 303-49BUFFS.

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SHOW MENU



Women's basketball: CU Buffs' Reese putting the pieces together

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

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The more comfortable Jen Reese becomes, the more valuable she is to the Colorado women's basketball team.

The true freshman got her second straight start on Thursday against Southern Cal and delivered with a 13-point, seven-rebound performance.

"I feel like I'm pretty comfortable in the game now, with the help of my teammates and coaches, as well," Reese said. "They've helped me a lot to gain my confidence."

CU (15-4, 4-4 Pac-12) is now 2-0 with Reese in the starting lineup. She had 12 points and seven rebounds in a win against Arizona on Sunday.

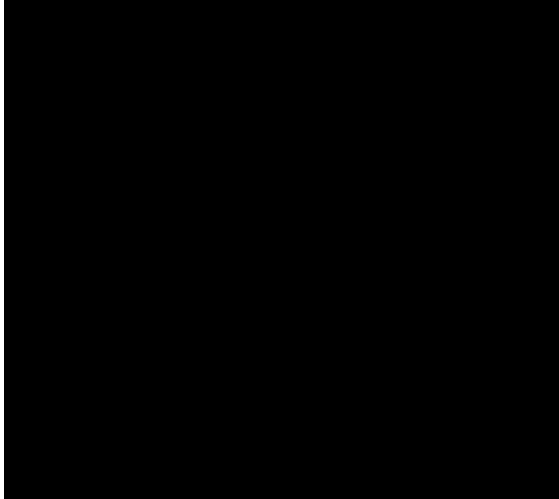
"Jen is playing really well," head coach Linda Lappe said. "We've put the ball in Jen's hands a lot more and you can probably see that at the top of the key to make reads and make passes and do different things. She's one of our best passers on the team, she sees the floor probably the best of anybody on the team."

Reese also has improved her defense, which contributes to her increased role.

"That was the majority of the reason why she couldn't stay on the floor a lot of times early in the season," Lappe said. "She hadn't quite figured out our defensive system. Now she's kind of figuring that out."

Meaningful win

Thursday's win was big for CU sophomores Ashley and Brittany



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Wilson, since they grew up in the Los Angeles area and played against or with many of USC's players. Brittany even guarded an old prep teammate, USC's Ariya Crook, at times on Thursday.

"I wanted to win that game so bad," Brittany said. "I always want to win, but that was one I circled on my calendar since the beginning of the season."

Sborov making

impression

Early in the season, freshman Jasmine Sborov had a tough time getting on the court. On Thursday, she played a career-high 26 minutes.

"Tonight I couldn't get her off the court," Lappe said. "Jasmine brings a toughness. She's strong, she's physical, she's athletic."

"She's just gotten a lot more comfortable with the college game, the pace of the game, the speed of the game. Early in the season, the game was going really fast for her; now I think the game has really slowed down for her."

Notable

CU has won seven straight games decided by five points or less and is 8-2 in such games under Lappe. ... CU had lost four straight to USC and is now 3-4 all-time against the Trojans. ... Chucky Jeffery moved into 10th place on CU's all-time list for steals, with 177. ... Meagan Malcolm-Peck hit the 74th 3-pointer of her career, tying her with Sabrina Scott (1999-2003) for 12th on CU's all-time list. ... Sophomore Brenna Malcolm-Peck missed her third consecutive game with a knee injury.



Women's basketball: CU Buffs edge Southern Cal

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

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For all the good the Colorado women's basketball team has produced this season, the knock on the Buffs has been that they haven't really beaten anybody good.

On Thursday night, Linda Lappe's squad finally got that signature win, knocking off Southern Cal 69-67 at Coors Events Center.

"I think it was the only thing that we were missing," Lappe said. "Now we've proved that we can play with the best of them, as long as we keep getting better."

Chucky Jeffery buried a pair of free throws with 1.2 seconds left to snap a tie and send the Buffs (15-4, 4-4 Pac-12) to their second straight win.

"Most nerve-wracking thing ever," said Jeffery, who had 19 points. "I just had to calm down. When they blew the whistle (for the foul), everyone went crazy and I was just like, 'Whew, I've got to breathe.' It was all about confidence, stepping up to the

line and knowing you're going to knock down those shots."

USC (10-8, 5-3) never got off another shot and the Buffs celebrated the win.

While it might seem odd to place such significance on a win over a 10-8 team, the Trojans aren't an average 10-8 team.

They came into the season ranked No. 23 in The Associated Press top 25 and they've taken on some of the nation's elite, going 1-5 against teams currently ranked. USC came into the week with an RPI ranking of 22. CU was No. 89 in the RPI.

Throw in the fact that USC beat the Buffs twice last year -- including in the quarterfinals of the WNIT -- and this one tasted sweet.

"We fought the whole game and it was just a whole team win and it was solid," Jeffery said. "It was huge for us."

CU has seemingly put its midseason funk in the past. The Buffs lost three in a row, all in rough fashion, before beating Arizona on Sunday and picking up Thursday's win.

It wasn't just the win that made Lappe happy, it was how the Buffs got it. They out-rebounded the Trojans, withstood their hot-shooting first half and minimized turnovers. They also had contributions from a variety of sources.

Brittany Wilson scored 21 points, one off of her career high, to lead the team. Freshman Jen Reese, who got her second straight start, finished with 13 points and seven rebounds.

"That's the best 40 minutes we've played," Lappe said.

Through 39 minutes, the game was knotted at 65.

USC, which came in as the worst shooting team in the Pac-12, hit 55.6 percent of its shots in the first half to take a 35-33 halftime lead. The Trojans extended the lead to eight at one point in the second half, but CU battled back.

A free throw by Jeffery tied the game at 65 with 1:07 to go, setting up the drama.

Cassie Harberts put the Trojans up by two with a jumper with 45 seconds left. CU then countered with a turnaround jumper from Reese with 29 seconds to go.

That gave the Trojans a chance to play for the final shot, but they coughed up the ball when Briana Gilbreath was tied up under the basket with 9 seconds to play. The jump ball possession arrow favored CU.

With the ball in Jeffrey's hands, she worked the clock before being fouled near the baseline. The junior drained both free throws and the Buffs began the celebration.

"I thought we did a great job of playing to win down the stretch and just staying confident and staying together and doing what it took," Lappe said.

college basketball

Colorado women edge USC 69-67

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BOULDER — Chucky Jeffery hit two free throws with 1.2 seconds remaining, giving Colorado a 69-67 victory over USC on Thursday night.

Brittany Wilson scored 21 points and Jeffery had 19 for the Buffaloes (15-4, 4-4 Pac-12), who got their first conference victory at home this season. Jen Reese added 13

Christina Marinacci led USC (10-8, 5-3) with 17 points. Briana Gilbreath added 15 and Cassie Harberts had 13.

The game was close throughout, with 14 lead changes and 11 ties.

The Trojans went ahead 67-65 on a Harberts jump shot with 42 seconds left, but Reese tied it back up with a turnaround jumper from the baseline with 29 seconds remaining.

USC lost the ball with 9 seconds left when Gilbreath was tied up underneath, and the possession arrow pointed to Colorado. Jeffery, who also hit the deciding basket with 17.7 seconds left in Sunday's 56-54 win over Arizona, was then fouled and hit both free throws.



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DAILY TROJAN

Women of Troy can't stop late CU rally

By JEREMY CHEN · Daily Trojan

Posted January 26, 2012 (4 days ago) at 11:46 pm in [Basketball](#), [Sports](#)

The scene was all too familiar for the Women of Troy.

Four days after falling to Oregon State in a game that featured 25 lead changes and culminated in a narrow Beavers win in overtime, USC (10-8, 5-3) found itself in yet another tight basketball game that nearly went into overtime.

Instead, Colorado (15-4, 4-4) pieced together a final 5-2 push in the last minute to give the Buffaloes a 69-67 win at home. The loss leaves the Women of Troy in a two-game skid and keeps them at third in the Pac-12 standings.

Colorado guard Chucky Jeffery sank two free throws with four seconds remaining to give the Buffaloes the final lead. USC had a chance to answer, but turned over the ball to seal its fate.

With 48 seconds remaining and the game tied at 65 apiece, USC senior guard Briana Gilbreath found sophomore forward Cassie Harberts open for a layup to give the Women of Troy their last bucket and lead of the game.

Colorado forward Jen Reese responded with a jumper following a timeout by the Buffaloes. Harberts then turned it over, leading to Jeffery's game-winning free throws.

Guard Brittany Wilson led the Buffaloes with 21 points alongside Jeffery's 19. In the game, Colorado shot 44.1 percent from the field compared to USC's 49.1 percent but held an eight free throw advantage over the Women of Troy.

USC had a balanced offensive attack led by junior forward Christina Marinacci with 17 and Gilbreath with 15, but several runs by the Buffaloes in the latter 20 minutes dispelled USC's efforts.

Marinacci started off the second half with four consecutive baskets, stretching the Women of Troy's lead to eight, before forcing Colorado to call a timeout.

She finally missed on her fifth attempt of the half, but not before scoring USC's first 10 points after halftime. To counter her burst, the Buffaloes chained an 8-3 run to pull the game within a point.

After USC senior guard Ashley Corral assisted another bucket by Marinacci and a 3-pointer by sophomore forward Desiree Bradley to stretch the lead to six, Colorado went on a 7-0 run to pull ahead by one.

In the remaining 10 minutes, the teams traded leads eight times and tied twice before Colorado pulled away for the victory.

USC began the game shooting 55.6 percent in the first half, led by Gilbreath with 14 points on 6-for-8 shooting in the first 20 minutes. She cooled off in the second half, only scoring again on a free throw to finish with 15.

The last time the two sides met, USC defeated Colorado 87-70 in the Women's National Invitation Tournament quarterfinals last March. Leading the Women of Troy was Corral, who made seven of her eight 3-pointers for a career-high 32 points.

This game, the Buffaloes shut her down, holding Corral to 2-for-8 shooting for seven points.



The Women of Troy will wrap up their two-game road trip and will try to end their skid on Saturday at 2 p.m. against the Utah Utes (9-10, 2-6), who hold the worst conference record in the Pac-12.



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