



CU's Julie Seabrook (15) battles to control a rebound Sunday against UCLA.

Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



## Brooks: Bumbling Buffs Bounced By Bruins In OT

Release: 01/29/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**BOULDER** - The Colorado women's basketball team went cold early, late and played haphazardly in between, ultimately paying with a 62-54 overtime loss to UCLA on Sunday afternoon at the Coors Events Center.

"We came out flat, we missed a lot of easy shots, we missed a lot of free throws," a disappointed CU coach [Linda Lappe](#) said. "We didn't make defensive stops down the stretch like we did in other parts of the game."

The Buffaloes opened by missing their first 13 shots. They closed regulation play and OT by making only two field goals in the final 10:25. And their 25 turnovers were only slightly below their season-worst total - 27 at Arizona State.

Lappe wants the Buffs believe they are better than average then consistently play like it. She didn't see that Sunday, crediting UCLA for being "aggressive down the stretch

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and executing" - two areas in which her team was lacking as it attempted to win its third consecutive game. Any chance of that evaporated in the wake of a 25-to-5 turnover-to-assist ratio, 10 missed free throws and overall field goal shooting of

31 percent (18-of-58, including 2-of-7 in OT). The Bruins weren't much better in any of those stats, committing 14 turnovers, missing eight free throws and finishing with a field goal percentage of 34.3 (23-of-67).



Combined, the teams made 41 of their 125 field goal attempts - much more of a lights-are-off than a lights-out shooting performance. But after regulation play ended in a 46-46 tie, UCLA took quick control in overtime by outscoring CU 9-2 - the Bruins hit four-of-five from the field in OT - and making seven of eight free throws in the extra period's final 50 seconds.

"They scored first (in OT) and they kept going from there," CU freshman [Lexy Kresl](#) said. "We didn't really fight back as early as we should have (and) it kind of looked like it on defense. We weren't as much of a presence as we were in the beginning of the game. We didn't apply as much pressure or box out like we were supposed to."

The Buffs committed 11 more turnovers than their visitors, but the points-off-turnovers stat was only 19-18 in the Bruins' favor. CU's bench outscored UCLA's 20-0 - mainly because Kresl had 15 points and the Bruins traveled just eight players, three of whom didn't score.

But when all the numbers were crunched and juggled at afternoon's end, the Buffs had slipped to 15-5 overall and 4-5 in the Pac-12 Conference, while the Bruins evened their overall record at 10-10 and at 5-4 in the league. And UCLA moved into a tie with Southern California for fourth place.

Kresl's 15 points led the Buffs, while junior [Chucky Jeffery](#) added 14. UCLA's Markel Walker, an athletic 6-1 junior who caused continual matchup problems, led all scorers with 24 points, including six in overtime. She also grabbed 10 rebounds.

"She's a nightmare for anyone to guard," UCLA coach Cori Close said. "In reality, she can hit the perimeter jumper (and) when she's hitting those, she's very hard for anyone to match up with."

Ravaged by injuries, Close's bench was ridiculously short, and Lappe believed the Buffs could exploit it by going up-tempo. But CU didn't get into a running groove until late in the first half. The Buffs didn't get their first basket until Jeffery hit a short jumper in the lane at the 13:26 mark.

Jeffery's "J" brought the Buffs to 9-4 and was followed by a Kresl three-pointer that narrowed the gap to 9-7. But just as quickly, CU fell behind by six (13-7) and didn't pull even until [Brittany Wilson](#)'s layup made it 19-19 with 2:06 before halftime.

Lappe believed the Bruins "were tired by halftime; they were short on all their shots . . . they were gassed but we didn't take advantage and didn't push the ball in transition." The Buffs led only once in the first half, and that one-point advantage (24-23) came courtesy of Jeffery's buzzer beater before intermission. Otherwise, the home team's largest crowd - 5,885 on State Farm Insurance day - of the season and the second-largest audience to see a Pac-12 game this season was given few reasons to cheer.

When CU opened the second half with a 6-1 run and went ahead by six points (30-24), the crowd finally showed pulse and voice. But with their shots falling at least early in the final 20 minutes, the Buffs squandered an opportunity to pull away.

"We had so many opportunities to get ahead by 10 to 15 points and we didn't take (them)," Lappe said. "When UCLA wasn't playing well we didn't go in for the kill. And anytime you let a team hang around and hang around, they gain confidence. They have good players."

The Buffs led by six points on two occasions early in the final 20 minutes before the Bruins caught them.

Rebekah Gardner scored seven of her 17 points in an 11-3 UCLA run that resulted in a 39-37 Bruins lead.

The Buffs forged a 39-39 tie on a [Jen Reese](#) jumper, went ahead 41-39 on Jeffery's layup and didn't surrender the lead for the final 5:25. Fouled while attempting a three-pointer from the left wing with 2:07 left, Kresl hit all three free throws to put CU up 46-42.

But UCLA crept back to 46-44 on Thea Lemberger's runner from the right side. With a chance to tie, the Bruins lost the ball on a traveling call with 57 seconds to play. CU called a timeout, but promptly turned it over, allowing Gardner to work the baseline for a layup that tied the score at 46-46 with 7.5 seconds left.

After another timeout, the Buffs committed yet another turnover - their 23rd in regulation - and CU's sloppy afternoon was headed for overtime. And defeat.

Pressed for a positive, Lappe found this: "We didn't play well and we had a great shot to win at the end of the game. But we didn't play Colorado basketball, we didn't rebound, we didn't get transition offense at all except when we got it through our defense. And I still think we had a great shot to win . . . that should be a positive for our team that we can compete with anybody and it's just the matter of taking that next step."

The Buffs play at Oregon State on Thursday night and at Oregon on Saturday afternoon. Their next pair of home game comes on Thursday, Feb. 9 against Arizona and on Saturday, Feb. 11 against Arizona State, with both tip times at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at [CUBuffs.com/tickets](http://CUBuffs.com/tickets) or by calling 303-49BUFFS.

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SHOW MENU



## Walker helps UCLA women top Colorado 62-54 in OT

Updated 07:40 p.m., Sunday, January 29, 2012

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Markel Walker had 24 points and 10 rebounds as UCLA defeated Colorado 62-54 in overtime Sunday.

The Bruins (10-10, 5-4 Pac-12) rallied from four points down in the final two minutes of regulation, then outscored Colorado 9-2 to start the overtime period. The Buffaloes (15-5, 4-5) crept within 55-51 on a Lexy Kresl 3-pointer with just over a minute remaining, but UCLA made 7 of 8 free throws in the final 50 seconds.

Rebekah Gardner added 17 points for UCLA, including a layup with 14 seconds left in regulation that tied the game.

Kresl had 15 points and Chucky Jeffery 14 for Colorado.

The Buffaloes struggled early (missing their first 13 shots) and late (making only 2 of 7 shots in overtime), and in between committed 25 turnovers.

UCLA shot just 34 percent from the field, but was 4 of 5 from the field in the overtime period.

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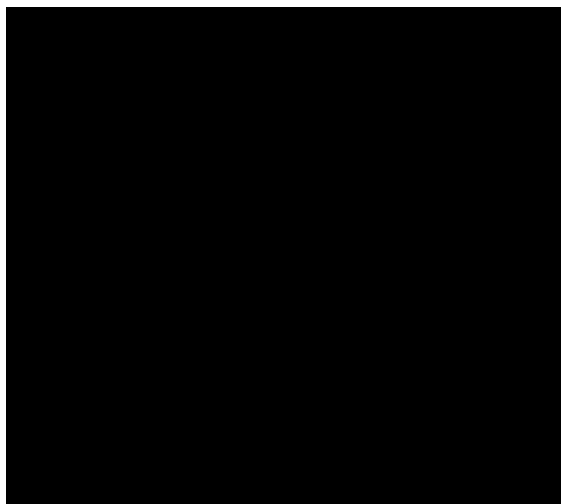
CU women's basketball

## CU Buffs women fall in OT to UCLA Bruins

Colorado struggles down the stretch in home loss

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

Posted: 01/29/2012 05:07:39 PM MST



*Click on any photo to see full gallery*

Halfway through the Pac-12 Conference schedule, the Colorado women's basketball team is sitting right in the middle of the standings, tied for sixth place.

That's not good enough, head coach Linda Lappe said on Sunday after her team struggled down the stretch in a 62-54 overtime loss to UCLA at Coors Events Center.

"We just have to figure out that we're better than average," Lappe said. "That's what we talked to our team about, is expecting to be at the top of the league and expecting to be the best."

Average might have been good enough during the final minutes Sunday, but the Buffs (15-5, 4-5 Pac-12) struggled to even hit that mark.

Too many turnovers, too many missed shots and too many holes on defense allowed UCLA (10-10, 5-4) to steal this one.

The Bruins' Markel Walker scored six of her game-high 24 points in overtime, while Rebekah Gardner added 17 points. Lexy Kresl (15 points) and Chucky Jeffery (14) led the Buffs.

"You've got to give UCLA credit," Lappe said. "They did some nice things down the stretch. They were aggressive both offensively and defensively and really executed."

"We just gave away too many opportunities. We had so many opportunities to get ahead by ten, fifteen points, I felt like, at different parts in that game and we didn't take the opportunities. When UCLA wasn't playing well, we didn't go in for the kill. Any time you let a team hang around and hang around and hang round, they gain confidence."

One of those opportunities came early in the game, as UCLA had just nine points in the first six minutes. Those nine points were good enough for a seven-point lead, though, because CU opened the game by missing its first 13 field-goal attempts.

"I just think that we were really flustered at the beginning of the game, bobbling passing and dropping passes and turning the ball over," Jeffery said. "I think we were just going too fast and we never really got settled until later on in the first half."

"Coming out, we have to be way more focused."

Another opportunity came at halftime. The Buffs closed the half with a 5-0 run, capped by Jeffery's buzzer-beating jumper to give them a 24-23 lead. Then, they opened the second half with the first four points. That 9-0 surge gave CU a 28-23 lead, but it felt it should have been more, as UCLA, which dressed only eight players, scored one point in the first 3:53 of the second half.

"I felt like they were tired out of halftime," Lappe said. "They were short on all their shots, they couldn't score the ball, they were subbing. They were gassed and we didn't take advantage." Then, the Buffs closed the game by hitting only two field goals in the final 10:25 -- including the 5-minute overtime period.

Even with those disappointments, the Buffs had a shot to win.

Kresl buried three free throws to give the Buffs a 46-42 lead with 2:07 to play, but UCLA scored the final four points of regulation.

The Bruins then opened overtime with a 10-2 burst to pull away.

"They scored first and they kept going from there," Kresl said of overtime. "We didn't really fight back as early as we should have."

Once again, turnovers proved to be much too costly. The Buffs had 25, their second-highest total of the season. Ten of those came in the last 12 1/2 minutes, six of those by Jeffery.

"It's at the end of the game and it's tied and that's when you have to get stops and they up the pressure," said Jeffery. "They started switching screens and things like that and we just weren't reading them well, really. We weren't making the right reads and turning the ball over and that killed us."

Now the Buffs head into the second half of conference play looking to be better than average.

"One positive is that we didn't play well and we had a great shot to win at the end of the game," Lappe said. "It should be a positive for our team that we can compete with anybody. It's just a matter of taking the next step."

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## Bufs fans coming out in droves

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

Posted: 01/29/2012 11:58:03 PM MST



Click on any photo to see full gallery

Although Sunday's loss to UCLA was a disappointment for the Colorado women's basketball team, the program has to love the fans this season.

A crowd of 5,885 turned out to see the Buffs and Bruins play on Sunday afternoon. It was the second-largest crowd in Pac-12 play this season, topped only by Saturday's California at Stanford game (6,075).

The Buffs have drawn at least 2,509 fans to each of their four Pac-12 home games this season, averaging 3,958 fans per game. Stanford, with an average of 4,444, ranks first.

CU and Stanford are dominating the rest of the league in attendance. Arizona State is third with an average of 2,387 which was helped significantly by a promotional date that drew 4,433 fans to Tempe -- when CU was in town.

While CU and Stanford have both topped the 2,500 mark for every home game, the rest of the conference has three such games,

[combined.](#) The only thing that would make the attendance boost better, as far as the Buffs are concerned, is if they could win. They're now 0-4 in conference when playing in front of at least 2,700 fans.

This was the seventh time in 11 home games this season, including non-conference play, that the Buffs drew at least 2,000 fans. They've had at least 1,844 fans for 10 of 11 home games.

### Tough to stop

CU had trouble all afternoon against UCLA junior Markel Walker, a 6-foot-1 forward who averages 11.8 points and 10.4 rebounds. She finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds.

"She's a nightmare for anyone to guard," UCLA coach Cori Close said. "I'm really proud of how she came out to play today."

### High praise

Close, in her first year at

UCLA, admires what CU's Linda Lappe has done in two seasons in Boulder.

"Any time we're not playing them, I'm a fan of what she's doing," Close said. "I think she's building a great program. She's coaching up this team in a spectacular fashion. I'm so glad they are in the Pac-12."

### Notable

The Buffs had a season-low five assists. ... The Buffs out-rebounded UCLA 50-46, dropping CU to 13-1 in games in which it outrebounded its opponents. ... Chucky Jeffery finished with six steals, the 30th time in her career she's had at least three. ... Freshman Jen Reese had a career-high 14 rebounds. ... Lexy Kresl finished with 15 points, her first double-digit scoring game in conference play. ... UCLA leads the all-time series 3-2.

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