

Sloppy play doesn't derail CU women

Bufs beat Bears in WNIT despite 27 turnovers

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

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There certainly are better ways to win a game than the way the Colorado women's basketball team did on Wednesday night.

Yet, the Buffs won and that's really all that matters.

Despite 27 turnovers, CU defeated Northern Colorado 54-42 in the first round of the Women's NIT at Coors Events Center.

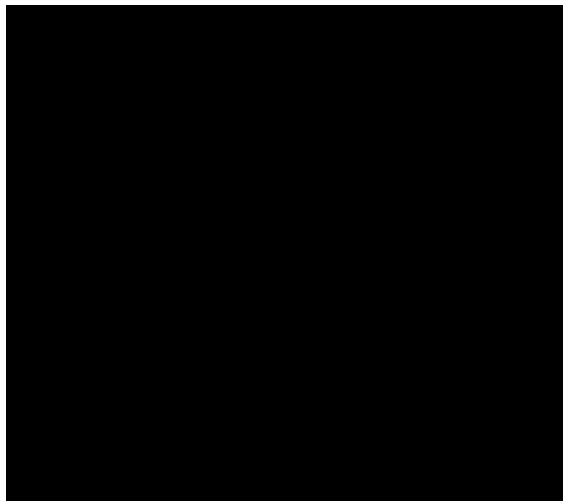
"At this point in the season, you learn that any win is a good win," CU head coach Linda Lappe said. "Even though we didn't play our best and played sloppy at times, we played well enough to win and you don't take wins for granted."

CU (19-13) surpassed last year's win total and now has a shot at its first 20-win season since 2003-04.

In the second round, CU will take on the winner of tonight's Drake-South Dakota matchup. The date, time and location of the second-round game has yet to be determined.

Lexy Kresl and Brittany Wilson led CU with 10 points each and Chucky Jeffery came close to a double-double with nine points and eight rebounds. Julie Seabrook had nine points and seven rebounds.

They all combined to help CU get through a rough night. The



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UNC defense harassed Colorado to finish with 23 steals, most ever by a CU opponent.

"It was just us being lackadaisical," said Wilson, who was not too happy about her five turnovers. "We weren't taking care of the ball, we didn't cherish the ball, and that was just what it was."

UNC (20-12), however, could never fully capitalize on those steals because its offense hit just 26 percent of its shots and had 22 turnovers of its own.

"I thought the kids worked hard and continued to compete, and once again played great defense, which we've done well all year," UNC head coach Jaime White said. "The ball just didn't fall."

Despite going more than 10 minutes without a field goal during one stretch of the second half, CU's lead never dipped below 10 points in the final 18 1/2 minutes.

CU looked good early on, with Jeffery sparking an 11-0 run that put the Buffs ahead 11-2. After UNC ended its scoring drought of 6:10, CU's offense got sloppy and piled up turnovers, letting the Bears back in the game.

UNC's Victoria Timm pulled the Bears within 21-18 in the closing minutes of the first half, but CU's Lexy Kresl drilled a 3-pointer just before the buzzer to give CU a 24-18 cushion into the break.

The Buffs then scored the first eight points of the second half, six of those by Wilson, to open up a 14-point lead.

"That was the key to the game," Lappe said. "We knew we had to come right out of halftime and throw the first punch and be aggressive. We knew it was going to be very, very important out of halftime. We weren't happy with our first half."

A 3-pointer by Timm cut the deficit to 34-24 with 16:53 to go, but CU went on an 8-0 run, during which UNC went 7:29 without a point.

"We knew they weren't going to go away, so we had come and put a dagger in them early," Wilson said. "The fact that we did that, I was very proud of our team."

Despite the turnovers, the Buffs were pleased with two important parts of their game.

For one, they played great defense. Lauren Oosdyke led UNC with 15 points. But Bears' top scorer, D'shara Strange, had just two points and went 0-for-10 from the floor.

"I started on her and I came with the mindset just to not let her score, period," Wilson said. "My teammates did an excellent job with help-side. Chucky did an excellent job on her and when she did get by me, Julie and my teammates had hands all over the ball. That was one of our focuses, clearly, because she's their leading scorer."

The Buffs also nailed their free throws, going 19-for-25 from the line. Jasmine Sborov was 4-for-4 in the final minute to seal the win.

"That was another positive thing going down the stretch," said Seabrook, who went 5-for-6 from the line.

Looking at the positives was important for the Buffs, who hope the next game is full of them.

"We can't play like that to beat our next opponent," Seabrook said.

Colorado 54, N. Colo. 42 NORTHERN COLORADO (42)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Oosdyke 30 4-12 2-4 5-5 2 2 15

Lockridge 32 1-4 0-0 1-2 6 1 3

Brown 33 3-12 0-7 2-2 0 3 8

Strange 29 0-10 0-0 2-4 5 4 2

Timm 27 4-10 1-2 0-0 3 4 9

Marin 29 0-0 0-0 0-0 3 3 0

Duehn 18 2-5 1-3 0-0 5 1 5

Lee 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Team 4

Totals 200 14-53 4-16 10-13 28 18 42

Assists (10): Marin 5, Lockridge 3, Strange 2.

Steals (23): Marin 8, Timm 5, Strange 4, Oosdyke 3, Lockridge, Brown, Duehn.

Turnovers (22): Oosdyke 7, Strange 4, Brown 3, Timm 3, Lockridge, Marin, Duehn, Lee, team.

Blocked shots (1): Lockridge.

COLORADO (54)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

MM-Peck 30 0-5 0-3 1-2 7 1 1

Seabrook 30 2-7 0-1 5-6 7 4 9

B. Wilson 32 3-7 1-4 3-3 5 3 10

Sborov 25 1-2 0-0 4-4 5 3 6

Jeffery 28 4-8 0-1 1-4 8 2 9

Kresl 22 4-9 2-6 0-0 0 1 10

A. Wilson 20 2-2 0-0 3-4 4 1 7

Hargis 13 0-2 0-0 2-2 3 2 2

Team 2

Totals 200 16-42 3-15 19-25 41 17 54

Assists (7): Malcolm-Peck 3, Jeffery 2, Seabrook, Sborov.

Steals (10): B. Wilson 3, A. Wilson 3, Malcolm-Peck, Sborov, Jeffery, Kresl.

Turnovers (27): Jeffery 8, B. Wilson 5, A. Wilson 4, Malcolm-Peck 3, Sborov 3, Seabrook 2, Kresl, team.

Blocked shots (4): B. Wilson 2, Malcolm-Peck, Seabrook.

Halftime score: Colorado 24, Northern Colorado 18.

Technical fouls -- None.

Attendance -- 1,064.

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Lappe's CU Buffs to take in men's game

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com
Boulder Daily Camera

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Colorado head coach Linda Lappe isn't sure if she'll be able to find a broadcast feed for tonight's Drake vs. South Dakota game.

The winner of that game is CU's next opponent.

She is, however, quite certain of what she and many of her players will be watching at around 8 p.m. tonight. That's approximately when the CU men square off with UNLV in the first-round of the NCAA Tournament.

"That's the most important thing," Lappe said of watching that game. "Showing them our support is really important. It's going to be a great game, it's going to be fun to have our team experience a team in the NCAA Tournament and see what excitement goes into that. It's a neat thing. You can't take the NCAA Tournament for granted. You never know when you're going to get back. You never know what's going to happen.

"For them to be able to see that and see what kind of environment that's going to be and see our men step up and how they're playing, it's going to be very important."

Lappe said the women's team doesn't have any kind of watch party planned, but it's a good bet just about everyone involved with the program will be watching.

As for the Drake vs. South Dakota game, that is set to tipoff at 6 p.m., which would give Lappe time to watch that before the CU men play, provided she can find a way to watch.

Get used to it

CU had no idea who they were playing until late Monday night and had very little time to prepare for Northern Colorado. It showed in some ways. But, the same will be true for the second-round game, too.

"Teams are so different. Different leagues play different styles," she said. "It takes some time to get used to what you're going to see. We're going to have to get used to that the entire time. If we keep winning and if we keep playing, we're going to have to learn on the fly."

Crashing boards

Nobody for CU had more than eight rebounds on Wednesday, but seven players had at least three. That added up to a 41-28 domination of the glass.

"We had some moments where we let too many offensive rebounds go, but we're just a taller team than them, so we should have been dominant on the boards tonight," forward Julie Seabrook said.

Kresl stands alone

With two 3-pointers on Wednesday, Lexy Kresl broke the school record for 3-pointers in a season by a freshman, with 58. It was the 17th time this season she's hit multiple 3-pointers in a game.

Where were you?

Attendance on Wednesday was a season-low 1,064. That number could factor into CU's ability to host a second-round game, since the WNIT likes to award home games to teams that will fill the seats a little bit.

Still attendance was better than both of CU's first two WNIT games a year ago.

Notable

Chucky Jeffery moved into sole possession of 10th place on CU's all-time list for assists (343). ... CU is 30-19 all-time in postseason play, including 8-3 in WNIT games. ... Wednesday was the third time CU has had at least 27 turnovers in a postseason game. The previous two times resulted in losses of 34 and 39 points -- both in the NCAA Tournament. The team record for postseason turnovers is 29 in a 94-60 loss to Oklahoma in the Elite Eight on March 25, 2002.

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- JIM RYDBOM / jrydbom@greeleytribune.com

UNC women's hoops can't complete WNIT upset at Colorado

Tenacious Bears can't complete road upset attempt

MARCH, 15 2012

BY [MATT SCHUMAN](#)

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Boulder — The University of Northern Colorado women's basketball team was hoping to come into the Coors Events Center and steal the show. Unfortunately, the University of Colorado would have no part of it.

Behind the thievery of senior guard Amy Marin and a strong defensive effort, the Bears kept the game close in the first half, but the Buffaloes took over in the second half and cruised to a 54-42 victory Wednesday to end UNC's season in the first round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

It ended one of the best seasons in school history as the Bears won 20 games for only the third time .

"I was proud of our team," UNC junior forward Lauren Oosdyke said. "I said in the locker room, I was like, 'Don't let this define our season. We have to realize what we've done. We just played a Pac-12 school, and we kept with them.'"

UNC kept it close in the first half behind its tenacious defense that created nine steals, four by Marin, who finished the game with eight steals in her last game in a Bears uniform.

UNC's defense did a great job on CU leading scorer Chucky Jeffery, who was held to nine points and forced into eight turnovers with Marin leading the defensive charge.

UNC finished with 23 steals in the game and trailed only 24-18 at halftime. At that point, the Bears had confidence they could come back in the second half with the way they were playing defensively.

"Defense is always an emphasis where we want to control the team that likes to score offensively. So we just played hard and try to do the best that we could," Marin said.

However, that's when the Buffaloes behind their guard combination of Lexy Kresi (10 points) and Brittany Wilson (10 points) started to take control. They went on an 8-0 run to begin the second half and take all the momentum away from the Bears.

"Well, we knew that they weren't going to go away," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "They want to be the premier school in Colorado just as much as we do so we knew they weren't going to go away. We had to come out and put a dagger in them early."

Though it proved to be the dagger, UNC wouldn't go away. As it has all season, the Bears battled hard to the end of the game, overcoming a deficit as large as 18 points in the second half to get as close as 10 with 1:20 left. They held the Buffaloes scoreless for nearly 10 minutes in the second, but still couldn't close the gap enough because of their offensive struggles.

"We changed up the offense a little bit just to try to get something going to the basket," UNC coach Jaime White said. "We knock down some 3s to try to get back into it and cut the lead, but I thought we were not great in transition and once again we have to score on one end."

Scoring was a problem for the Bears all night as they shot only 26.4 percent from the field for the game and could never get a rhythm going on the offensive end.

Oosdyke led UNC with 15 points, but that was on 4-of-12 shooting from the field. No other players scored in double figures for UNC.

Colorado 54, Northern Colorado 42

N. Colorado (20-12)

Oosdyke 4-12 5-5 15, Lockridge 1-4 1-2 3, Brown 3-12 2-2 8, Strange 0-10 2-4 4, Timm 4-10 0-0 9, Marin 0-0 0-0 0, Duehn 2-5 0-0 5, Lee 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 14-53 10-13 42.

Colorado (19-13)

Malcolm-Peck 0-5 1-2 1, Seabrook 2-7 5-6 9, Wilson 3-7 3-3 10, Sborov 1-2 4-4 6, Jeffery 4-8 1-4 9, Kresi 4-9 0-0 10, A. Wilson 2-2 3-4 7, Hargis 0-2 2-2 2. Totals 16-42 19-25 54.

Halftime—Colorado 24-18. 3-Point Goals—N. Colorado 4-16 (Oosdyke 2-4, Timm 1-2, Duehn 1-3, Brown 0-7), Colorado 3-15 (Kresi 2-6, B. Wilson 1-4, Malcolm-Peck 0-3, Seabrook 0-1, Jeffery 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—N. Colorado 28 (Lockridge 6), Colorado 27 (Jeffery 8). Assists—N. Colorado 10 (Marin 5), Colorado 7 (Malcolm-Peck 3). Total Fouls—N. Colorado 18, Colorado 17. A—1,064.

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AID=/20120314/SPORTS/703149933/1012&parentprofile=1010&template=printart](http://www.greeleytribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120314/SPORTS/703149933/1012&parentprofile=1010&template=printart)