



Chuckie Jeffery scored 16 points Thursday night in a Pac-12 tournament loss to Cal.
 Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



Brooks: Bears Lead Wire-To-Wire, Eliminate Buffs

Release: 03/08/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

LOS ANGELES - California parlayed a fast start with a solid finish Thursday night to hold off Colorado and eliminate the Buffaloes from the Pac-12 Conference women's basketball tournament.

The second-seeded Bears defeated the tenth-seeded Buffs 68-59 at USC's Galen Center, leaving CU's uncertain postseason hopes in the hands of the WNIT selection committee. The Buffs finished their second season under Linda Lappe 18-13, while the Bears improved to 23-8 and moved into the Pac-12 semifinals.

Cal won for the third time against CU, which never led Thursday night and fell behind by as many as 16 points in the first half before bouncing back and at least unsettling the talented Bears.

"I liked our effort; I liked our fight and just the fact that we

BUFFALO EXTRAS



Watch:
 WBB Postgame
 03/09/2012



Watch:
 WBB vs Cal Highlights
 03/09/2012



Listen:
 WBB vs. Cal Audio
 03/09/2012

- [→ Statistics](#)
- [→ Quotes](#)
- [→ Notes](#)

[Statistics](#)

didn't quit at any point in the game," Lappe said "You know, there was a point in the first half where we could have stopped playing and it could have been a blowout. We took enough pride in who we were and what we were doing and the fact that we were on the floor."

During regular-season play, Cal defeated CU 68-55 in Boulder and 64-43 in Berkeley. The Buffs advanced to Thursday night's second round via a 55-41 win against No. 7 seed Utah the previous night.

Sophomore guard Brittany Wilson, who led CU with 21 points against Utah, again paced the Buffs with 18 points against Cal. Junior guard Chucky Jeffery added 16 and was the only other CU player in double figures.

Cal had four players in double figures, topped by Layshia Clarendon's 12. Lindsay Sherbert and Talia Caldwell added 11 each, and Reshanda Gray had 10.

The Bears held the Buffs to 37.5 percent shooting from the field in both halves (20-of-56) and outrebounded them 40-35. The way they started, it seemed reasonable to predict the Buffs would trail at intermission - and they did. But the Bears' 10-0 run to open the game wasn't an indication of how the Buffs would finish the half.

"It took us awhile to get our scoring going," Lappe said "It finally got going. The outcome wasn't what we wanted but I've got to be happy about how we played."

Showing no signs of rust or first-game nerves after their first-round bye, the Bears got six quick inside points from Caldwell and Gray and a pair of free throws from Sherbert to burst in front 10-0 before Jeffery finally hit a layup with 16:20 left before the break.

Lappe called the Bears "huge on the inside and we can't match them person for person on the inside but we did a great job of helping down. Our posts worked their tails off to try to keep it out of there as much as they could. They helped each other out; our guards helped them, really did some good things on the defensive end."

The Buffs closed to 11-7 - their smallest deficit of the half - before the Bears surged again, this time going on an 18-6 run to open a 16-point (27-11) lead.

CU - particularly Brittany Wilson - wasn't ready for the fork. In the final 3 minutes, she scored nine of her 11 first-half points on three three-pointers. Her first two treys were followed by a Lexy Kresl three-pointer that trimmed Cal's lead to 31-24, and the last one cut Cal's margin to 33-27.

"We didn't quit, but we kept fighting and I give credit to our players, they really rose to the challenge," Lappe said. "Brittany did a great job in that stretch of getting us going and giving us some confidence with our outside shot, getting to the rim."

But while "B-Wil" was getting into scoring mode, so was the Bears' Clarendon, who scored her team's last six points of the half and had Cal in front 35-27 at intermission.

The Buffs hit four-of-eight first-half three-point attempts, but were 0-for-11 in the second half.

"I thought we got a lot of great looks from three, even in the second half," Lappe said. "In the first half they were falling, a lot of it was because of Brittany. She hit two or three in the first half. In the second half Lexy Kresl had a lot of great looks that she often doesn't get because she is such a great shooter."

Even if their shooting touch went on leave, the Buffs' energy stayed with them through the break; they outscored the Bears 6-2 to open the second half, creeping to within four (37-33) on a put-back by senior Julie Seabrook.

Cal answered with an inside basket by Gray and a three-pointer by Sherbert and increased its lead to nine (42-33), then went up by double figures (43-33) again on one of two free throws by Sherbert. CU escaped any more immediate damage when Rachel Hargis was called for a flagrant foul under the basket, sending Gray to the line

for two free throws.

She missed them both, and Cal didn't score on the accompanying possession. The Buffs stayed with the Bears thereafter, pulling within five (43-38) on a conventional three-point by Hargis with 11:11 remaining.

For the next 61/2 minutes, Cal held an eight-point lead or larger until a put-back by freshman Jasmine Sborov and one of two free throws by Brittany Wilson closed the gap to six (55-49) with 4:14 to play.

CU could get no closer before time ran out. Cal closed it out by hitting nine of 10 free throws in the final 1:16.

"Of course I wish we'd won, wish we'd pulled it out," Brittany Wilson said. "There was a stretch of four minutes where we could have gone down, but we battled with that team. For us to battle with that team, I think a lot of people thought we would lay down and got blown out because of the standings: they're two, we're 10.

"But it shows standings don't really matter; we can play with anybody and everybody in this tournament. We showed what we had and it was a great appearance."

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

SHOW MENU



THE SACRAMENTO BEE sacbee.com

Cal women beat Colorado 68-59 in Pac-12 tourney

The Associated Press

Published Thursday, Mar. 08, 2012

LOS ANGELES -- Layshia Clarendon had 12 points to lead a balanced scoring effort, and California moved into the Pac-12 tournament semifinals with a 68-59 win Thursday over Colorado.

Talia Caldwell added 11 points and nine rebounds, Lindsay Sherbert also scored 11 and Reshanda Gray had 10 for the No. 2 seed Golden Bears (23-8). Cal, which was last in the conference in free-throw shooting in the regular season, went 9 for 10 from the line in the final 1:16 to secure the win.

Brittany Wilson scored 18 points and Chucky Jeffery had 16 to lead the 10th-seeded Buffaloes (18-13), who fell behind 10-0 and trailed by as many as 16 in the first half. But Colorado pulled within four just after halftime and stayed within single digits for most of the second half.

On Friday, Cal will face 11th-seeded Washington State, which knocked off No. 3 seed Southern Cal 69-55 later Thursday.

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

Brittany Wilson leads Colorado with 18 points in Pac-12 Tournament loss

Buffzone.com report
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:03/08/2012 08:09:44 PM MST

Women's Pac-12 Tournament

Wednesday's games

No. 8 Washington 72, No. 9 Oregon 56

No. 12 Arizona 61, No. 5 UCLA 57

No. 10 Colorado 55, No. 7 Utah 41

No. 11 Washington State 72, No. 6 Oregon State 56

Thursday's games

No. 1 Stanford 76, No. 8 Washington 57

No. 4 Arizona State 68, No. 12 Arizona 53

No. 2 California 68, No. 10 Colorado 59

No. 11 Washington St. vs. No. 3 USC, 8:15 p.m.

Friday's games

No. 1 Stanford vs. No. 4 Arizona State, 1 p.m., Root Sports

No. 2 California vs. Washington State/USC winner, 3:30 p.m., Root Sports

Saturday's game

Championship, 12:30 p.m., Root Sports

LOS ANGELES - Colorado's run through the Pac-12 women's basketball tournament ended earlier than the Buffs would have liked.

They made quite an impression, though, before falling to California 68-59 on Thursday in the second round of the tournament at the Galen Center.

"The outcome wasn't what we wanted, but I've got to be happy about how we played," CU head coach Linda Lappe said.

Lappe's 10th-seeded Buffaloes (18-13) fell behind early, but played right with the second-seeded Golden Bears (23-8) for much of the night.

Brittany Wilson had another big game, scoring a game-high 18 points, and Chucky Jeffery scored 16 points and grabbed seven rebounds for CU.

"I liked our effort," Lappe said. "I liked our fight and the fact that we didn't quit at any point in that game. There was a point in the first half where we could have stopped playing and it could have been a blowout."

Cal, in fact, twice threatened to run CU out of the gym.

The Golden Bears, who finished 3-0 against Colorado this season, scored the first 10 points of the game, leading 10-0 just 3:04 into the contest. At that point, CU had four turnovers.

"I don't know exactly what we were doing at the beginning," CU junior Meagan Malcolm-Peck said on KKZN radio after the game. "It wasn't us at all, so that's really frustrating."

CU chipped away at that deficit, but then Cal went on a 12-2 run to take its biggest lead, 27-11. During that run, CU went 6:38 without a field goal and it seemed as if Cal might be poised for that blowout win.

The Buffs then rallied.

"We took enough pride in who we were and what we were doing," Lappe said. "We didn't quit and we kept fighting and you've got to give that credit to our players. They really rose to the challenge."

The Buffs outscored the Bears 16-8 during the final five minutes of the half. Rachel Hargis scored four points to spark CU. Then, the Buffs drilled four 3-pointers - three by Wilson and one by Lexy Kresl - to head into halftime trailing by just eight, 35-27.

Wilson and Jeffery then opened the second half with back-to-back buckets to pull CU within 35-31. The game was close the rest of the way.

"For us to battle with that team, I think a lot of people probably thought we would have been blown out," Wilson said.

Unfortunately for CU, it never got any closer than four points. Cal kept the lead between seven and 11 points throughout the half. CU got within six points after a Jeffery layup with 1:07 to play.

Cal, however, answered the challenge. Coming in as the worst free-throw shooting team in the Pac-12, the Bears hit 9-of-10 free throws in the final 76 seconds to seal the win.

Statistically, CU was similar in many ways to the Bears. Cal hit 21-of-55 shots, CU hit 20-of-56. Cal had 40 rebounds, CU had 35. Cal has 12 turnovers, CU had 13.

CU made a lot of its noise by driving to the rim and hitting layups or drawing fouls. That opened the outside, but CU's four 3-pointers came in the final three minutes of the first half. The Buffs finished 4-of-19 from 3-point range, including 1-for-8 by Kresl and 0-for-4 by Malcolm-Peck. CU was 0-for-11 beyond the arc in the second half.

"I thought we got a lot of great looks from 3, even in the second half," Lappe said. "The first half, they were falling a lot, mostly because of Brittany. In the second half, I thought Lexy Kresl had so many wide-open looks that she doesn't get because she is such a good shooter.

"We just have to have people step up and knock those open shots down. They just didn't fall for us tonight."

Still, CU walked away with a measure of confidence. After knocking out seventh-seeded Utah in Wednesday's first round, they outscored the No. 2 Golden Bears 59-58 during the final 16:30 on Thursday.

"We're happy with how we competed," Malcolm-Peck said. "We're not happy to lose ever. I think we can for sure do better."

They might get a chance to prove that in the WNIT.

California 68, Colorado 59 COLORADO (59)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

MM-Peck 32 2-7 0-4 2-4 3 2 6

Seabrook 25 1-2 0-0 2-2 3 2 4

B. Wilson 28 6-11 3-4 3-4 3 4 18

Sborov 23 1-6 0-1 0-2 4 2 2

Jeffery 33 6-13 0-2 4-6 7 2 16

Kresl 32 1-11 1-8 0-0 8 2 3

A. Wilson 16 1-3 0-0 1-2 2 3 3

Hargis 11 2-3 0-0 3-3 1 4 7

Team 4

Totals 200 20-56 4-19 15-23 35 21 59

Assists (6): Malcolm-Peck 3, B. Wilson 2, Jeffery.

Steals (7): B. Wilson 3, Malcolm-Peck, Sborov, Jeffery, Kresl.

Turnovers (13): Malcolm-Peck 4, B. Wilson 3, Jeffery 2, Sborov 2, A. Wilson 2.

Blocked shots (3): Seabrook 2, Sborov.

CALIFORNIA (68)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Gray 20 2-6 0-0 6-8 6 3 10

Caldwell 31 5-8 0-0 1-3 9 2 11

Boyd 19 2-5 0-0 4-4 3 4 8

Clarendon 35 4-13 0-0 4-6 2 3 12

Sherbert 17 3-4 2-3 3-4 3 1 11

Jemerigbe 19 3-8 0-1 1-3 2 1 7

Pierre 27 0-6 0-3 2-2 4 3 2

Brandon 22 2-4 0-0 2-2 7 1 6

Lyles 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Hartman 7 0-1 0-0 1-2 1 0 1

Team 3

Totals 200 21-55 2-7 24-34 40 18 68

Assists (9): Boyd 3, Clarendon 2, Pierre 2, Sherbert, Hartman.

Steals (6): Boyd 3, Caldwell, Clarendon, Pierre.

Turnovers (12): Jemerigbe 3, Brandon 3, Boyd 2, Pierre 2, Caldwell, Clarendon.

Blocked shots (5): Brandon 2, Caldwell, Pierre, Hartman.

Halftime score: California 35, Colorado 27.

Technical fouls -- None.

Attendance -- N/A.

Close Window

Send To Printer

WNIT likely destination for CU Buffs

Buffzone.com staff
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:03/09/2012 12:32:37 AM MST

LOS ANGELES -- Heading into last weekend, there was some question as to whether Colorado had done enough to get into the Women's NIT.

There shouldn't be any question now.

Despite Thursday's 68-59 loss to California in the second round of the Pac-12 Tournament, CU is 18-13. In their last three games, the Buffs went 2-1 and played well in the only loss against a Cal team that is likely headed to the NCAA Tournament.

The WNIT committee requires that teams finish at least .500. How a team finishes also comes into play.

Sitting five games above .500 and with a strong finish, CU is not only looking at getting into the WNIT, but hosting a game or more. The WNIT often awards home games to teams with solid attendance. CU finished second in the Pac-12 in attendance and has a history of drawing well for the WNIT. In their last two trips to the WNIT (2008 and 2011), CU went 6-2 and played seven of those eight games at the Coors Events Center because of their ability to put fans in the seats.

"I hope we get the invite because I think we're an exciting team to watch," CU assistant Jennie Baranczyk said on KKZN radio after Thursday's game. "We can hopefully host a couple of games. We want to keep coaching this team. They're a great group of people."

In the two seasons since the WNIT expanded to a 64-team field, 106 teams from the six major conferences (Atlantic Coast, Big Ten, Big 12, Big East, Pac-12 and Southeastern) have been postseason eligible. All 106 wound up either going to the NCAA Tournament or getting a WNIT bid (three teams declined the WNIT bid), so that's another bonus for the Buffs.

The Pac-12 has eight teams that are postseason eligible this season.

Lighting it up

Brittany Wilson, from Long Beach, Calif., likes playing when the eyes of Los Angeles are upon her.

In her past 30 games, she has scored more than 15 points just three times -- 21 against L.A.-based Southern Cal on Jan. 26 and then 21 and 18 points in the two games this week on USC's home floor.

The 39 points she scored this week are the most she's ever had in a two-game stretch at CU.

Notable

CU's Chucky Jeffery finished with one assist in each game during the tournament. It's the first time in her 90-game career that she's had zero or one assist in back-to-back games. She's had multiple assists in 78 games as a Buff. ... Julie Seabrook had two blocks on Thursday, just the second time in 116 career games she's had more than one. The last time was a week earlier, on March 1 against Oregon. ... Cal is one of the top five rebounding teams in the country, but CU held its own against the Bears this year. In three games, CU was out-rebounded by just 12, 114-102. ... Freshman Lexy Kresl had a career-high eight rebounds. ... Rachel Hargis had seven points, her highest point total since scoring 10 against Cal on Jan. 12.

Close Window

Send To Printer