



Colorado wins the 2011 Omni Hotels Classic
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: Buffs Win Third Omni Classic Championship

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BOULDER - Chucky Jeffery knew what was going on, but when Lexy Kresl heard herself being paged Saturday night at the Coors Events Center she wasn't sure why. She found out pretty quickly - and the reason was all good for her and the Colorado Buffaloes.

Jeffery recorded her 12th career double-double and Kresl scored a career-high 16 points to lead the CU women's basketball team to a 58-48 win against Wisconsin in the championship game of CU's Omni Hotels Classic.

The victory pushed the Buffs to 5-0 for the first time since the 2000-01 season and earned them their third consecutive Omni Classic title. Jeffery was named the tournament MVP for the second consecutive year while Kresl, a 5-11 freshman guard, also was selected to the all-tournament team. Other all-tourney selections were Wisconsin's Taylor Wurtz, Montana

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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State's Katie Busey and Valparaiso's Tabitha Gerardot.

"When they called my name I didn't know what they were talking about," said Kresl with a laugh. "It's humbling. I appreciate the support from the fans and everybody that came today."

Kresl scored 26 points in the two tournament games and has hit at least one three-pointer in every game this season. She was two-of-three from beyond the arc Saturday night and hit all eight of her free throw attempts.

Jeffery, meanwhile, contributed 28 points and collected 20 rebounds in the two Omni games, helping the Buffs dispose of Valparaiso 60-32 on Friday. Montana State defeated Valparaiso 71-55 in Saturday's third-place game.

The junior guard called her back-to-back MVP awards "big . . . it just makes me want to keep working. I can't dwell on it; I have to come back and work harder."

Just as they did in the tournament opener, Kresl and Jeffery got help Saturday from sophomore guard Brittany Wilson, who scored 10 points each night and was key coming off the bench in a first-half surge against UW.

The Buffs expected a physical game from the Badgers, and they got it. But CU coach Linda Lappe was pleased with how her team responded in that regard and how it played defense.

"Our defense was key," Lappe said. "We did a great job in the first half of limiting them to 23 . . . and even those shots were rushed; they were not shots they wanted. It helped us win the game."

Lappe also applauded her team's rebounding, calling it "outstanding . . . they were outrebounding teams by eight (before Saturday), we outrebound them by 19 (46-27)."

Kresl said maintaining a rebounding edge "is always one of our three goals," and Jeffery called it "part of our identity . . . we've got a lot of good rebounding guards."

The Buffs trailed only once against the Badgers (2-0) and held a double-digit lead for the game's final 15:34 in sending the visitors home with a 2-5 record.

CU led 31-23 at the half , but it took a healthy run in the final 4:31 for the Buffs to create some separation with the Badgers. CU led by as many as nine before UW ratcheted up its defense and closed to 19-17 on a pair of free throws by Wurtz at the 6:11 mark.

Just under a minute before that, Wurtz hit another pair of free throws after the Buffs' bench was whistled for a technical foul, apparently after complaining about what appeared to be a shot clock violation by the Badgers.

Lappe said if her lost its composure "for about two minutes . . . we regained it and never lost our lead. We stayed up by a decent margin, we responded and ended the half strong."

But the Buffs opened frigidly, hitting just one of their first seven field goal attempts. Less than 5 minutes into the half, Lappe brought Brittany Wilson off the bench for a spark and "B-Wil" furnished it.

Over the next 4 minutes, she contributed a pair of three-pointers and a put back to give CU a 13-4 lead - its biggest before UW responded with an 8-2 run and closed to 15-12 on a three-pointer by Wurtz.

From there, neither team hit a field goal, but the Badgers outscored the Buffs 5-4 at the free throw line - including the two for the 'T' - and pulled to 19-17. But CU fashioned a 12-4 run and took its biggest lead of the half (31-21) with 1:27 before intermission.

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Statistics

CU wound up shooting 40 percent (10-for-25) from the field in the first 20 minutes, while UW was at 25.9 percent (7-for-27). The Buffs held a 21-15 board advantage in the first half, with Jeffery claiming five rebounds and adding nine points to lead CU in both first-half categories.

The Buffs finished the game shooting 33.9 percent from the field (19-of-56), while the Badgers were at 33.3 percent (16-of-48). Both teams scored 20 points off of turnovers, but CU's 24-12 point advantage in the paint was critical.

The Badgers opened the second half with a trey by freshman guard Lindsay Smith, but it would be their only points for the next 3 minutes. In the meantime, the Buffs got baskets from Julie Seabrook, Kresl and Brittany Wilson to take their biggest lead to that point, 37-26.

From there, CU began to pull away, opening a 44-30 advantage on a follow in the lane by freshman post Jen Reese with 12:50 to play. The Buffs led by as many as 16 points before the final whistle.

Lappe and her players said winning their own Thanksgiving weekend tournament always is an early season priority.

"It's our own tournament, so we know we have to come in and be ready for anything," Jeffery said. "We know we're hosting somebody in our house and we have to take the tournament."

CU continues its home stand with a game on Wednesday against San Francisco (7 p.m., Root).

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SHOW MENU



CU Buffs hold off Wisconsin to win Omni Classic

Chucky Jeffery notches double-double to lead CU

By Brian Howell Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/26/2011 09:30:44 PM MST

For the first time this season, the Colorado women's basketball team was presented with a make-or-break moment.

Four fouls, a technical and a series of free throws by Wisconsin -- all within about a minute -- threatened CU's mettle.

Rather than let that frustrating series of events ruin them, the Buffaloes rallied to beat the Badgers 58-48 on Saturday night in the Omni Hotels Classic championship game at Coors Events Center.

"I thought we lost our composure for about a minute and a half to two minutes in the first half when we were fouling a little bit too much and we got a little bit emotional there," CU head coach Linda Lappe said. "But, we regained our composure, and I think that's important."

From the start, Wisconsin (2-5) challenged CU like no other team has this year, but it wasn't enough to prevent the Buffs from their first 5-0 start since the 2000-01 season -- when Lappe was a sophomore -- and their third straight Omni Classic title.

"It's huge," said junior Chucky Jeffery, who had the 12th double-double of her career and was named tournament MVP for the second straight year. "It's our own tournament, so we know we have to come in and we have to be ready for anything."

Jeffery finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds, while freshman Lexy Kresl scored a career-high 16 points and was named to the all-tournament team.

CU has won all five games by double digits, but this one wasn't as easy as the others.

A bucket by Ashley Wilson pulled the Badgers within 37-30 four minutes into the second half. CU responded to that with a 9-0 run to push the lead to 46-30. The Badgers, who were never able to score more than six points in a row, didn't threaten after that.

"Even when you don't have the run (on offense), you can't let them get a run," Kresl said. "That was our main focus, I think, was not to let them go on shooting sprees."

That was never more crucial than late in the first half. CU led 19-12 when it appeared Wisconsin's offense had a shot-clock violation. No whistle was blown, however, and when CU coaches argued, they were hit with a technical foul.

Taylor Wurtz, who led the Badgers with 13 points, hit both free throws. During the following minute CU was whistled for four fouls and Wisconsin hit three free throws to pull within 19-17.

CU fought through that and responded with a 12-4 run to open a 10-point lead. Wisconsin kept battling, physically and on the scoreboard, but CU kept its composure the rest of the way.

"I love physical games, because it hypes everything up," Jeffery said. "You bring more energy. I think it's good for us to face physical teams, especially early on, because that's an emulation of what we're going to see in (Pac-12 play). Then we know how to respond to it and keep our composure."

The Buffs did that and, once again, played solid defense to earn their 15th overall title at the Omni Classic.

"We love to protect our home court," Lappe said. "We have to have a lot of pride when we're on our home floor. It's always nice when you can win and it's always kind of one of our first times that we can win a championship in the year. To win the Omni Classic, I think, is important."

Colorado 58, Wisconsin 48 WISCONSIN (48)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Thomas 37 1-3 0-0 0-0 2 1 2

Covington 25 4-9 0-0 1-2 4 3 9

Davis 32 3-9 2-5 2-2 4 4 10

Wurtz 38 3-12 1-3 6-8 7 1 13

Paige 21 0-4 0-3 2-2 0 5 2

Supernaw 1 0-1 0-1 0-0 0 0 0

Smith 22 2-4 2-2 0-0 2 1 6

Gorman 3 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Gulczynski 5 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Rochel 16 3-5 0-0 0-0 3 3 6

Team 5

Totals 200 16-48 5-14 11-14 27 18 48

Assists (5): Wurtz 2, Covington, Paige, Smith.

Steals (7): Wurtz 4, Davis 2, Thomas.

Turnovers (13): Davis 5, Covington 2, Wurtz 2, Paige 2, Team 2.

Blocked shots (3): Thomas, Covington, Rochel.

COLORADO (58)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Seabrook 21 1-1 0-0 0-0 3 2 2

Hargis 33 4-9 0-0 0-1 7 2 8

Kresl 28 3-5 2-3 8-8 4 1 16

MM-Peck 28 2-8 0-5 0-0 8 1 4

Jeffery 40 4-17 0-4 6-8 11 2 14

B. Wilson 25 4-12 2-7 0-0 2 2 10

A. Wilson 13 0-0 0-0 0-0 4 0 0

Reese 12 1-4 0-0 2-2 4 3 4

Team 3 1

Totals 200 19-56 4-19 16-19 46 14 58

Assists (8): Jeffery 3, Hargis 2, Malcolm-Peck 2, A. Wilson.

Steals (7): Hargis 2, Kresl 2, Seabrook, B. Wilson, Reese.

Turnovers (14): Jeffery 4, B. Wilson 3, Hargis 2, Kresl 2, Malcolm-Peck, A. Wilson, Reese.

Blocked shots (4): Jeffery 2, Malcolm-Peck, A. Wilson.

Halftime score: Colorado 31, Wisconsin 23.

Technical fouls -- Colorado bench.

Attendance -- 2,168.

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Jeffery earns MVP honors, again

By **Brian Howell** Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/27/2011 12:09:43 AM MST



In the 25 years that the Omni Hotels Classic has been played, there have been a plethora of great individual performances.

Colorado's Chucky Jeffery has done something nobody else ever did. On Saturday night, her double-double helped the Buffs win the tournament title. It also helped her win the tournament MVP, becoming the first player to win it in back-to-back years.

"It's big," Jeffery said after her 14-point, 11-rebound performance. "It just makes me want to keep working. I love it. It's great, but I just have to come back ready to work harder. I'm not great in all areas, but it feels good."

Jeffery, who averaged 14.0 points and 10.0 rebounds in the tournament, joins CU's Jenny Roulier (1999 and 2001) as the only players to win the award twice.

Freshman Lexy Kresl also made the all-tournament team for the Buffs. She scored a career-high 16 in the win against Wisconsin on Saturday after posting 10 points in Friday's win against Valparaiso.

"When they called my name (to center court), I didn't really know what they were talking about," Kresl joked. "It's humbling, but I just appreciate the support from the fans and everybody that came."

Wisconsin's Taylor Wurtz, Montana State's Katie Bussey and Valparaiso's Tabitha Gerardot also made the all-tournament team.

Knocking them down

Kresl was 8-for-8 at the free throw line, improving to 14-for-15 on the season.

"I'm very confident in my free throw shot," she said. "On the free-throw ladder (amongst the team), I'm the top, so I wanted to defend my title in the game."

Getting defensive

Wurtz came in averaging 17.8 points, including 26 in Friday's win over Montana State. She was held to a season-low 13 by the Buffs, hitting just three of 12 field goals.

"She's their key player and she's capable of going off," Jeffery said. "(Against Montana State), I think she went off for 20-some odd points and we knew we couldn't let that happen. Jumping out on her at the beginning was good for us."

Getting boards

CU had 21 offensive rebounds -- just the eighth time in the past 11 seasons it has had that many in one game. For the tournament, the Buffs had 35 offensive boards.

"When you're not shooting the ball particularly well, like we didn't the past couple of games, offensive rebounding helps you stay in the game and keep the momentum," head coach Linda Lappe said.

Overall, CU out-rebounded Wisconsin 46-27. The Badgers came in with a plus-8.3 average. Jeffery, Meagan Malcolm-Peck (eight rebounds) and Rachel Hargis (seven) led the way.

"I think our rebounding was outstanding," Lappe said.

Bobcats third Montana State (4-2) rolled past Valparaiso (0-5) in the third-place game, 71-55. Bussey had 21 points, while Ashley Albert had 18.

Notable

CU is now 40-10 all-time at the Omni Classic. ... Lappe is 13-1 all-time at the Omni Classic, as a player (9-1) and coach (4-0). ... Kresl has scored in double digits and hit at least one 3-pointer in all five games. She got her second straight start on Saturday. ... The Buffs are now 1-1 all-time against Wisconsin. ... Jeffery has averaged 13.3 points and 8.7 rebounds in six career Omni Classic games. She is 6-0 in those games.

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