



Brittany Wilson scored a season-high 19 points Tuesday night.

Photo Courtesy: Scott Arnold, ProMotion Ltd.



Brooks: Buffs Put Away Pioneers, Eye No. 8 Cardinals

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DENVER - The unbeaten University of Colorado women's basketball team shook off a lethargic start, took control with an 8-0 run and never looked back in dispatching the University of Denver 83-63 here Tuesday night.

Now the Buffaloes can look ahead. Finally, they can focus on their biggest non-conference game - a Friday night date with No. 8 Louisville at the Coors Events Center. The Cardinals are 9-1, with their lone loss by one point (48-47) to archrival Kentucky.

"We feel really good with where we're at," CU coach [Linda Lappe](#) said of her team's 8-0 start. "We've seen a little of everything. Obviously Louisville will present a few different things we haven't seen and a different level of talent. But we're excited for it; it should be a really fun game. Hopefully we can get a crowd there. Our players have really been looking forward to this for a long time."

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In winning for only the second time in Denver against the Pioneers, the Buffs got a season-high 19 points from [Brittany Wilson](#) and 14 points and 11 rebounds from [Chucky Jeffery](#). Leading scorer [Arielle Roberson](#), who entered the game with a 17.3-point average, added 11.

Morgan Van Riper-Rose kept the Pioneers close with 13 first-half points. She finished with a career-high 28

DU defeated CU 70-69 in their most recent Magness Arena matchup on Nov. 16, 2010. The Buffs lead the series 6-2 and won for the third time this season against a Front Range opponent. Before making the trip down I-25 South, CU had beaten Wyoming (68-59) and Colorado State (72-46) in Boulder.

Tuesday's first half produced 11 lead changes, but they all occurred in the first 10 minutes. DU (4-5) took advantage of CU's sluggish start to go ahead by as many as five points (13-8) before the visitors roused themselves.

"It shouldn't have been like that, because it shows that we weren't ready," Jeffery said. "It should be flipped because (Louisville) was on our minds. We have to be prepared."

If it took a little longer for the Buffs to focus, once they got there they took command and made an 18-17 deficit their last of the game. They went on an 8-0 run, getting baskets from [Jamee Swan](#), Roberson (her first of the game), Jeffery and [Brittany Wilson](#) on a fast-break assist from Jeffery to go up 25-18 at 6:22 before intermission.

From there until the halftime buzzer, CU increased its lead to 10 on two occasions and led 37-27 at the break. CU outscored DU 9-1 to open the second half and surge ahead 46-28. The Buffs didn't allow the Pioneers their first field goal of the last 20 minutes until the 14:07 mark.

A minute later, CU went up by 23 and wouldn't allow DU within 15 points the rest of the night. The Buffs led by as many as 26 points in the final 4 minutes.

Lappe said the surge to open the final 20 minutes was "the key to the game . . . we got kick started toward the end of the first half and I really enjoyed how we came out of halftime."

She also enjoyed her team getting 50 rebounds for a second consecutive game. The Buffs out-boarded the Pioneers 50-28.

"That's probably the best thing I can say about our team tonight," Lappe noted. "We don't take that lightly. Rebounding takes a lot of heart, character and effort. I really liked how our posts crashed the offensive glass and we were constantly trying to get second- and third-chance points. And we were doing a great job keeping them off the glass. We're extremely happy with our rebounding."

CU outscored DU 32-12 in the paint and got 13 second-chance points to the Pioneers' three. The Buffs committed 13 turnovers and scored 19 points off of the home team's 19 errors. And CU's bench outscored DU's 30-12.

When the Buffs finally got engaged, the night turned easy. But Lappe and her players know a slow start on Friday might doom them. The ante goes up against Louisville.

But, noted [Brittany Wilson](#), "It is good to know if we come out like we did (Tuesday) we can turn the switch on and come back up. But we're not going to be able to do it against a really good team. We've got to come out like we have been and play with the defensive pressure we have been. Tonight it wasn't as good as it could have been.

"We didn't come out with our defensive pressure as we usually do. We came out kind of slow. It's never good to look on to the next team, but we were excited to play this team. We know we can play with the best of the best. The time to show it is now."

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Women's basketball: CU Buffs rout Denver at Magness Arena

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

DENVER -- The Colorado women's basketball team has been anticipating a showdown with No. 8 Louisville for a while.

The Buffs have also known it wouldn't mean as much if they didn't take care of business leading up to Louisville's arrival.

On Tuesday night, Brittany Wilson had a season-high 19 points and Chucky Jeffery recorded her 22nd career double-double as the Buffs routed host Denver 83-63 at Magness Arena.

The win sets up what could be quite a matchup Friday at Coors Events Center between the unbeaten Buffs (8-0) and the Cardinals (9-1).

"We feel really good with where we're at," Buffs coach Linda Lappe said. "We feel like we've seen a lot of everything. Obviously Louisville will present a few different things that maybe we haven't seen or a different level of talent, but we're excited for it. It should be a really fun game."

Despite a sluggish start, CU clearly didn't overlook the Pioneers (4-5), though.

"Regardless of whether you're looking ahead, you've got to take care of the present, and they're a rival," Lappe said of the Pioneers.

The Buffs did fall behind by five points early and trailed 18-17 with 9:43 to play in the first half, as the offense and defense sputtered.

CU, however, used an 8-0 run midway through the first half to regain the lead and never looked back. The Buffs stretched their lead to 10 late in the first half and never trailed during the final 29 minutes of the game.

"I felt like we didn't come out as good as we wanted to, not ready and focused as we should have been," said Jeffery, who finished with 14 points, 11 rebounds and five assists. "But once we got on that run, it kind of gave us a kick-start and then we amped it up a little bit."

Jeffery certainly amped up her game. It was the third time this season she's grabbed at least 10 rebounds and the fourth time she's scored in double figures, but this was one of her best all-around games.

"It's always good for me to get double-doubles," she said. "Coach wanted me to get in there and rebound and that's what I went in there and did. I crashed the offensive boards as good as I can. I just was aggressive with everything I did today and I felt good about it."

Lappe wasn't entirely pleased with how the Buffs performed throughout, but they did put their foot on DU's throat and kept it there. CU opened the second half with a 9-1 surge and had a double-digit lead throughout the second half in securing just the fourth 8-0 start in program history. The Buffs started 12-0 a year ago.

"We got kick-started toward the end of the first half and I really enjoyed how we came out of halftime," Lappe said. "I thought that was the key to the game is that we got on them early."

Wilson hit a pair of early 3-pointers and came within three points of her career high. Jeffery, Arielle Roberson (11 points, six rebounds) and sophomore Lexy Kresl (eight points, five rebounds) all stepped up as well, as CU hit 43.7 percent of its shots.

"You can just see this team and how anybody can go off at any moment, any second and anybody can get hot at any time," Wilson said. "That's a good thing with our team, but we've got to come out and play our defense. We can't start out slow like this on Friday."

With Tuesday's win in the books, the Buffs can now focus on Friday. Louisville's visit will be the biggest non-conference game in Boulder in years.

"I think it's a big deal," Wilson said. "We have to get ready. There's a lot of talk around about us and I think that's an excellent thing, but right now it's enough of the talking and we've just got to show it."

Notable

CU, which had 59 rebounds against Colorado State on Dec. 5, had 50 on Tuesday. It was the first time CU had 50-plus rebounds in back-to-back games since the first two games of the 2009-10 season. ... The Buffs had 22 offensive boards after posting 24 against CSU. The Buffs had pulled down 20 offensive rebounds just five times in Lappe's first two seasons at the helm. ... This was CU's first win on DU's home floor since, Nov. 15, 1977, before head coach Linda Lappe was born. Granted, this was just the third trip to DU since then. ... CU is 7-1 against in-state rivals under Lappe; the only loss came two years ago at DU. ... Denver was led by sophomore Morgan Van Riper-Rose, who scored a career-high 28 points. ... CU out-scored the Pioneers 32-12 in the paint and had a 13-3 advantage in second-chance points... Roberson was hit with a technical foul in the second half for an apparent shove of a DU player. It was CU's first technical of the season.

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Fast Break

What went right

The Buffs got production from a lot of different players and buried a team they were supposed to bury.

What went wrong

CU's defense was not sharp at time, allowing DU to sink seven 3-pointers and stay in the game early.

Star of the game

Chucky Jeffery. Her 22nd double-double (14 points, 11 rebounds) was crucial in helping the Buffs stay undefeated.

What's next?

No. 8 Louisville visits Boulder on Friday at 7 p.m.

Colorado 83, Denver 63 COLORADO (83)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Roberson 22 4-11 0-1 3-3 6 4 11

Hargis 18 2-6 0-0 1-4 3 4 5

B. Wilson 27 7-12 3-6 2-2 1 3 19

Sborov 16 2-2 0-0 0-0 4 4 4

Jeffery 28 5-13 0-2 4-5 11 2 14

Kresl 25 2-8 2-6 2-2 5 1 8

MM-Peck 11 2-4 1-3 0-2 2 0 5

Atchley 4 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

Reese 18 3-9 0-0 1-1 5 2 7

Weston 13 2-4 1-1 0-0 1 1 5

Swan 18 2-2 0-0 1-2 4 3 5

Team 7

Totals 200 31-71 7-19 14-21 50 24 83

Assists (16): Jeffery 5, Reese 3, B. Wilson 2, Sborov 2, Hargis, Kresl, Malcolm-Peck, Weston.

Steals (10): Kresl 3, Jeffery 2, Reese 2, B. Wilson, Sborov, Weston.

Turnovers (13): Roberson 3, Sborov 3, Swan 3, Hargis 2, Jeffery 2.

Blocked shots (2): B. Wilson, Swan.

DENVER (63)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Michel 34 0-3 0-0 2-2 4 4 2

Wirth 23 1-3 0-0 8-10 3 2 10

Van Riper-Rose 39 9-16 6-9 4-4 1 0 28

Johnston 23 2-6 0-2 3-3 1 2 7

Smith 28 2-7 0-0 0-2 5 1 4

Edwards 19 2-8 1-4 3-4 4 3 8

Neuhaus 5 0-1 0-0 0-0 2 0 0

Bradley 7 1-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 2

Hunter 8 0-1 0-0 2-2 1 2 2

Janecek 14 0-1 0-0 0-0 5 5 0

Team 2

Totals 200 17-47 7-15 22-27 28 19 63

Assists (11): Smith 5, Michel 2, Van Riper-Rose, Edwards, Neuhaus, Janecek.

Steals (6): Michel 3, Smith 2, Johnston.

Turnovers (19): Van Riper-Rose 4, Wirth 3, Hunter 3, Michel 2, Bradley 2, Johnston, Smith, Neuhaus, Janecek, Team.

Blocked shots (3): Johnston 2, Janecek.

Halftime score: Colorado 37, Denver 27.

Technical fouls -- Roberson (CU).

Attendance -- 839.

Arielle Roberson makes her mark for CU Buffs' women's basketball team

By Terry Frei The Denver Post The Denver Post
Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — Arielle Roberson, an elite high school basketball recruit from San Antonio, had pared her list to two and was agonizing.

Would she attend North Carolina State or Colorado?

"It got to the point where I felt I should flip a coin," she recalled with a laugh.

Her decision came back to family considerations.

Her brother, Andre, was the first recruit signed by Tad Boyle after the coaching switch in the CU men's program, and was a freshman in 2010-11. Having her big brother around, which enabled her family to come up from San Antonio and see both play in the same arena, was all the incentive she needed to commit to play for the Linda Lappe-coached Buffs.

"Andre kind of tipped the scale," Roberson said. "Plus, I get to wake up here every day."

After redshirting last season because of a torn labrum in her left hip that eventually required surgery, Arielle is off to an eye-popping start as a freshman. After the Buffs' easy 83-63 win at the University of Denver on Tuesday night, the 6-foot-1 forward was eighth in the Pac-12 conference in scoring — at 16.5 points per game — and was averaging 6.1 rebounds, helping the Buffs to an 8-0 start.

"I try not to let myself think of myself too highly," Roberson said with a self-effacing smile. "I'm a smaller forward going against bigger people, and I know that's the college game. I'm very doubtful of myself sometimes. So when I'm sitting here, doing good, I'm like, 'Oh, I can still play!' It makes me proud that my teammates believe in me."

Her quick start comes after a frustrating freshman experience. The plan, and hope, was for her to step into the lineup immediately for the Buffs. Even after she suffered the hip injury in preseason workouts, the thought was that she would recover in time to play as a freshman.

When it became apparent the injury wouldn't heal on its own, she underwent surgery in December and was ruled out for the season.

"To me, she's a sophomore, even though she wasn't on the floor last year," Lappe said. "She learned a lot by watching. You have to credit her for that. She could have gone through the year not learning the offense, not learning the defense and not trying to understand what it was going to take to be successful when she did get on the floor."

Roberson reassessed her priorities during the process.

"When playing was taken away from me, I had been looking at it as a right, rather than a privilege to play," she said. "When I started thinking of playing as a privilege, I wasn't as upset as I would have been, because everything happens for a reason."

Arielle lives in a dormitory, Andre in an apartment a short walk away. The two aren't inseparable, given their different academic and basketball schedules, but are close. It's been that way since they were growing up in San Antonio as two of the seven children of Lisa and John Roberson, who met when they were playing volleyball and basketball, respectively, at New Mexico State from 1985-89. John teaches and Lisa works in the office at Arielle and Andre's former school, Wagner High.

"We're all very, very competitive, and I think it stems from our parents," Arielle said. "They compete against each other all the time. In anything. Like pingpong. They're so competitive, and I think the water trickled down to us."

Lappe laughed when recalling a time she came out to the Coors Events Center floor long after a game ended and noticed two young girls playing a spirited game of one-on-one. They were Roberson's younger sisters, Aaliyah and Arianna.

"They were beating each other up ... and they're 9 and 7," Lappe said.

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