



COLORADO BUFFALOES

OFFICIAL ATHLETIC WEBSITE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO



Askia Booker scored 17 points, missing only one shot

Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



Brooks: Buffs Get In The Spirit Of Giving, Win Big

Release: 12/21/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - 'Tis the season . . .

On a name-your-score night for the Colorado Buffaloes, coach Tad Boyle was more impressed by his team's willingness to share than its point total.

Oh, CU's points - 98 of them - were impressive, especially considering overmatched Northern Arizona managed only 51 on Friday night at the Coors Events Center.

But by halftime, Boyle's Buffaloes had dished out 13 assists, tying their full-game season high. Sharing the ball more effectively has been on Boyle's mind for a couple of months, and Friday night his team offered him an early Christmas present - 24 assists.

"We played unselfish . . . we made the extra pass and it was contagious on our team," a beaming Boyle said. "It's a great

BUFFALO EXTRAS



Watch:

MBB vs Northern Arizona Highlights
12/22/2012



Watch:

MBB Player Postgame
12/22/2012



Listen:

MBB vs. Northern Arizona Audio
12/22/2012



Buy Tickets



Statistics



Notes



Quotes



Game Notes

[Postgame Quotes](#)[Box Score](#)

way to go into Christmas break . . . a great team victory."

On the switches-and-ashes side, the Buffs also committed 16 turnovers. Yet at halftime, when they were up 57-21, their assist-to-turnover ratio was a sparkling 13-to-5, so Boyle couldn't leave the building overwrought about second-half ball handling that he termed "just a little careless."

He used all 12 of his players and 11 of them scored - five reaching double figures. Askia Booker and Xavier Johnson each had 17, with Spencer Dinwiddie adding 15, Josh Scott 11 and Andre Roberson 10. Reserves Ben Mills and Beau Gamble got in the game late and scored their first points of the season.

Said Boyle: "To give them some time and minutes was something everybody felt good about."

Added Dinwiddie: "Everybody is happy. We had people getting off the bench. We are each other's biggest supporters. Most of the time you see the guys on the bench supporting us (starters) and it was just a great opportunity we had to be able to support them."

CU, improving to 9-2, has one non-league game remaining before beginning Pac-12 Conference play on Jan. 3 at No. 4 Arizona. The Buffs play Hartford on Saturday, Dec. 29. It is part of a men's-women's doubleheader at the Events Center, with the CU women taking on New Mexico. The men's tip time is noon.

NAU came to Boulder with a 4-6 record, a pair of losses coming against Pac-12 opponents. The Lumberjacks lost November games at Oregon (83-73) and at Arizona (93-50), and NAU coach Jack Murphy left the CEC believing CU can compete with the upper tier Pac-12 teams.

"When they shoot the ball like they did tonight, they'll compete with anybody in the league," Murphy said. "I think that those three teams, and I obviously haven't seen the other nine, but those three I've seen are very, very good. I know right now as it stands they have the three best records in the conference and they all are well coached.

"I think Arizona's size will present problems for a lot of teams in the league but Colorado, they have great guard play . . . and with Roberson and Scott and the high-low action in the front court, they can be really tough to beat."

In the run-up to Friday's game, Boyle promised that his bench would be utilized more in the Buffs' final two non-conference games. He held true to his promise, using 10 players in Friday's first half as CU cruised to its 36-point lead at intermission. CU's bench wound up outscoring NAU's 39-11.

"We really need to get those (bench) guys going," Boyle said. "Those guys are going to be important to us throughout the season. We know pretty much what we're going to get from our starters."

The Buffs' 98 points were the second most in the Boyle era, as was their 47-point margin of victory. Their 57 first-half points were the third highest for a first half since the 1954-55 season.

Booker got CU rolling early by hitting five of his first six shots. When NAU pulled to 8-6 on an inside basket by 6-8 Max Jacobsen, Booker answered with a jumper and a layup to open a 23-2 Buffs run that effectively finished the Lumberjacks.

Boyle said it was "key for 'Ski' to come off . . . I was hoping he could get out of his funk." Taking extra shots has never been an issue for Booker, said Boyle: "He'll spend time in the gym. When he gets his mojo going, he's pretty darn good."

Booker said his hot start "felt pretty good," adding that the Lumberjacks defenders were "forcing me to the baseline a lot . . . their big guys are a little slower, which allowed me to get a few more open shots."

At the 9:18 mark, CU led 31-8 and was just getting untracked. With just over 2 minutes left before intermission, the Buffs' lead had ballooned to 40 (55-15). Consecutive layups by Sabatino Chen got CU to 55, and along the way there were plenty of highlights, including the 6-10 freshman Scott's first three-pointer of the season. He drained his trey from the top of the key and followed with the Buffs' next two baskets.

CU finished the half with an eye-popping 71.4 percent from the field (25-for-35) and 60 percent from three-point range (6-for-10). The Buffs shot 66.7 percent (40-for-60) for the game - the best shooting percentage by a CU team in 23 seasons - and were at 55 percent (11-for-20 from beyond the arc).

The only area that found the Buffs lacking was their free throw shooting. They made only one of seven first-half attempts, with three of the misses spoiling opportunities for three-point plays. They finished 7-of-15 from the line.

But with all else CU was doing right, misfiring from the foul stripe was forgivable. The Buffs' defense was stifling and their board work overwhelming; they held the Lumberjacks to 31.1 percent from the field (19-of-61) and outrebounded them 45-22.

The Buffs opened the second half with as much effort and efficiency as they did to begin the night. At the 12-minute mark, they were up by 50 (78-28) and showing no signs of easing up.

About 4 minutes later, with CU ahead 83-35, Mills - the 7-foot junior center - left the bench for only the second time this season, much to the delight of the CEC crowd. He scored his first points of the season on a layup with 4:32 to play, sending CU up 90-39.

Boyle completed the emptying of his bench by inserting Gamble, a sophomore guard who attended Fairview High School, with 5:33 remaining. Gamble got in the scoring column with a three-pointer in the final 90 seconds.

The Buffs missed an opportunity to reach 100 points for the first time this season, but really didn't care. They dribbled out the final 16 seconds without taking a shot. The crowd wasn't overly pleased - but the displeasure passed quickly.

CU now has a four-day Christmas break, which Boyle called "an eternity" compared to previous holiday off periods he has experienced. "The most I've ever had was maybe three days," he said. "These guys will have to do some cardio work at home; they can't sit on the couch and eat ham and turkey. I trust our guys."

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

SHOW MENU



Men's basketball: CU routs Northern Arizona

By Ryan Thorburn *Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera*

Posted:

Buffzone.com

There was plenty of pre-holiday cheer on Friday night at the Coors Events Center.

Askia Booker got the crowd of 10,034 into the game early with 12 points in the first 7:27 to set the tone for the Buffs.

New Colorado football coach Mike MacIntyre received a warm welcome at halftime with the home team leading by 36 points.

And Ben Mills and Beau Gamble produced the loudest roars of the evening when the seldom-used 7-foot junior and walk-on from Fairview High School made their first field goals of the season down the stretch.

It was that kind of game for CU, which dominated from start to finish in a 98-51 romp over Northern Arizona.

The Buffs (9-2) finished a blistering 66.7 percent (40-of-60) from the field. It was best shooting night CU has had since making 36-of-52 attempts (69.2 percent) in a 93-53 victory over Valparaiso on Nov. 27, 1989.

"I was really proud of our guys for playing unselfish basketball," Tad Boyle said after his team finished with a season-high 24 assists. "It was contagious throughout our team."

Booker and Xavier Johnson led the offensive onslaught with 17 points each on a combined 14-for-16 shooting. Spencer Dinwiddie (15 points), Josh Scott (11) and Andre Roberson (10) also scored in double figures.

CU had a 45-22 rebounding advantage and held the Lumberjacks (4-7) to 31.1 percent shooting.

"I think coming in we were hoping that their team was already mentally gone for the holiday, and they weren't," Northern Arizona head coach Jack Murphy said. "They were focused, and coach Boyle had them mentally prepared. They shot the ball so well early on, it kind of snowballed on us and one thing led to another."

The Buffs shot 71.4 percent (25-for-35) in the first half, the 10th best shooting half in program history, and led 57-21 at the intermission.

CU's bench, which only accounted for three points in the 50-43 win at Fresno State on Dec. 12, ended up with a 39-11 scoring advantage.

It wasn't just a case of passing the statistics in garbage time. Boyle's reserves had 17 points in the first 20 minutes on a combined 7-for-12 shooting.

"Those guys are going to be important to us throughout the season," Boyle said. "We know pretty much what we're going to get from (the starters) ... sometimes those guys coming off the bench need a confidence booster. We've struggled a little bit in that area."

A 3-pointer by Roberson started a 19-0 run, which was capped with a basket by Jeremy Adams that made the score 31-8. Gabe Rogers, who was 1-for-6 shooting in the first half, ended a scoring drought of 6:09 for the Lumberjacks with his made field goal.

But CU added a 14-0 spurt with freshman guard Xavier Talton and the 6-11 Scott each hitting 3-pointers. Sabatino Chen made three consecutive layups to help the Buffs surge ahead by as many as 40 points (55-15) before halftime.

Northern Arizona was 9-for-32 (28.1 percent) from the field in the first half, including a 3-for-16 effort (18.8 percent) behind the arc.

"I thought it was a great collective effort," Dinwiddie said. "I was very proud of our defense and the way we rebounded."

The Lumberjacks never led in the game, which was tied briefly at 2-2. CU was ahead by as many as 53 points during the second half.

"They came out and blitzed us, like they were supposed to do," said guard DeWayne Russell, who led Northern Arizona with 15 points.

The Buffs will get four days off to spend with their families before returning to Boulder to prepare for the final non-conference game against Hartford on Dec. 29 at the Coors Events Center.

Follow Ryan on Twitter: @RyanThorburn

Colorado 98, N. Arizona 51

N. ARIZONA

FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Bewernick 18 0-3 0-0 0-1 1 0 0

Jacobsen 31 4-6 2-3 4-6 0 2 10

Rogers 33 2-10 2-2 1-3 1 2 8

Russell 28 6-15 2-2 0-1 2 0 15

Saldivar 36 3-11 0-0 0-5 2 1 7

Dunn 9 0-3 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Heine 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Flores 11 3-4 0-0 0-0 0 0 9

Gosar 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Martin 17 0-5 0-0 2-3 0 1 0

Olayinka 11 1-3 0-0 0-1 0 4 2

Ekanem 3 0-1 0-0 0-1 0 0 0

Totals 200 19-61 6-7 7-22 6 11 51

Percentages: FG .311, FT .857.

3-Point Goals: 7-27, .259 (Flores 3-4, Rogers 2-7, Saldivar 1-6, Russell 1-7, Bewernick 0-1, Dunn 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 1.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Jacobsen, Olayinka, Ekanem).

Turnovers: 16 (Rogers 6, Russell 4, Bewernick 3, Jacobsen 3).

Steals: 7 (Russell 2, Rogers, Jacobsen, Dunn, Flores, Saldivar).

Technical Fouls: None.

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Roberson 24 4-5 1-2 1-8 3 1 10

Scott 23 5-7 0-0 1-4 3 1 11

Booker 18 8-9 0-1 0-4 1 1 17

Chen 17 3-4 0-2 1-3 3 1 6

Dnwddie 16 6-9 2-2 1-6 5 1 15

Johnson 23 6-7 2-3 1-4 1 2 17

Talton 20 2-4 0-0 1-2 2 2 6

Stalzer 21 0-3 0-0 1-3 3 5 0

Gamble 5 1-3 0-0 0-0 1 0 3

H-Tunks 9 1-3 1-2 1-2 0 1 3

Adams 16 3-5 1-3 0-1 1 1 8

Mills 8 1-1 0-0 0-5 1 0 2

Totals 200 40-60 7-15 9-45 24 16 98

Percentages: FG .667, FT .467.

3-Point Goals: 11-20, .550 (Johnson 3-3, Talton 2-3, Scott 1-1, Roberson 1-1, Booker 1-2, Adams 1-2, Dinwiddie 1-2, Gamble 1-3, Stalzer 0-3).

Team Rebounds: 3.

Blocked Shots: 4 (Scott 2, Harris-Tunks, Roberson).

Turnovers: 16 (Dinwiddie 3, Mills 2, Talton 2, Johnson 2, Scott 2, Adams, Harris-Tunks, Stalzer, Chen).

Steals: 13 (Dinwiddie 4, Booker 2, Roberson 2, Adams 2, Harris-Tunks, Chen, Mills).

Technical Fouls: None.

N. Arizona 21 30--51

Colorado 57 41--98

A -- 10,034.

Officials -- Chris Rastatter, Dick Cartmell, Tommy Nunez.

Men's basketball: CU Buffs have what it takes in Pac-12

By Ryan Thorburn *Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera*

Posted:

Buffzone.com

How do the Buffs size up against the Pac-12's best teams?

It was an obvious question for Northern Arizona head coach Jack Murphy after his team's 98-51 loss to Colorado on Friday night at the Coors Events Center.

The Lumberjacks (4-7) fell to 0-3 against Pac-12 teams this season with previous losses at Arizona (93-50) and Oregon (83-73). The Wildcats are currently ranked No. 4 in the Associated Press poll. The Ducks were the only other Pac-12 team that received votes this week.

"When they shoot the ball like they did tonight, they'll compete with anybody in the league," Murphy said of the Buffs, who finished 66.7 percent from the field.

"I think that those three teams, and I obviously haven't seen the other nine, but those three I've seen are very, very good. I know right now as it stands they have the three best records in the conference and they all are well coached.

"I think Arizona's size will present problems for a lot of teams in the league, but Colorado, they have great guard play in they young sophomores. With (Andre) Roberson and (Josh) Scott and the high-low action in the front court, they can be really tough to beat."

CU's backcourt of Askia Booker (17 points) and Spencer Dinwiddie (15 points) were a combined 14-for-18 shooting with 10 rebounds, six assists and three turnovers. Scott (11 points, four rebounds) and Roberson (10 points, eight rebounds) were 9-for-12 shooting.

All of CU's starters played 24 minutes or less.

"This is a really good program, they're really well coached," Northern Arizona guard DeWayne Russell said of CU after scoring a team-high 15 points. "You could just see the discipline, that was the biggest thing. You could just feel the discipline and how good they were on defense."

CU hosts Hartford on Dec. 29 before opening up Pac-12 play on Jan. 3 at Arizona.

"Opening up at Arizona is going to be a big game for us," Dinwiddie said. "Not to look past Hartford, but you are kind of thinking about that a little bit."

Mac at Coors

New CU football coach Mike MacIntyre received a standing ovation at halftime and then told the crowd of 10,034 exactly what they wanted to hear.

"To be a Pac-12 champion as soon as possible," MacIntyre said when the emcee asked what his plan for the downtrodden program was.

Series

CU now leads the series 4-0. This was the first meeting since the Buffs' 90-66 victory over Northern Arizona on Dec. 21, 1991.

Tad Boyle, who coached in the Big Sky for four seasons at Northern Colorado, improved to 6-3 against Northern Arizona.

Familiar faces

Two graduated members of last year's Pac-12 Tournament championship game, Austin Dufault and Trey Eckloff, were back at the Coors Events Center to watch the Buffs.

Dufault is playing professionally in the Czech Republic. Eckloff is attending law school at the University of Denver.

Fort Lewis head coach Bob Hofman, a star guard for the Buffs from 1970-74, also attended the game.

Notable

CU is 9-2 for the first time since the 1994-95 season. ... The Buffs are 5-0 at home this season and 37-4 at home under Boyle. ... The 98 points were the second most by a Boyle-coached CU team behind the 104-59 win over Longwood on Dec. 19, 2010). ... Even though the game was televised it only lasted one hour and 39 minutes.

Follow Ryan on Twitter:

@RyanThorburn

Colorado routs Northern Arizona 98-51

By DENNIS GEORGATOS Associated Press The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER, Colo.—Colorado coach Tad Boyle saw a correlation in his team's unselfish play and its accuracy from the field.

Askia Booker and Xavier Johnson each scored 17 points and Colorado routed Northern Arizona 98-51 on Friday night in the Buffaloes' highest-scoring game of the season.

On the night, the Buffaloes, which were playing their first game in nine days, converted 66.7 percent of their shots from the field, going 40 of 60. It was Colorado's highest percentage in a game since a 69.2 percent conversion rate in a 93-53 win over Valparaiso on Nov. 27, 1989.

"It's the best shooting night for us in 23 years, and lot of it had to do with our unselfishness and sharing the ball and making the extra pass," Boyle said, noting the team's 24 assists, which was a season high. "It was contagious throughout our team."

The only downside was some sloppy ball handling in the second half while playing with a huge lead, Booker said.

"I mean, 24 assists is a lot but if you have 16 turnovers, it's not as great," Booker said. "At the same time, all we did was just take care of the ball, play together and find the open man."

Booker said the team had prepared hard during its break and was anxious to play a game.

"Our last game was nine days ago so it was important for us to get in the gym and work hard every day and get this win," he said.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 15 points and Josh Scott added 11 for Colorado (9-2), which is off to its best start since also opening 9-2 in 1994-95.

The Buffaloes remained unbeaten in four meetings with Northern Arizona (4-7), a member of the Big Sky conference which dropped to 0-3 against Pac-12 teams this season. The Lumberjacks also lost to Oregon and Arizona.

"I know that they had had some days off in between games, for finals," said Northern Arizona coach Jack Murphy. "I think coming in, we were hoping that their team was already mentally gone for the holiday and they weren't. They were focused and coach Boyle had them mentally prepared. They shot the ball so well early on it kind of snowballed on us and one thing led to another."

DeWayne Russell had 15 points and Max Jacobsen 10 to lead the Lumberjacks. The 47-point loss represented Northern Arizona's largest margin of defeat this season. The previous high was a 43-point loss to Arizona.

Colorado was breezing by the break, taking a 57-21 lead while piling up a season high in points for a half.

The game was close for only the first few minutes.

Jacobsen's layup pulled the Lumberjacks to within 12-8 but the Buffaloes then seized control with a 19-0 run over the next six minutes.

Andre Roberson started the flurry with a 3-pointer followed by a fast-break lay-up. Dinwiddie and Xavier Talton also connected from 3-point range during the stretch that saw the Buffaloes pull in front 31-8 before Gabe Rogers finally broke up the surge with a 3-pointer for Northern Arizona with 9:07 left in the opening half.

Colorado, though, put together another burst, getting 3-pointers from Jeremy Adams, Scott and Talton as part of a 17-2 run that put the Buffaloes up by 35 points with 4:25 left in the first half.

It didn't get any better for the Lumberjacks in the second half, though Colorado substituted freely for most of the game.

Johnson hit the second of his three 3-pointers with 6:49 left, stretching the Buffaloes' advantage to 51 points.

The Buffaloes dribbled away the final seconds without taking a shot, passing up the opportunity to score 100 points in a game for the first time in three years.

CHECK IT OUT
Now Leasing for Fall 2013

CU's Newest, Best Located Student Apartments



Reserve Your Spot Today!

plaza
ON BROADWAY

www.PlazaonBroadway.com

[ABOUT](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [APPLY](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [ADVERTISING](#) | [APARTMENTS](#) | [COUPONS](#) | [Buffs on Video](#) |



CUIndependent.com

[NEWS](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [FEATURES](#) | [OPINION](#) | [MULTIMEDIA](#) | [CALENDAR](#) |

Bufs basketball cruises by Lumberjacks

By [Scott Annis](#) in [Basketball](#), [Front Page](#), [Sports](#) on Dec 24, 2012 9:14 / [comments](#)

There was no question who was the better team on Friday as the Colorado men's basketball team beat the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks by 47 in Boulder.

During the first half the Buffs (9—2) built the lead up to 40 and the rout was on as they led 57 – 21 at halftime. In the end the Buffs won 98—51. 57 points is the most by the Buffs in a half and, 98 points is the most CU has scored in a game this season.

The Buffs led by as much as 50 in the game with Askia Booker and Xavier Johnson leading the way with 17 points each. DeWayne Russell led the Lumberjacks (4—6) with 15.

In the second half with the lead insurmountable the Buffs had a good opportunity to work on their depth and play players who hadn't got much time this season. Nine Buff players got over 15 minutes of playing time and every player on the roster played.

The Buffs shot 66.7 percent from the field while allowing Northern Arizona to shoot only 31.1 percent, their most complete game this season.

The Buffs don't play again for over a week. On Sat. Dec. 29 the Buffs play against Hartford in Boulder. It will be their last non—conference game and five days later they will travel to Tuscon to face number 4 Arizona.

Contact CU Independent Sports Editor Scott Annis at Robert.annis@colorado.edu.



About Scott Annis

Scott is a Junior at CU majoring in English. He grew up in Thornton, CO but spent time living in the Bay Area and North Carolina. Scott spends most of his time focused on sports. When he isn't writing about them or watching them he plays on the CU Rugby team. Scott also writes for throughthefencebaseball.com.

Tags: [Basketball](#), [bufs](#), [CU](#), [Men's Basketball](#), [Northern Arizona](#), [pac 12](#), [Sports](#)

[SEARCH](#)

Are you for or against CU's Gun Carry Permit?

Join the CUI's Public Insight Network and share your thoughts

CUI CALENDAR – LIST YOUR EVENT

Top 5 Events

WEDNESDAY
DEC 26

- 2nd/4th Wednesday Leads Group
- Holiday Lights Train
- Holiday "R" Murder
- Our Christmas Carol
- Neil Bridge 7+ with Karen Lee and B...

[Add Your Event](#)

BUFFS ON VID