

Women's basketball: CU Buffs score road win over Illinois

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CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -- Arielle Roberson continues to live up to the hype, and the Colorado women's basketball team continues to win.

Roberson, a dynamic redshirt freshman forward, scored a career-high 25 points, including a crucial 3-pointer in the final minute, to lead the Buffaloes to a 69-62 win over Illinois on Saturday at Assembly Hall.

Colorado (6-0) led 63-60 when Roberson drained a 3-pointer -- CU's only field goal from beyond the arc -- with 37 seconds left. The Buffs added three free throws in the final 20 seconds to put the game away and win their 19th consecutive regular season nonconference game.

"No one gave up in this game," sophomore Jen Reese said on CU's athletics website. "It's big to go and win on the road. With our team ... we have the heart of champions."

Indeed, the Buffs trailed 60-57 with three minutes to go, but responded with an 11-0 run. Six of those points were scored by Roberson.

The younger sister of CU men's star Andre Roberson, Arielle Roberson has now scored at least 14 points in each of her six college games. This was the second time she topped the 20-point mark. She also had five rebounds against the Illini (4-3) and has had at least that many boards in each game.

Reese tied her career high with 15 points, while also adding five rebounds. Jasmine Sborov had a career-high 11 points for the Buffs and grabbed five rebounds of her own.

Point guard Chucky Jeffery was limited to seven points, but also had eight rebounds, six assists and three steals.

CU held the lead for most of the first half, but Illinois closed the half with a 10-1 run during the final three minutes.

The Illini got their biggest lead, 38-30, early in the second half. During the final 17 minutes, the two teams stayed within three points of each other until Roberson's 3-pointer broke the game open in the final minute.

Alexis Smith led the Illini with 17 points.

What went right

The Buffs did what they needed to do to snag a good win on the road and improve to 6-0 for the second year in a row. What went wrong?

For the third game in a row, CU struggled from 3-point land, making just 1 of 11 shots. The Buffs are hitting just 18.9 percent from 3-point range (7-for-37) in the last three games. ? Star of the game

Arielle Roberson. She scored a career-high 25 points, including 10-for-14 from the free-throw line. She also had five rebounds and three steals. ? What's next

The Buffs host rival Colorado State on Wednesday night at 5:50 p.m. at Coors Events Center.

Colorado 69, Illinois 62 COLORADO (69)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Roberson 31 7-8 1-1 10-14 5 4 25

Hargis 12 2-2 0-0 0-0 2 2 4

B. Wilson 18 1-7 0-2 1-1 1 3 3

Sborov 29 5-9 0-1 1-3 5 1 11

Jeffery 37 3-8 0-1 1-2 8 2 7

Kresl 25 1-4 0-3 2-3 2 3 4

MM-Peck 14 0-2 0-1 0-0 2 1 0

Huggins 4 0-2 0-2 0-0 0 0 0

Reese 28 7-14 0-0 1-2 5 2 15

Weston 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Swan 2 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 3 0

Team 8

Totals 200 26-57 1-11 16-25 38 21 69

Assists (14): Jeffery 6, Kresl 3, B. Wilson 2, Roberson, Sborov, Reese.

Steals (10): Roberson 3, B. Wilson 3, Jeffery 3, Sborov.

Turnovers (27): Roberson 7, B. Wilson 5, Jeffery 5, Sborov 3, Kresl 2, Reese 2, Hargis, Swan, Team.

Blocked shots (2): Hargis, Jeffery.

ILLINOIS (62)

MIN FG 3PT FT Rb PF TP

Moore 35 2-6 2-3 2-3 6 1 8

Magrum 18 1-3 0-0 3-5 5 5 5

Penn 35 4-6 0-0 3-6 4 4 11

Crawford 32 2-11 1-5 4-6 7 4 9

Smith 39 7-15 0-0 3-4 3 1 17

Piper 6 0-2 0-0 0-0 1 1 0

Tuck 26 4-9 1-2 2-2 3 4 11

Oden 9 0-0 0-0 1-2 1 0 1

Team 3

Totals 200 20-52 4-10 18-28 33 20 62

Assists (7): Smith 4, Moore, Penn, Crawford.

Steals (13): Smith 4, Moore 3, Penn 2, Crawford 2, Piper, Oden.

Turnovers (27): Smith 8, Penn 5, Tuck 5, Crawford 3, Piper 3, Moore 2, Magrum.

Blocked shots (5): Penn 3, Crawford, Smith.

Halftime score: Illinois 36, Colorado 30.

Technical fouls -- None.

Attendance -- 1,400.

College

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Colorado wins at Illinois, rises to 6-0 | Women's college basketball

Arielle Roberson scored a game-high 25 points to lead Colorado to a 69-62 victory over host Illinois on Saturday. The Buffaloes are 6-0 for the second consecutive season.

By Seattle Times news services

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Arielle Roberson scored a game-high 25 points to lead Colorado to a 69-62 victory over Illinois on Saturday.

The Buffaloes are 6-0 for the second consecutive season.

Roberson, a freshman forward, made 7 of 8 shots from the field and 10 of 14 free throws.

Jen Reese scored a career-high 15 points for Colorado, which trailed 36-30 at halftime and was behind 60-57 with three minutes left. The Buffaloes ended the game with a 12-2 run.

Baskets by Roberson and Reese gave Colorado a 61-60 lead. Then Buffaloes guard Chucky Jeffery stole the ball from Ivory Crawford of the Illini (4-3) and went in for a layup that gave the Pac-12 visitors a three-point advantage with 1:26 to play.

After a defensive stop, Roberson made a three-point shot with 37 seconds left for a 66-60 lead.

It was the only three-point basket of the game for the Buffaloes, who had 11 three-point attempts.

Other Pac-12 games

Utah 62, at Hawaii 61

Taryn Wicijowski scored a career-high 26 points as the Utes (7-0) turned back a furious late charge by the Rainbow Wahine (2-6).

Utah led 60-45 with 2:26 left before Hawaii supplied some suspense. Wicijowski scored the Utes' last two points on free throws with 18 seconds left for a 62-56 lead.

Sacramento St. 80,

at Oregon St. 71 (OT)

Se'nyce Parrish scored 39 points, making 9 of 13 three-point shots, as the Hornets (4-2) defeated the Beavers (4-3).

Jamie Weisner, who is from Clarkston, led Oregon State with 19 points on 7-for-13 shooting.

At Arizona St. 60, Binghamton 35

Illinois collapses in second half, falls to undefeated Colorado

By Micheal Wonsover | Staff writer | Posted: Monday, December 3, 2012 12:00 am

What a difference two days can make.

After scoring a season-high 95 points against Wake Forest on Thursday, the Illinois women's basketball team (4-3) barely broke 60 in a 69-62 loss to Colorado (6-0) on Saturday at Assembly Hall.

The first and second halves were almost complete opposites for the Illini.

Colorado's strategy was apparent early in the game. After scoring a season-high 30 points on Thursday, Illini forward Karisma Penn was double-teamed by the Buffaloes almost every time she touched the ball in the post. Colorado also played guards Amber Moore and Ivory Crawford tight while sagging off nearly every other Illinois player. The game plan bothered the Illini in the early going, as Colorado led for all but one minute and 10 seconds of the first half.

"That was part of our game plan," Colorado freshman forward Arielle Roberson said of doubling Penn, who finished with 11 points despite averaging 19 points a game this season. "We actually had three players (to focus on), and she was one of them. So that was the key player to shut down because we knew that the team went as she went."

With Buffalos' defense zoning in on Moore, Crawford and Penn, other Illinois players had to step up. Sophomores Alexis Smith and Taylor Tuck responded.

Although Smith entered Saturday's contest leading the nation in assists at eight per game, Colorado's defense forced the point guard to attempt more shots than the pass-first guard normally does. Smith spearheaded the struggling offense in the first half, scoring 11 points

Smith, who finished with 17 points, said she knew she had to do more offensively given Colorado's defensive scheme.

"I think I just had to be aggressive in order to get my other teammates open," Smith said after the career-high scoring output. "They were sagging off of me so I had to be a threat in order to open it up for everyone else."

"I thought (Smith) did a great job of attacking and getting to the rim," Illinois head coach Matt Bollant said. "She had a lot of opportunities and took 15 shots. A lot of those were layups, which was great. She showed some initiative. They played a sagging man(-to-man defense), so you gotta have some discipline."

Tuck provided much-needed energy off the bench, putting up nine points and grabbing three rebounds while shooting 3-for-4 in the first half.

Illinois ended the half on a 7-0 run to give the team a 36-30 lead. But the second half was a different story.

After shooting 11-for-12 from the free-throw line in the first half, the Illini shot just 7-for-16 the rest of the game. A first-half field goal percentage of 44 fell to 33.3 percent in the second half.

Colorado, on the other hand, shot 56 percent from the field in the second half despite shooting only 1-for-3 from behind the arc.

Most of the half was neck and neck, with each team trading buckets and leads. The last few minutes would be the turning point of the game.

Leading 60-57 with three minutes remaining, the Illini would score only once more. The Buffaloes ended the game on a 12-2 run as the Illini recorded four turnovers and missed a field goal and a free throw.

Roberson, who finished with 25 points on 7-for-8 shooting, iced the game on a 3-pointer with 37 seconds remaining to put the Buffaloes up six.

“Well I originally wasn’t gonna shoot it ’cause I thought there was more time on the shot clock. Apparently, there wasn’t,” Roberson said. “Two of my teammates were just like, ‘Shoot it!’ I was feeling good, I had a little rhythm going anyways, so when I shot it somehow I knew it was going in.”

Bollant said he was impressed with Roberson, who leads the undefeated Buffaloes in scoring as a freshman. Roberson is the sister of Colorado men’s basketball standout Andre Roberson.

“She’s a really good player,” Bollant said. “Hard to believe she’s a freshman. I thought the three in the game kind of ended it, her three in the corner. She was just really physical, really aggressive. It obviously caused Kersten (Magrum) to get in foul trouble, which hurt us.”

Roberson’s big shot followed a controversial out-of-bounds call that was awarded to Colorado. Tuck didn’t use the call as an excuse.

“I’m not sure who it went off of, but we can’t let refs dictate the game.”

Bollant said the loss was because of a lack of energy, perhaps from playing a game two days earlier.

“I was really disappointed in the second half with our team. ... It just seemed like we were dead energywise. I think the game on Thursday took some out of us. We didn’t have energy. We just struggled to do little things. I’m just really frustrated with the way it ended. Disappointed for our program,” Bollant said.

Illinois’ nine missed free throws in the second half loomed large.

“You could just feel it take the energy out of us,” Bollant said of the missed free throws. “We got to the foul line, had some opportunities, and then we go 7-for-16. We let some missed free throws and missed shots hurt us on the defensive end. That really hurt us.”

A positive for the Illini was the effectiveness of the “buzz” defense. Illinois forced 27 turnovers, many which were caused while using the 2-1-2 full-court press.

“That buzz defense was really, really effective,” Roberson said. “It kind of pushed our tempo a lot more than we would’ve liked. I think their defensive intensity really shook us up a little bit.”

“I thought the buzz gave us a lift,” Bollant said. “Obviously, you gotta fly around it and be aggressive, a couple possessions we didn’t and they got it inside, but definitely throughout the game, it gave us a good lift.”

Bollant said his team will need to improve its clutch performance. Illinois has had the lead in the second half in two of its three losses this season — the only exception, against Bradley. In that game, Illinois was within two points in the second half.

“It was difficult tonight ’cause we really lacked poise and took some really quick shots when it wasn’t there and didn’t take a shot or two when it was,” Bollant said. “We kind of pointed some arrows inward and weren’t real together as we missed shots, as we missed free throws, we didn’t seem real together going down the stretch.”

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