

## Fiery spirit is in Roberson's blood

By Tim Griffin, Staff writer

Updated 9:38 pm, Friday, February 22, 2013

BOULDER, Colo. — It was the most excruciating year of Arielle Roberson's life.

After coming to Colorado full of excitement to start her college basketball career, Roberson was forced to redshirt her freshman season after tearing the labrum in her left hip last year during a preseason practice.

The abrupt career setback, coupled with being almost 1,000 miles away from home, left the former Wagner High standout in a funk that tested her resolve.

“That broke my heart because I had never sat out ever and it was the first serious injury I ever had,” Roberson said. “The thought of sitting out for a whole year kind of blew my mind.”

But with the help of doctors, her teammates, coaches and particularly her older brother Andre, a star forward with Colorado's men's team, Roberson has rebounded to become a focal point in her first season with the Buffs.

“I think all of the love I got from my teammates, and of course from Andre, helped,” Roberson said. “Sure, I didn't get to play. But you have a lot of time to sit and reflect. I think about that and sitting out and that's what's helped drive me so far.”

Upon her return, Roberson wasted little time in making her presence felt. She earned the Pac-12 Freshman of the Week honors three times in the first four weeks of the season. She scored in double figures in a school-record 13 consecutive games to start her career. Included was a 23-point effort against Missouri-Kansas City, the only game the 6-foot-1 forward hasn't started.

“It was just bottled up inside, I guess,” she said. “I came out with sort of an edge on me. I wanted to prove to everybody that I could still play.”

She maintained that level of play as the No. 20 Buffs amassed a 20-5 record heading into their Friday game against Washington State. Roberson is the team's second-leading scorer (12 points per game) and rebounder (5.5).

“I think her best asset is her competitive fire,” Colorado coach Linda Lappe said. “She is not afraid to get the ball when we need to get it and when we need to score. Arielle wants to win, and that's contagious with our team.”

That mindset was developed in one of San Antonio's most notable athletic families. Her father, John, was a standout at New Mexico State. While there, he met his future wife, Lisa, who led the Aggies' volleyball team in the 1980s and still ranks among the school's top 10 in career digs and kills.

Two of Arielle's older sisters already have wrapped up their own Division I athletic careers. Ashlee played basketball for Texas Tech, and Amber competed in volleyball at Texas.

“When I saw her in eighth grade and she came across the lane shooting with perfect form, I knew she would be good,” John Roberson said about Arielle. “She's always been driven because of her two older sisters. She's a perfect mix of those two.”

Her parents' determination helped spark the athletic careers of all of their children, Arielle said.

“We had a little basketball goal outside and we would play all day,” she said. “I remember late nights sometimes my parents would go out and play basketball against each other.

“They were so competitive and it kind of rubbed off on us all.”

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# COLORADO BUFFALOES

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**Arielle Roberson looks for two of her game-high 17 points on Friday night.**

Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



## Brooks: No. 20 CU Perseveres, Beats Persistent WSU

Release: 02/22/2013 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**BOULDER** - Early style points were scarce for a Top 25 team, but in late February for the No. 20 Colorado Buffaloes aesthetics don't matter as much as points on the scoreboard and final results.

That's the way Friday night unfolded and at times unraveled at the Coors Events Center. After an unsightly start, the Buffs stayed patient, regained their poise late and finally disposed of Washington State 59-45 for their sixth consecutive win.

Coach Linda Lappe said she and the Buffs "were happy to get that win. It was a hard-fought game and you have to give Washington State a lot of credit . . ."

But after watching her team commit 19 of the game's 44 turnovers and shoot only 33.8 percent from the field while trying to solve WSU's match-up zone, Lappe added, "There was no rhythm in that game at all. When you watch

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basketball, when you coach basketball, when you play basketball, usually there is some rhythm within a game . . .

"It was hard to get into a rhythm. Both teams never did, and I told our team after the game that's not a game where you're going to be able to play your best."

Offensively, who could argue? But defensively, the Buffs turned in another near air-tight performance, limiting the Cougars to below 20 percent from the field and forcing 25 turnovers that led to 25 CU points.

WSU was the 11th opponent CU has held under 50 points this season, and the Cougars' 11 field goals and 19.6 field goal percentage were both seasonal lows for Buffs opponents. WSU coach June Daugherty recognized CU's 'D' for what it was and has been: "Credit to their defense," she said. "They have been pushing teams in that aspect all season."

CU (21-5) matched last season's win total and set up a crucial home finale on Sunday. Washington, one of two teams just ahead of the Buffs in the Pac-12 Conference standings (UCLA is the other), visits the CEC at 2 p.m. for Senior Day.

The Buffs improved to 10-5 in the Pac-12, with their 10 wins marking their first double-digit season in league play since 2004. The Huskies dropped to 11-4 after losing at Utah on Friday night. With a win on Sunday, CU can take a large step toward overtaking UW and securing the No. 4 seed and first-round bye for the Pac-12 tournament (March 7-10, Seattle).

"Having that first-round bye is huge," Lappe said. "It's something we thought we could do at the beginning of the year."

Sunday's game also marks the final regular-season home appearance for CU seniors Chucky Jeffery, Meagan Malcolm-Peck and Brenna Malcolm-Peck, whose career has been interrupted by various injuries.

Lappe called Sunday's game "important for a lot of reasons. Obviously we want to play well for our three seniors . . . (but) there's standings in play at this point in time as well."

Three CU players - Arielle Roberson with 17 and Jeffery and Jen Reese with 10 each - finished in double figures Friday night. WSU (10-16, 6-9) was led by Lia Galdeira with 12 and Mariah Cooks with 10.

Starting sophomore guard Lexy Kresl watched from the CU bench, still recovering from a shoulder injury suffered in last weekend's win at Arizona State. She remains day-to-day.

Roberson also collected a career-high 13 rebounds, accounting for her first career double-double, which she called "exciting. I didn't think I had that many rebounds. I'm definitely not trying to compete with Andre (her brother, who has 36 career double-doubles) in any way. I don't think I can. But I think I was just more aggressive tonight than I have been in conference play."

Roberson and the Buffs opened aggressively but couldn't maintain it. Going ahead 21-8 on a conventional three-point play by Roberson, they appeared to have a comfortable first-half lead. Then they went frigid and forgetful, lapsing on the offensive end and allowing the Cougars back into the game.

WSU went on a 10-1 run and cut CU's 13-point lead to four (22-18). The Buffs had opened by hitting six of their first 12 shots, but they closed the half hitting just three of their last 20 attempts - and their final field goal of the half was by Roberson just seven seconds before the buzzer.

Still, despite shooting 28.1 percent from the field, committing 11 turnovers and getting just two points from Jeffery, CU led 26-19 at intermission. That was mainly because WSU committed 14 of its turnovers and was limited to 21.9 percent first-half shooting.

Lappe can be forgiven if she was leaning toward destroying the first-half tape. "We refocused at halftime," she said. "To beat that defense, you all have to be on the same page . . . we did a much better job in the second half."

Added Reese about Lappe's halftime mood: "She wasn't happy - but neither were we. Coach Lappe definitely got on us at halftime. But I think we came out after that and performed pretty well."

With 13:30 remaining, the Buffs matched their largest lead of the game - 13 points at 40-27 - on a Jeffery basket. But the Cougars crept back to within six (48-42) with just under six minutes to play.

A Jeffery jumper with 4:48 to play pushed CU ahead 50-42, and a Roberson trey from the top of the key restored the Buffs' double-digit lead (53-42) with 3:30 left. When Roberson followed with a basket in the paint, CU's lead went to 15, and WSU was finished.

Although Roberson said the Buffs' performance "definitely wasn't our best," she added that she never felt CU had lost control of the game. "I can speak for myself; I'm not sure how everyone else felt. But I think the majority of us felt like we could control the game," she said.

"When the game was going downhill, it was our fault. And when we were doing good things, it was us as well. I think, knowing that, we weren't threatened at all. At least I wasn't."

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## Women's basketball: Arielle Roberson leads CU Buffs to victory

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Ever since Arielle Roberson arrived at Colorado in the fall of 2011, people have said she has the potential to play basketball like her older brother, Andre, who is a standout junior for the CU men's team.

On Friday night, Roberson had an Andre-like game, recording her first career double-double in leading the 20th-ranked CU women's team to a 59-45 victory over Washington State on Friday at Coors Events Center.

A redshirt freshman, Roberson scored 17 points, recorded a career-high 13 rebounds and had two blocks for the Buffs (21-5, 10-5 Pac-12), who won their sixth consecutive game.

"It's really exciting," said Roberson, who moved slightly closer to her brother's 36 career double-doubles. "I'm not trying to compete with Andre in any way. I don't think I can. I think I just was more aggressive tonight than I had been throughout conference."

Roberson had her highest point total in conference play and topped her previous career high of 11 rebounds. It was the second time this season she's had at least 10 rebounds.

"I think I was just focused and I tapped into something else rather than just expecting mediocre play from myself," said Roberson, who had eight offensive rebounds.

Roberson said she feels it's the type of game she can duplicate in the future.

"I do feel like that," she said. "I think I could be probably my worst enemy and a lot of times I stop myself with the help of defenders, but I think I just have to continue to keep this mindset and keep going."

Sitting next to Roberson during the postgame news conference, teammate Jen Reese turned to Roberson after that statement, smiled and said, "We need you to do that."

The Buffs needed Roberson to have a big game on Friday, because it was an ugly win. It was a disjointed game on offense, with the Buffs committing 19 turnovers and hitting just 33.8 percent of their shots.

"There was no rhythm in that game at all," head coach Linda Lappe said. "Usually there is some sort of rhythm within a game and it was hard to ever really get in a rhythm; both teams never really did."

CU had 11 turnovers in the first half alone -- one more than they had in a win at Arizona State on Sunday.

"I just feel like we were frantic with the ball and forcing things that weren't there," said Reese, who finished with 10 points and seven boards.

Fortunately for Colorado, its defense was solid once again in knocking off the Cougars (10-16, 6-9). The Buffs held an opponent below 50 points for the 11th time this season, adding to their school record. Washington State made just 19.6 percent of its shots and had 25 turnovers.

"Credit their defense," Washington State coach June Daugherty said. "They have been pushing teams in that aspect all season."

The Cougars hung around for most of the night, though.

It wasn't until a late 11-0 run that the Buffs put the Cougars away. Washington State pulled within 48-42 with 5:29 to go, but CU responded to take its biggest lead, 59-42. Roberson keyed that run with five points, including a 3-pointer.

"Midway through that second half, I thought we really stepped up to the plate and knocked down some jumpers, which were huge boosters for us and we ended up being able to hold on at the end," Lappe said.

CU led 26-19 at the half, despite their turnovers and hitting just 28.1 percent (9-for-32) of their shots. The Buffs made just three of their last 20 shots of the half and went 1-for-14 during the final 8:30. The Buffs had the lead, however, because their defense forced 14 turnovers -- 10 of those on steals -- and held the Cougars to 21.9 percent shooting (7-for-32).

Chucky Jeffery had 10 points, seven boards, six assists and three steals for the Buffs, while Brittany Wilson had nine points.

Notable

Roberson has averaged 16.5 points and 10.5 rebounds the past two games. ... CU has its longest conference win streak since a six-game streak from Jan. 13-Feb. 4, 2004. ... At 10-5, the Buffs are guaranteed to have a winning record in conference play for the first time since 2004. ... The Buffs improved to 20-0 against unranked teams this season. ... Junior center Rachel Hargis had two blocks and moved into ninth on CU's career list in that category, with 79. ... Wilson hit a 3-pointer to move into a tie for 10th on CU's career list, with 96.

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.

Colorado 59, Washington St. 45

WASHINGTON ST.

FG FT Reb

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

Romberg 19 0-6 0-0 0-1 0 2 0

Noyes 10 1-8 0-2 3-5 0 1 2

Galdeira 29 2-13 8-8 1-7 0 2 12

Grad 15 1-2 1-2 0-0 0 1 3

Awa 26 1-3 0-0 1-2 1 0 3

Amojo 13 1-3 0-0 0-1 1 2 2

Williamson 14 0-1 1-2 1-3 1 1 1

Edmondson 16 1-5 0-0 1-1 0 1 3

Dheensaw 14 1-4 0-0 2-5 0 3 2

Thomas 9 0-0 0-0 0-2 0 0 0

Tinjum 2 0-0 2-2 0-0 0 0 2

Cooks 15 2-7 6-8 3-5 1 4 10

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

Totals 200 11-56 21-28 20-46 4 19 45

Percentages: FG .196, FT .750.

3-Point Goals: 2-10, .200 (Awa 1-1, Edmondson 1-2, Amojo 0-1, Potter 0-1, Williamson 0-1, Romberg 0-2, Galdeira 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 9.

Blocked Shots: 6 (Dheensaw 2, Potter, Edmondson, Awa, Romberg).

Turnovers: 25 (Galdeira 6, Romberg 3, Amojo 3, Dheensaw 3, Cooks 3, Potter 2, Thomas, Williamson, Awa, Edmondson).

Steals: 8 (Galdeira 4, Dheensaw, Awa, Williamson, Romberg).

Technical Fouls: None.

## COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Roberson 30 7-19 1-3 8-13 1 3 17

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

B Wilson 30 4-8 0-0 1-2 1 2 9

Sborov 17 0-3 0-0 0-4 0 1 0

Jeffery 32 4-10 2-2 2-7 6 2 10

A Wilson 22 1-3 1-2 1-4 2 0 3

M M-Pck 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0



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

Reese 21 4-13 2-3 3-7 1 3 10

Weston 13 1-2 0-0 1-1 1 0 2

Swan 15 1-5 3-4 3-8 0 2 5

Totals 200 22-65 12-18 21-48 12 18 59

Percentages: FG .338, FT .667.

3-Point Goals: 3-10, .300 (Roberson 2-3, B. Wilson 1-2, Weston 0-1, Reese 0-1, Swan 0-1, Jeffery 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 7 (Hargis 2, Swan 2, Roberson 2, Sborov).

Turnovers: 19 (B. Wilson 4, Jeffery 4, Weston 3, Swan 2, Hargis 2, Roberson 2, Sborov, Reese).

Steals: 15 (A. Wilson 4, Jeffery 3, Hargis 2, Roberson 2, Reese, Sborov, Weston, B. Wilson).

Technical Fouls: None.

Washington St. 19 26--45

Colorado 26 33--59

A -- 3,170.

Officials -- Penny Davis, Mary Whatford, Richard Waters.

## Ringo: Linda Lappe's CU Buffs in good place, but can take next step

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

It wasn't all that long ago you didn't know what you were going to get from the Colorado women's basketball team from one game to the next.

The opposite is true these days.

You can pretty much count on the Buffs executing offensively and playing together on the defensive end. They come ready to play. They do so with energy and passion and bad practices, poor halves and subpar games aren't just shrugged off with a come-what-may attitude.

The way a team approaches the game has a lot to do with the results it produces, and the Buffs have definitely re-established a high standard in how they go about their business. The results speak for themselves.

After beating Washington State at the Coors Events Center on Friday night, coach Linda Lappe's team improved to 20-0 against unranked opponents this season. Viewed another way, the 20th-ranked Buffs are perfect against the teams they are supposed to beat.

Lappe and her team received a standing ovation for that standard of consistency as the final 15 seconds ticked away in their 59-45 victory over the Cougars. It was somewhat surprising because Friday's game was not a thing of beauty.

Lappe described it perfectly in her postgame remarks when she noted there was no rhythm to the contest. The teams combined for 44 turnovers. CU made only 34 percent of its shots and Washington State made just 20 percent.

None of the 3,170 in attendance could be blamed for wishing they had opted for a movie or game night at home on a cold February night. To be honest, it was hard to watch.

But the Buffs also were never seriously in jeopardy of losing. That restlessness that sometimes infects a crowd when a favorite is struggling with an underdog never materialized, and it's because these Buffs play with a confidence they have gained from being held to standards and achieving success.

The victory sets up a huge game against Washington on Sunday in which the winner will likely earn the fourth seed and a first-round bye in the Pac-12 tournament next month.

CU forward Jen Reese said no one in the home team's locker room was happy at halftime Friday. The Buffs led 26-19 after shooting just 28 percent in the half and not making a 3-pointer. Reese said Lappe didn't have to say anything to the Buffs because everyone knew the first half wasn't near good enough.

That maturity is a big component of the Buffs' beating all 20 unranked teams on their schedule so far and it will eventually help them get over the hump against ranked teams as well. The Buffs are just 1-5 against fellow members of the top 25 this season with the only win coming back in December over then-No. 8 Louisville (now No. 11).

"I think just believing that we belong in that category is first and foremost the No. 1 thing," Lappe said. "We

believed we were going to beat Louisville. You could see it in our demeanor and how we approached it.

"So just having that mentality every single game, understanding that, 'Hey, we should win this game.' Even if somebody might be ranked a little bit higher."


It has to be satisfying for Lappe to have reached this level in developing her program. At the same time it has to be motivating that there is still so far to go in the journey. There remains a clear difference, a dividing line of sorts, between the best women's programs in the nation and the rest of the top 25 and then the rest of the pack.

CU is in the middle group now and life can be good here. Coaches and players can't get used to winning the games they're supposed to and only occasionally winning the ones they're not. The next step for CU is finding ways to win more of the games it's not supposed to.

The Buffs are going to have more than a few chances to take that step in the next month when tournament time comes. Lappe and her Buffs can't get comfortable.


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## Bufs pull away after slow start against Cougars

 By [Jessica Malknecht](#) in [Basketball](#), [Front Page](#), [Sports](#) on Feb 23, 2013 10:19 / [comments](#)

The Buffs Women's basketball team earned their 21<sup>st</sup> win of the season against Washington State University Friday night at the Coors Events Center.

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The Buffs had their largest lead of the game at 40-27 in the final six minutes and the game concluded with a score of 59-45.

This is the sixth consecutive game the Buffs have won. The Cougars now drop to 10-16 overall and 6-9 in the Pac-12 conference play, while the Buffs advance to 21-5 overall and 10-5 in the Pac-12 conference.

The Buffs had a comfortable lead for the majority of the game, but both teams played a very physical game.

"It was a physical game, but I liked how our players responded," said Linda Lappe, the head coach of CU women's basketball.

The Buffs played well defensively as the team got their hands on loose balls and picked off passes, forcing the Cougars into 25 turnovers. The Buffs were able to score 25 points as a result of those turnovers.

The Buffs racked up 11 steals and 26 rebounds in the first half alone and had 15 steals and 48 rebounds throughout the full game. The team scored 34 points in the paint compared to Washington State's 14 points.

The Cougars 2-3 zone defense seemed to stifle the Buffs in the first half, allowing them to shoot a mere 28.1 percent.

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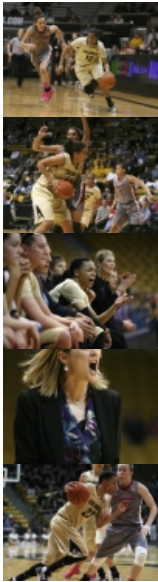
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### BUFFS ON VID



Starting sophomore guard Lexy Kresl didn't play in the game, as she is still out with a shoulder injury after last week's game against Arizona.

CU had the lead for the entirety of the first half, with the exception of the first few points of the game. Toward the second portion of the first half, the Cougars began making a run of their own and, at one point, pulled within four.

The Buffs finished the first half with a seven-point lead 26-19. Half of the Buffs 26 points came from forced turnovers.

Washington State freshman guard Lia Galdeira lead the Cougars with 12 points.

"There was no rhythm in the game at all, but we came together a lot better in the second half," Lappe said.

The Buffs got into foul trouble with just under six minutes left of play, which helped the Cougars get to the free throw line often. However, it wasn't enough for the Cougars, as the Buffs were still able to pull a 14-point win.

Look out for the Buffs final home game of the season on Sunday Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. against University of Washington. The game will be the last for seniors Chucky Jeffery, Brenna Malcolm-Peck, and Meagan Malcolm-Peck.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Jessica Malknecht at [Jessica.malknecht@colorado.edu](mailto:Jessica.malknecht@colorado.edu).



### About Jessica Malknecht

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### Updated: Body found in Libby Hall

CUPD has found a dead body in Libby Hall on campus this evening. A CU-Boulder police car sits outside Libby Hall Tuesday night after a body was discovered. (Ryan Tibbitts/CU Independent)

A tweet was sent out by CUPD around 9 p.m. that stated:... [read more »](#)

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