



Andre Roberson scored a career-best 24 points Wednesday night against Stanford.
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Roberson's Career-High 24 Pushes Buffs Past Cardinal

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STANFORD, Calif. - Andre Roberson woke up "sick and woozy" on Wednesday morning. By Wednesday night, he was much, much better - and Stanford must have been sick of him.

Behind Roberson's career-high 24 points and eight rebounds, Colorado edged the Cardinal 65-63, giving the Buffaloes their first Pac-12 Conference sweep of Stanford and their first-ever win at Maples Pavilion.

"Our players deserved that win," said CU coach Tad Boyle, whose team improved to 19-8 overall and 9-6 in the conference. "For what they've been through, how they battled and the heart they played with, they deserved that."

Roberson, a 6-7 junior, got scoring help from sophomore Spencer Dinwiddie with 19. They were the only two CU players in double figures.

In a postgame interview on KOA Radio, Roberson said after waking up feeling subpar on Wednesday morning,

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"I drank a lot of fluids, took some medicine. But Trae (Tashiro, trainer) had me on the right path and I had to come out here and take care of business. You have to fight through it."

The win kept the Buffs in contention for the No. 4 seed in the Pac-12 tournament (March 13-16, Las Vegas). Said Roberson: "This means a lot for us . . . also in terms of the Pac-12 standings we're trying to get that fourth seed. We'll see how it goes."

Stanford (16-13, 7-9) had three players in double digits - Andy Brown with 17, Chasson Randle with 16 and Dwight Powell with 12. Powell almost ended with 14 points, taking an in-bounds pass with 2.4 seconds to play, turning on Roberson and going to the basket for a jam that would have sent the game into overtime.

But he had too much court to cover in too little time - and Roberson knew it. "I knew they were going to play the three or attack the rim," Roberson said. "He went past me and I said, 'Oh, shoot' . . . but the ball was still in his hand when the light went off."

After a collective CU sigh that might have rattled windows in the Rockies, the Buffs had their eighth win in 10 games and their third consecutive conference road win for the first time since the 2000-01 season.

Boyle called Roberson "a beast" for his offensive effort and lauded his overall defense on the 6-10 Powell. Boyle also said when Dinwiddie "plays aggressively and attacks the rim, and Andre plays like he did, those two are special."

But overall, it was another special night for the Buffs. They won without 6-10 freshman center Josh Scott, who received an elbow to the head on Feb. 16 against Arizona State and did not play last week against Utah. Scott made the trip to the Bay Area but was held out of Wednesday night's game. In CU's 75-54 win against Stanford on Jan. 24, Scott scored 12 points and grabbed five rebounds.

Scott's status for Saturday, when CU plays at fast-improving California (2 p.m. MST, ESPNU), is to be determined. Against Cal in Boulder on Jan. 27, Scott contributed five points and three rebounds. Nonetheless, the Buffs won 81-71, but since then the Bears have won seven of eight - including five straight.

Boyle said Scott "is getting closer every day . . . we wouldn't have brought him if we didn't think there wasn't a chance of him playing."

CU led only once (2-0) in Wednesday night's first half and trailed 32-31 at intermission. Over the first 6:00, the Buffs shot horrendously, making only two of their first 13 shots and trailing by as many as 10 points (15-5).

But they refused to roll over, launching an 11-2 run that brought them to within 17-16 with 10:06 left before the break. They forged ties at 25-25 and 27-27 before the Cardinal answered with a 5-0 run to go up 32-27.

But CU closed the half with baskets by Dinwiddie and Jeremy Adams to account for their one-point deficit at intermission. Dinwiddie's 10 points topped the Buffs in the first 20 minutes, followed by Roberson with eight and Adams with seven off the bench, giving him 13 in the first halves of his last two games.

The difference in the first half for Stanford was its three-point shooting; the Cardinal hit five of their nine trey attempts while the Buffs were one of eight from beyond the arc. Stanford finished 9-of-20, CU 4-of-18.

The Buffs shot 42.9 percent from the field to the Cardinal's 39.0 percent and outrebounded the home team 34-33. CU scored 36 points in the paint to Stanford's 22.

The Buffs made only one of their first four shots over the first four-plus minutes of the second half, and the Cardinal outscored them 8-2 to go ahead 40-33 with 15:36 remaining. And when Randle drained a three-pointer from the right wing, Stanford had matched its largest lead of the game - 10 points - at 43-33.

But as they did in the first half facing a 10-point deficit, the Buffs had a swift response. Dinwiddie scored five points to spark an 8-0 run, pulling CU to within two (43-41) with 11:50 to play. Less than two minutes later, a triple by Roberson with the shot clock at :02 brought the Buffs to within one (45-44).

And "Dre" was just getting started. He drained another trey, followed that with a layup, then watched Askia Booker hit a layup to send CU ahead 51-45 - the Buffs' largest lead of the night.

After trailing by 10, CU had strung together an 18-5 run, but Stanford wasn't finished. Another Randle three-ball, followed by a Brown tip, brought the Cardinal back to 51-50.

But the Buffs didn't surrender the lead, going up by as many as six before a Josh Huestis tip brought the Cardinal to 61-59. Dinwiddie answered with a layup (63-59) but he also got a technical foul for touching the ball after it came through the net.

Aaron Bright hit one of two free throws (63-60), but Roberson was fouled on a rebound and hit two free throws (65-60) with 15.1 seconds to play. Then a Brown triple from the left corner pulled Stanford to 65-63.

Dinwiddie was fouled with 4 seconds showing, but missed the front end of his one-and-one. Stanford controlled the rebound and called timeout with 2.4 seconds left. Powell got the inbounds pass, pivoted and went to the basket and jammed it . . . but it was too late.

"I saw the light go off (around the backboard)," a relieved Boyle said. "It was a break this team needs and deserves . . . Powell made a good play, there wasn't just enough time for him, thank goodness."

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

SHOW MENU



Men's basketball: CU Buffs boost NCAA résumé

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

STANFORD, Calif. -- There is a new banner at Maples Pavilion that reads: 2012 NIT champions.

The disappointing Cardinal will likely get a chance to defend the title unless it wins the Pac-12 Tournament in Las Vegas.

And the Buffs?

Well, Colorado solidified its NCAA Tournament chances with a dramatic 65-63 victory over Stanford here on Wednesday night in front of a bipartisan crowd of 4,395.

Josh Scott missed his second consecutive games due to symptoms from a concussion sustained on Feb. 16 against Arizona State.

But Andre Roberson made up for the 6-10 freshman's absence by ignoring flu-like symptoms and scoring a season-high 24 points on 9-for-13 shooting to will the Buffs to victory.

"I knew I was going to go. No matter what I was going to play," said Roberson, who also had eight rebounds and played 37 minutes. "It was a big game for us in the standings and tournament-wise. It was just a matter of how well I was going to play."

The game came down to the final play. Stanford's Josh Powell received a pass with 2.2 seconds left and soared in for a dunk as the buzzer sounded.

After a video review by officials, which gave the Buffs flashbacks to their controversial loss at Arizona, it was ruled that the ball was still in Powell's hands as time expired.

"I had a pretty good view," said CU's Sabatino Chen, whose game-winning 3-pointer in Tucson on Jan. 3 was waved off by officials up further review, leading to the Wildcats' 92-83 win in overtime. "It was clearly in his hands when the light went off."

Spencer Dinwiddie continued his late-season candidacy for Pac-12 player of the year with 19 points, four rebounds, three steals and an assist.

But after scoring with 26.2 seconds left to put CU up 63-59, Dinwiddie was assessed a technical foul for interfering with the ball as it came out of the net. The sophomore point guard, who was 6-for-7 at the free throw line, also missed the front end of a one-and-one with a chance to ice the game in the final seconds.

"Nobody we'd rather have on the line at the end of the game," CU head coach Tad Boyle said. "The technical ... we already had a warning. He actually hit the ball out of their hand. It was the right call. Spencer got caught up in the moment and he understands that."

Aaron Bright went 1-for-2 on the technical free throws. Roberson grabbed a defensive rebound and went 2-for-2 at the stripe to make the score 65-60.

Andy Brown got a friendly bounce on a corner 3-ball with 4.7 seconds left. Dinwiddie's missed free throw gave Stanford a chance to force overtime.

"We guarded that play the way we wanted to guard it and (Powell) had 2.2 second. I'm just glad he didn't have 2.3 or 2.3," Boyle said. "This team deserved that win, deserved that break because of all we've went through this year."

Midway through the second half, Roberson knocked down a 3-pointer as the shot clock was expiring and then added another make from behind the arc and a reverse layup during a game-changing sequence.

Askia Booker capped the 10-0 spurt with a scoop in the paint to give CU a 51-45 lead with 8:29 remaining.

Noted Buff nemesis Chasson Randle (16 points) stopped the bleeding for the Cardinal with a 3-pointer.

CU had a 61-55 advantage after a Roberson basket with 3:20 remaining, but two free throws by Powell and put back by Josh Huestis closed the gap to two points in the final minute.

"I thought Dwight's move was great. He caught the ball where we thought he'd catch the ball. I thought he'd have a chance to go ahead and get a strong finish," Stanford head coach Johnny Dawkins said. "But the fact that he caught it a little bit further out, he got bumped on the catch, and by the time he turned around, time was being eaten up. He still did a great job of getting to the basket. He should have just laid the ball up."

The Buffs trailed 43-33 after a 3-pointer by Randle -- who averaged 17.7 points on 18-for-42 (42.9 percent) shooting in his three previous games against CU -- with 14:40 remaining.

But Dinwiddie capped an 8-0 run with a 3-pointer and a layup in traffic to cut the deficit to two points.

The Cardinal (16-13, 7-9) was swept by USC and UCLA during its last home stand and was coming off a 77-66 loss at Oregon. The Buffs (19-8, 9-6) have won three consecutive road games and eight of their last 10 games overall.

CU can put itself in position for a top-four finish and a bye at the Pac-12 Tournament by completing a Bay Area season sweep on Saturday at Cal.

Roberson's 24 leads Colorado past Stanford 65-63

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN Associated Press The Denver Post

Posted:

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STANFORD, Calif.—Andre Roberson overcame a bout with the flu and had a career night in scoring. He also kept Colorado in the mix for a first-round bye in the Pac-12 tournament.

Roberson scored a career-high 24 points, including 16 in the second half, to help the Buffaloes come back from 10 points down in the final 15 minutes and beat Stanford 65-63 on Wednesday night.

"If we win out, we're definitely trying to get that fourth seed," said Roberson after Colorado's eighth win in 10 games. "If we can't, we're still in great position to do good things."

Roberson, the leading rebounder in the country going into the night, had eight boards and finished 9 of 13 from the floor while helping the Buffaloes (19-8, 9-6 Pac-12) go on an 18-2 run in the second half to complete a season sweep of the Cardinal after five straight losses in the series between the two schools.

Colorado's recent success has helped erase the sting of a 1-4 start in conference play. But the Buffaloes remain in a logjam in the middle of the Pac-12 standings, while Stanford dropped closer to the bottom with its first three-game losing streak at home since 2010.

"Our confidence is at an all-time high," said Colorado's Spencer Dinwiddie, who had 19 points. "As long as we keep winning on the road, everybody is happy."

The Buffaloes needed everything Roberson had after falling behind 43-33 early in the second half, then had to hold on during a frantic finish.

Dinwiddie scored on a layup with 26 seconds left to put Colorado up 63-59. But when Roberson went to flip the ball to a Stanford player, Dinwiddie reached in to tip the ball away and was called for a technical foul.

Aaron Bright made one of two free throws to pull the Cardinal within 63-60 before Roberson made a pair of insurance free throws. Andy Brown's 3-pointer cut it to 65-63, and after Dinwiddie missed the front end of a one-and-one, Stanford had a chance to tie the game.

Dwight Powell nearly pushed the game into overtime after driving around Roberson and dunking the ball on the game's final play, but officials reviewed television replays and ruled that time expired before Powell's bucket.

Brown matched his career high with 17 points while Powell added 12 for Stanford (16-13, 7-9).

"Any time you lose at the buzzer it's never a good thing, but all the plays leading up to that were the cause of it," Brown said. "We built some good leads on them and our defense just didn't hold up."

Chasson Randle got Stanford going early with a 3-pointer and short jumper but it was Powell who provided the signature moment of the night with an emphatic one-handed dunk over a pair of Colorado defenders in the first half. Powell, who started his drive near the left corner of the baseline, was fouled by Jeremy Adams and completed the three-point play to put the Cardinal up 15-4.

Colorado kept it close despite playing its second straight game without 6-foot-10 forward Josh Scott, who is second on the team in rebounding and third in scoring. He took an elbow to the head in the Buffaloes' loss to Arizona State on Feb. 16.

Dinwiddie had six points as part of an 11-2 run and Roberson later scored on a layup that tied the game at 27. After a layup by Randle and 3-pointer from John Gage pushed Stanford's lead to five, Dinwiddie and Adams both scored on drives through the key to pull the Buffaloes within 32-31 at the break.

The Cardinal opened the second half with an 11-2 run highlighted by Powell's one-handed 5-footer off an inbounds pass but didn't get much else from their leading scorer. Powell, who went into the night averaging 15.4 points, finished 4 of 11 from the floor.

Colorado responded with its big run to take its first lead since 2-0. Dinwiddie had five points and Roberson, paired against Powell much of the game, made back-to-back 3s to help the Buffaloes go up 51-45.

"We were getting stops and getting out in transition," Roberson said. "We weren't doing that much in the first half."