



COLORADO BUFFALOES

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Xavier Johnson made his fourth career start for the Buffs Wednesday

Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Brooks: Huskies Put The Bite On Frigid Buffs

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SEATTLE - The Colorado Buffaloes dug themselves a hole with frigid shooting here Wednesday night and left Alaska Airlines Arena in a deeper Pac-12 Conference hole.

But despite their 64-54 loss to streaking Washington, which won for the tenth time in 12 games, Buffs coach Tad Boyle and his players believe positive steps were taken - particularly on defense.

Boyle said his team's defense "was good enough to win . . . our guys played great (defense). We played with pride and some toughness. We lost to a good basketball team."

The Huskies, playing their first home game since Dec. 22, remained unbeaten (4-0) in conference play and went to 12-5 overall while the Buffs slipped to 1-4, 11-6.

If CU's 'D' was exemplary, its 'O' was of the OMG variety. Credit the Huskies for some of that misfiring; they've now held four Pac-12 teams to under 40 percent from the field.

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Box Score



Game Notes



Quotes



Game Notes at Washington State

The Buffs shot a season-low 29.2 percent in the first half and finished at 36.2 percent (21-for-58) for the game - the team's second-lowest mark this season. CU also tied a season low in assists with six and made only one of 10 three-point attempts.

But the Buffs held the Huskies to 33.9 percent (20-for-59) from the field and outrebounded them by one (38-37). It wasn't an aesthetically pleasing night for either team, but UW coach Lorenzo Romar didn't care.

Asked about "winning ugly," Romar said, "You can color it any want to color it. I just know that when you go out and you play two games in a row and you have single digit turnovers (UW had 9, CU 12), you hold four teams to under 40 percent from the field, you outrebound three out of the four, you're beginning to do things right. The only 'ugly' thing, if you want to call it that, is that we haven't been making shots. Two out of the last four games we haven't made shots. Other than that, I think we're doing everything else OK."

Boyle said the Huskies' 15 offensive rebounds "really killed us in the second half. We had some stops and couldn't finish the possession with getting the rebound. That hurt us. And then we put them on the foul line in the second half. For some reason we don't get to the foul line on the road; I don't know why."

Sophomore Spencer Dinwiddie, who led CU with 15 points, said the Buffs played with more overall intensity than in previous conference losses to Arizona, Arizona State and UCLA.

"For sure," Dinwiddie said. "That's one thing we talked about. We talked our positives; we finally started playing with our principles - we rebounded the ball decently. There were a couple of possessions where they got three or four offensive rebounds. If we cut that out and they don't make a run, the game's different."

The only other CU player in double figures was junior Andre Roberson with 10 points, marking the first time this season only two Buffs reached double digits. Roberson also had 11 rebounds for his seventh double-double of the season and the 32nd of his career.

Roberson said the Buffs "stepped it up big time on the defensive end . . . we just didn't get the rebounds when it mattered and we didn't make the tough stops. Our offense has to get better; our motion is terrible right now. That's one thing we have to improve on big time. Just executing on the offense end is a main thing. That's why we struggled with this team."

Sophomore guard Askia Booker fouled out with 34.4 seconds to play after scoring nine points, while freshman forwards Xavier Johnson and Josh Scott had nine and eight, respectively. Scott got all of his points in the second half.

The Huskies' C.J. Wilcox, the conference's leading scorer (21.3 ppg), finished with 25, while teammate Scott Suggs added 13. UW had no other double-figure scorers, but Desmond Simmons (12) and Aziz N'Diaye (11) accounted for 23 rebounds.

CU scored a season-low 20 points in the first half and trailed by eight at intermission. The Huskies opened 10-point leads three times in the game's final 8 minutes, an 11-point advantage in the last 3 minutes, and never allowed their visitors closer than seven points during that span.

Trailing 28-20 at intermission, the Buffs might have gone to their locker room thankful for that deficit. When they caught the Huskies at 17-17 on a layup by Johnson - he started against in place of Sabatino Chen - they appeared to have corrected their early problems.

CU committed four of its seven first-half turnovers - a high for a half in league play - in the game's first 6 minutes and fell behind by seven points. Then the Buffs strung together an 8-2 run - their most productive offensive stretch of the opening half - and pulled even.

But things went south from there.

After Johnson's layup produced the tie at 17 with 8:56 left before the break, CU scored only three more points to finish with its lowest first-half total of the season.

The Buffs opened the second half with three points from Roberson and pulled to within 28-23. But the Huskies

trumped that with a four-point play from Scott Suggs to take their largest lead of the night - 32-23 - to that point. The nine-point advantage became 10 (37-27) on a trey by Wilcox.

But taking advantage of the 7-foot N'Diaye taking a rest, the 6-10 Scott hit back-to-back baskets to draw the Buffs to within five (39-34) with just over 11 minutes to play.

CU's threat ended there. A 5-0 run restored U-Dub's 10-point lead (48-38), leaving the Buffs just over 7 minutes to retaliate. Boyle called a timeout at the 7:12 mark, but the closest his team could get was 52-45 on a three-point play by Dinwiddie with 3:52 to play.

"With our defense tonight and our pride, I'm proud of our guys for the way they hung in there," Boyle said. "It got away from us at the end there and you look at a 10-point loss on the road and we couldn't shrink the lead because we couldn't score. But it wasn't because of our defense."

The Buffs' road trip continues with a Saturday game (8 p.m. MST) at Washington State. The team will fly via charter on Thursday morning from Seattle to Spokane, have Thursday and Friday practices at Gonzaga, then fly to Pullman on Saturday morning.

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SHOW MENU



Men's basketball: CU Buffs get defensive, remain confident after loss at Washington

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

SEATTLE -- Tad Boyle's message was received.

Colorado's head coach challenged his team to ratchet up the intensity on the defensive end.

The Buffs held Washington to 33.9 percent shooting from the field and out-rebounded the aggressive and athletic Huskies 38-37 on their home floor.

So despite CU's 64-54 loss, which dropped the Buffs to 11-6 overall and 1-4 in the Pac-12, Boyle was encouraged after Wednesday night's game here at the Alaska Airlines Arena.

"I thought our defense was good enough to win," Boyle said. "Our guys' effort was great. We played with pride, we played with some toughness, and we lost to a good basketball team."

CU trailed 39-34 midway through the second half after Josh Scott scored down low on two consecutive possessions.

Then the hustling Huskies grabbed seven offensive rebounds over a span of 2 minutes and 27 seconds, which allowed the home team to surge ahead 48-38.

"The offensive rebounding really killed us in the second half," Boyle lamented. "We had some stops and we couldn't finish the possession with getting the rebound."

Despite the regrettable sequence, the Buffs finished the game with an 11-9 edge in second-chance points and outscored Washington 32-18 in the paint.

CU's players said they will pack confidence with them on the trip to Pullman for Saturday's game at Washington State.

"I definitely think we stepped up big time on the defensive end. We just didn't get the rebounds when it mattered," Andre Roberson said after grabbing 11 boards and scoring 10 points. "We didn't get the tough ones and the stops. They had too many possessions when they had multiple shots at the basket."

Washington, now 12-5 overall and 4-0 in the conference, played with even more grit than the visitors.

The Buffs made only 7 of 24 shots in the first half and finished the game shooting 36.2 percent from the field. Aziz N'Diaye, a 7-foot senior, had three of the Huskies' five blocks and finished with 11 rebounds (five offensive). Desmond Simmons added 12 boards (three offensive).

CU was 1-for-10 from behind the arc and awarded only 14 free throws. Washington made six 3-pointers and 18 free throws.

"We always knew we could play good defense," Washington guard C.J. Wilcox said after scoring 25 points on 8-for-14 shooting on an otherwise ugly night of offense. "We came into the season saying

that's what we need to do. It took some time to finally get it through our heads that this is the way we need to play."

CU allowed Arizona (43.1), Arizona State (42.6), USC (41.4) and UCLA (51.7) to all shoot above 40 percent from the field during a disappointing 1-3 start.

Wednesday's defensive performance leads Boyle to believe the Buffs are on the verge of getting back on the right side of the "thin line" between winning and losing in the Pac-12.

"I think we showed signs of improvement, big strides on the defensive end," Spencer Dinwiddie said after leading CU with 15 points. "If we continue this pride on defense, things will turn around real quick. ...

"We've got a ton of talent and we don't think we'll shoot like that again because it was very terrible. If we build on what we can do, which we showed we can play defense, we'll be fine."

Follow Ryan on Twitter: @RyanThorburn

Men's basketball: CU Buffs go cold in Washington

By Ryan Thorburn [Buffzone.com](http://buffzone.com) Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

[Buffzone.com](http://buffzone.com)

SEATTLE -- Swish-less in Seattle.

Colorado shot an anemic 36.2 percent from the field and fell to 1-5 on the road with a 64-54 loss to Washington on Wednesday night at Alaska Airlines Arena.

The Buffs (11-6, 1-4) did not make a good first impression as the program made its first trip to the Great Northwest as a member of the Pac-12 Conference.

Tad Boyle challenged his players to hold themselves accountable by adhering to his defensive and rebounding principles.

CU held the hot Huskies (12-5, 4-0) to 33.9 percent from the field (20-for-59) and had a 38-37 edge on the glass.

But reigning Pac-12 player of the week C.J. Wilcox, who averaged 23.0 points and 8.5 rebounds during the Huskies' road sweep of Cal and Stanford, blistered the Buffs for 25 points on 8-for-14 shooting.

CU trailed 37-27 with 12:46 left in the game after a 3-pointer by Wilcox.

Freshman guard Eli Stalzer answered with a timely and-one to stop the bleeding.

After missing his first five shots of the game, Josh Scott made back-to-back field goals to get the Buffs to within five points.

But Askia Booker was whistled for two fouls late in the shot clock to give Washington extra possessions during crunch time.

The Huskies, who also grabbed a couple of key offensive rebounds on missed free throws, seized a 48-38 lead on a jumper by Wilcox.

Andre Roberson posted a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds. The 6-7 junior forward banked in a 3-pointer to make the score 56-48 with 1:56 left.

The Huskies closed out their fourth consecutive win at the free throw line where the home team finished 18-of-23 (78.3 percent).

Spencer Dinwiddie led the Buffs with 15 points. Booker and Xavier Johnson, who made his third start, had nine points each but were a combined 7-for-24 from the field.

CU trailed 28-20 at halftime after shooting 29.2 percent and turning the ball over seven times.

Wilcox had 11 points before the intermission.

The Buffs missed 17 of their first 23 shots and trailed 23-17 after point guard Abdul Gaddy scored after his third offensive rebound of the half.

Johnson made a driving layup over 7-foot center Aziz N'Diaye to tie the score 17-17 with 8:58 remaining.

The visitors didn't score again until Johnson made a free throw with 2:05 to play before halftime.

Booker ended a field goal drought of 8 minutes, 21 seconds to pull CU to within six.

A basket by Wilcox gave the Huskies an eight-point cushion. Scott Suggs added 13 points and N'Diaye had 11 rebounds.

CU defeated Washington in Boulder last season and won the Pac-12 Tournament to advance to the NCAA Tournament. The Huskies won the conference's regular-season title but settled for the NIT.

The two teams won't play again this season unless they meet in the conference tournament in Las Vegas.

The Buffs complete the road trip on Saturday against Washington State in Pullman (8 p.m., Pac-12 Network).

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WASHINGTON 64, COLORADO 54

COLORADO (11-6)

Johnson 4-10 1-2 9, Roberson 4-10 1-2 10, Scott 4-10 0-1 8, Booker 3-14 3-3 9, Dinwiddie 5-11 5-5 15, Talton 0-0 0-0 0, Stalzer 1-1 1-1 3, Harris-Tunks 0-0 0-0 0, Chen 0-0 0-0 0, Adams 0-2 0-0 0.
Totals 21-58 11-14 54.

WASHINGTON (12-5)

Simmons 0-2 1-2 1, N'Diaye 3-8 0-0 6, Gaddy 2-12 4-6 8, Suggs 5-16 1-1 13, Wilcox 8-14 6-8 25, Andrews 2-4 4-4 9, Jarreau 0-2 2-2 2, Kemp, Jr. 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 20-59 18-23 64.

Halftime -- Washington 28-20. 3-Point Goals -- Colorado 1-10 (Roberson 1-3, Adams 0-1, Dinwiddie 0-3, Booker 0-3), Washington 6-20 (Wilcox 3-6, Suggs 2-8, Andrews 1-2, Gaddy 0-4). Fouled Out -- Booker. Rebounds -- Colorado 38 (Roberson 11), Washington 37 (Simmons 12). Assists -- Colorado 6 (Booker 3), Washington 9 (Gaddy 3). Total Fouls -- Colorado 19, Washington 15. A -- 8,184.

Washington moves to 4-0 in Pac-12, beats Colorado 64-54

The Associated Press The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

SEATTLE — Playing at home for the first time in nearly a month, Washington got to show its fans just how much its focus has changed.

Right now, it's all about the defense for the Huskies.

"We always knew we could play defense. We came into the season saying that's what we needed to do," Washington's C.J. Wilcox said. "It took some time for it to finally get into our heads."

Wilcox continued his scoring binge in Pac-12 Conference play with 25 points, and Washington used another stingy defensive effort to stymie Colorado 64-54 on Wednesday night.

The Huskies (12-5) improved to 4-0 in conference play for just the fourth time in the past 35 seasons and just the second time in coach Lorenzo Romar's tenure at his alma mater. Again it was mostly because of their defense. After holding California to just 47 points last week on the road, Washington limited the Buffaloes to 36 percent shooting and tied for their second-lowest point total of the season.

Colorado was held 18 points below its season average. Spencer Dinwiddie led Colorado (11-6, 1-4) with 13 points, while leading scorer Askia Booker scored nine before fouling out. He made just 3 of 14 shots.

"They're much better defensively. Now last year, they had the Wroten kid who was out there trying to steal and gamble a lot. But this year, they are much more sound defensively," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said, referring to former Huskies player Tony Wroten. "They are so long. They are so athletic and they have the big guy in the middle. You have to execute to score on them."

Wilcox scored 14 in the second half and he got help from his backcourt teammates. Scott Suggs added 13 points, and combined with Wilcox, Andrew Andrews and Abdul Gaddy, Washington's guards scored 55 of its 64 points.

Since Pac-12 play started, the Huskies' winning formula has been a lot of Wilcox and a lot of defense. No reason to change now.

"We're a team now. Our whole team is together and we have a great understand of what we are doing," Romar said. "Rebounding, defending, taking care of the ball, it all ties in together and I think that is why we are seeing some differences."

Colorado continued its slide ever since its disputed overtime loss at Arizona to start Pac-12 play earlier this month. The Buffaloes stumbled at Arizona State, then lost by three at home to UCLA last Saturday.

Colorado didn't find a solution to its woes on the road, despite Andre Roberson scoring 10 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Colorado's only true road victory this season remains a 50-43 win at Fresno State in December.

Washington led 28-20 at the half, a season low in points for the Buffaloes, who missed 12 of their final 14

shots before the break. Colorado had as many turnovers as field goals (both seven) in the first half.

Washington was scoreless for the first 4:51 of the second half until Suggs, as the shot clock was about to expire, hit a step-back 3-pointer while Xavier Johnson crashed into him. The four-point play pushed the Huskies' lead back to nine at 32-23. The Huskies' lead reached double figures for the first time when Andrew Andrews spun at the top of the key and found Wilcox open coming off a screen on the wing for a 3 to put Washington up 37-27 with 12:48 left.

Colorado finally got a little offensive spark thanks to Eli Stalzer's driving three-point play—doubling his scoring total in four previous conference games this season—and a pair of baskets down low from Josh Scott. Dinwiddie scored on a drive to cut the Huskies' lead to six.

The lead was down to five after Gaddy split free throws and Johnson scored, but the Huskies' dominance of the offensive boards started to become a factor. After Wilcox badly missed a 3, Jenard Jarreau was fouled going for the offensive rebound and hit a pair of free throws. Wilcox then scored on a tough drive into the lane and Washington was back up 48-38 with 7:20 left.

Johnson scored on a tip-in with 5:10 left for the Buffaloes, their first points in more than 4 minutes, and Dinwiddie's three-point play with 3:52 left cut the Huskies' lead to 52-45. But Wilcox again had the answer with a quick cut into the lane and 12-foot floater with 3:20 left and Suggs found Aziz N'Diaye on a lob dunk to push the lead to 11 with 2:30 remaining.

Colorado got no closer than eight in the final seconds.

It was another sign of the defensive improvement by Washington, which came into the night the top team in the Pac-12 in scoring defense in conference games, allowing just 56.7 points. Washington got hands in passing lanes, rotated to alter shots and created difficulties for Colorado's offense.

"At home they are a different animal. They got after it tonight," Roberson said.