



COLORADO BUFFALOES

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Senior guard Chucky Jeffery had 10 points and six rebounds for Colorado.

Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Bears Catch Buffs In Second Half, Hang On For Win

Release: 01/25/2013 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BERKELEY, Calif. - Winning on the road hasn't been a problem this season for the Colorado women's basketball team - until Friday night at Haas Pavilion.

After squandering a 16-point first-half lead, the No. 20/23 Buffs fought back gamely in the second half but came up empty on their final possession and dropped a 59-56 Pac-12 Conference decision to No. 7 California. The loss ended a four-game CU winning streak.

"I'm proud of the way we battled back, but we believed we deserved to win that one," CU coach [Linda Lappe](#) said.

Losing for the first time in five road trips this season, the Buffs dropped to 4-3 in the Pac-12 and 15-3 overall. The Bears improved to 16-2, 6-1 and remained tied with No. 6 Stanford for first place in the Pac-12. CU visits Stanford on Sunday afternoon.

As was the case in their 53-49 win in Boulder earlier this month, the Bears were beasts on the boards Friday

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Notes



Statistics

night, outrebounding the Buffs 47-39. Included in Cal's total were 24 offensive boards, which proved to be decisive. CU also committed 19 turnovers, leading to 20 Cal points.

[Brittany Wilson](#) led CU with 11 points, while [Chucky Jeffery](#) added 10. Cal, which tied the series at five games apiece, was led by Gennifer Brandon and Layshia Clarendon with 13 each. Brandon also had 10 rebounds.

CU's leading scorer, [Arielle Roberson](#), didn't score her first points until 11:25 remained in the game. She finished with seven points and two rebounds - all in the second half.

The Buffs took control early, going on a 15-2 run that opened a 14-point lead (24-10) with just over 10 minutes remaining in the first half. During that surge, CU hit four of six three attempts - two of them by [Brittany Wilson](#).

The lead went to 16 as the Buffs outscored the Bears 23-8 over a 10-minute span and went up 32-16 with about 4 minutes left before intermission. And that's where CU ran into trouble.

By dominating the offensive boards and getting to the free throw line, the Bears stayed within striking distance. They outscored the Buffs 8-0 to close the first half, with a late trey from the left corner by senior guard Eliza Pierre cutting CU's lead in half and drawing Cal to within 32-24 at the break.

The Buffs were able to fashion their double-figure first half leads without a point from Roberson (13.6 ppg) and with No. 2 scorer Jeffery (13.4 ppg) accounting for only four.

Cal made only eight of its first 35 shots and shot 22.3 percent in the first half. The Bears finished shooting 33.8 from the field while the Buffs shot 38.9 - but only 30 percent in the second half.

CU needed its second-half start to duplicate its first, but that didn't happen. On the Buffs' first possession, center [Rachel Hargis](#) picked up her third foul on a hard screen that negated a three-pointer by [Lexy Kresl](#).

Cal immediately took advantage, getting a basket by Reshanda Gray and cutting CU's lead to 32-26. That extended the Bears' run to 10-0, putting pressure on the Buffs to respond - and fast. Jeffery finally got CU's first second-half points, but Cal answered with an 8-0 run to tie the score at 34-34 on a jumper by Clarendon with 14:43 to play.

Her basket capped an 18-2 Bears run that spanned the final 4 minutes of the first half and the opening 5 minutes of the second.

But the Buffs didn't go belly up. A Jeffery turnaround in the lane, followed by a [Jen Reese](#) trey opened a five-point CU lead (39-34), but Cal rallied with an 8-2 run and took its first lead (42-41) since 3-2 on a basket by Brittany Boyd, who finished with 10 points and was huge for the Bears down the stretch.

Neither team was able to take more than a two-point advantage until Boyd and Clarendon hit back-to-back jumpers to put Cal up 53-50 with 5:35 left. But CU tied the score at 54-54 on two free throws by Roberson and a Jeffery jumper with 3:42 remaining.

A pair of Boyd layups sent the Bears ahead 58-54 with 2 minutes showing. A Reese jumper in the lane pulled the Buffs to 58-56, giving CU possession with 36 seconds remaining. Roberson's drive to the basket and layup attempt was blocked by Brandon.

The Bears rebounded and Clarendon was fouled. She hit one of two free throws with 14.8 remaining, putting Cal up 59-56 and leaving CU 10.3 seconds to hit a trey and tie.

But the Buffs had trouble getting a clean shot away, and [Brittany Wilson](#)'s desperation attempt from the left corner missed.

No. 7 California women rally past No. 20 Colorado

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN Associated Press News Fuze

Posted:

sgvtribune.com

BERKELEY, Calif.—Gennifer Brandon had 13 points, 10 rebounds and a key block with 20 seconds left to help preserve No. 7 California's 59-56 win over No. 20 Colorado on Friday night.

Laysia Clarendon added 13 points and five rebounds while Brittany Boyd scored 10 points for the Golden Bears (16-2, 6-1 Pac-12). Cal trailed by 16 in the first half before rallying for its fourth win over a ranked team in the last three weeks.

Brittany Wilson had 11 points and five rebounds but missed a potential game-tying shot as time expired, ending a four-game winning streak for the Buffaloes (15-3, 4-3).

Cal edged Colorado 53-49 on Jan. 6 in a game decided in the final moments. The Bears needed to sweat out a last-second shot by the Buffaloes in that one, too.

This time it was Cal that needed to come back late.

The Bears were down 32-16 with 4 minutes left in the first half but went on an 18-2 run extending into the second half. Then they went on two more big runs to secure the victory.

Colorado didn't go quietly.

After Boyd scored on consecutive trips down the floor to put Cal up 58-54, Jen Reese made a layup to cut the gap in half. Boyd then missed two short shots but Colorado's Arielle Roberson missed a hook shot and had a layup blocked by Brandon with 20 seconds left.

The Buffaloes, off to their best start in nine years, had one final shot but Wilson's 3-point attempt was off.

Cal remains tied with Stanford for first place in the Pac-12.

The Bears did it by beating the Buffaloes at their own game.

Colorado went into the game with the Pac-12's top scoring defense and extended its impressive streak of holding opponents under 60 points to nine straight games. But Cal's defense was equally impressive in the second half, particularly down the stretch when the Buffaloes were held scoreless over the final 1:49.

It was the complete opposite in the first half.

Wilson scored nine straight points and Lexy Kresl made a 3-pointer to give Colorado a 32-16 lead. The Buffaloes had little problem against Cal's zone defense, beating the Bears both inside and from the perimeter.

As good as its offense looked, Colorado's defense made the biggest difference in the first half.

The Buffaloes held Cal to 22.9 percent shooting, allowed only three baskets over the final 9 minutes and gave up only four second-chance points even though the Bears grabbed 16 offensive rebounds.

Cal, which has played five ranked teams in the last three weeks, managed an 8-0 run to close out the half but still trailed 32-24 at the break.

Clarendon, the Bears' leading scorer, missed six of her first seven shots from the floor but had four points as part of a 10-2 run early in the second half that tied the game 34-all.

Brandon later had eight points during an 11-2 run to give Cal a 45-41 lead with 10:19 remaining. It stayed close the rest of the way until Clarendon's clinching free throw with 14.8 seconds left.

Women's basketball: CU Buffs squander 16-point lead at No. 7 Cal

Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

BERKELEY, Calif. - During its two seasons in the Pac-12 Conference, the Colorado women's basketball team has proven it can play with California.

Unfortunately for the Buffaloes, they haven't beaten the Bears.

The 20th-ranked Buffs gave up a 16-point first-half lead and lost to the No. 7 Bears 59-56 on Friday night at Haas Pavilion.

"Oh, it stings because I thought our kids battled really, really hard," CU head coach Linda Lappe said after the game on AM-760 radio. "We deserved to win that one from the start. We came out to a great lead, they had their pressure (defense), and we kept battling back."

Colorado (15-3, 4-3 Pac-12) is 0-5 against Cal (16-2, 6-1) since joining the Pac-12 last season, including 0-2 this season.

Brittany Wilson had a team-high 11 points, but missed a desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer for the Buffs. Chucky Jeffery added 10 points.

Cal's Layshia Clarendon hit a free throw with 14.8 seconds left to give Cal a 59-56 lead. CU called a timeout with 10.3 seconds to go to set up a play, but never got a great look at the hoop.

"I thought we had Brittany Wilson wide open in that left corner; missed her probably (with the pass), but you can't fault our kids for how they battled and how they fought," Lappe said. "We executed what we drew up out of the timeout."

Clarendon had 15 points and five assists to lead the Bears, while Gennifer Brandon had 13 points and 11 rebounds.

During the first 16 minutes on Friday, the Buffs dominated. Their defense, which has been stellar most of the season, held Cal to just 22-percent shooting in the first half. Meanwhile, CU buried five 3-pointers to spark the offense.

Wilson's third 3-pointer and a bucket from Lexy Kresl staked CU to its biggest lead of the game, 32-16, with 4:06 to play in the first half.

"I think we just came out and we were executing our game plan," Jeffery said on AM-760.

Cal, however, closed the half on an 8-0 run and opened the second half with a 10-2 spurt to erase the CU lead and tie the game at 34-34.

CU scored just two points in the 9 minutes, 43 seconds after taking its big lead. Cal's pressure defense had a lot to do with that, creating several CU turnovers. The Buffs had 19 turnovers on the night.

"We knew it was coming; we had practiced for it," Lappe said of Cal's pressure defense. "We just made some

mental errors, more than anything."

After giving up the lead, CU responded with five straight points, but Cal went on an 11-2 run after that to open up its biggest lead, 45-41.

Cal never relinquished the lead during the final 6:54 of the contest, despite struggling at the free throw line. The Bears went to the line 28 times, but made only 13 of them. CU got to the line just eight times, making seven.

"We couldn't get to the free throw line; we couldn't figure out how to do that, and it was a huge difference in the game," Lappe said.

Notable

Colorado dropped to 1-27 all-time when facing top-10 teams on the road. The Buffs face another road game against a top-10 team - No. 6 Stanford - on Sunday. CU's only road win against a top-10 team came on Nov. 21, 1995, at No. 9 Arkansas. ... Cal had 16 points in the first 16 minutes, and 43 points in the final 24 minutes. ... CU came in averaging just 2.7 3-pointers per game in Pac-12 play, but made seven on Friday. ... The Buffs have held nine consecutive opponents below 60 points. ... Cal out-rebounded the Buffs 47-39. CU has been out-rebounded by Cal in all five meetings during the past two seasons. ... Senior captain Meagan Malcolm-Peck did not play. Although still not 100 percent from a recent shoulder injury, she was available to play. It's just the fourth time in her career she's missed a game, and the first time she missed a game in which she was healthy enough to play. ... The Buffs had won 18 consecutive games, dating back to last season, when taking the lead into halftime. CU was 13-0 in those situations this season before Friday.

Fast break

What went right

CU's defense was great once again in the first half, helping the Buffs gain a 16-point lead.

What went wrong

Cal seized control of the game during the final 4 minutes of the first half and kept the momentum through the second half.

Star of the game

Brittany Wilson. She buried three 3-pointers in the first half to spark the Buffs and finished with 11 points and five rebounds.

What's next?

CU visits No. 6 Stanford on Sunday.

California 59, Colorado 56

Colorado (15-3)

Roberson 2-8 2-2 7, Hargis 1-2 0-0 2, Kresl 2-5 0-0 5, B. Wilson 3-9 2-2 11, Jeffery 5-14 0-0 10, A.

Wilson 1-2 3-4 5, Sborov 1-1 0-0 3, Reese 3-7 0-0 7, Weston 0-1 0-0 0, Swan 3-5 0-0 6. Totals 21-54 7-8 56.

California (16-2)

Brandon 4-16 5-6 13, Caldwell 2-5 0-1 4, Jemerigbe 1-5 1-2 3, Boyd 5-12 0-1 10, Clarendon 4-12 5-10 13, Pierre 2-5 0-2 6, Gray 3-7 2-6 8, Lyles 1-3 0-0 2, Hartman 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-65 13-28 59.<

Halftime -- Colorado 32-24. 3-Point Goals -- Colorado 7-17 (B. Wilson 3-6, Sborov 1-1, Reese 1-1, Roberson 1-2, Kresl 1-4, Jeffery 0-3), California 2-13 (Pierre 2-4, Lyles 0-2, Clarendon 0-3, Jemerigbe 0-4). Fouled Out -- None. Rebounds -- Colorado 39 (Kresl 7), California 47 (Brandon 11). Assists - Colorado 11 (Jeffery 3), California 8 (Clarendon 5). Total Fouls -- Colorado 22, California 12. A -- 1,908.

Cal women hold off Colorado in basketball

By Stephanie Hammon shammon@bayareanewsgroup.com Contra Costa Times

Posted:

InsideBayArea.com

BERKELEY -- Playing a ranked opponent for the fifth time in six games, the Cal women's basketball team delivered again.

The No. 7 Bears were nearly derailed by early cold shooting but recovered in time to post a 59-56 victory over No. 20 Colorado in front of 1,908 fans at Haas Pavilion on Friday night.

Gennifer Brandon scored 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to keep the Bears tied atop the Pac-12 standings with Stanford. Her block and rebound with 20 seconds left were part of a strong defensive effort to close out the game.

"Our players on the bench kept reminding us that we are playing for a Pac-12 championship," Cal point guard Brittany Boyd said. "I think that motivated us and that gave us the extra lift."

Cal (16-2, 6-1 Pac-12) came into the contest 4-1 in games with the Pac-12's other ranked squads but needed to rally from as many as 16 points down to secure the win.

Brandon, the reigning espnW National Player of the Week, was mostly quiet in the first half but woke up after halftime to finish with her 10th double-double of the season.

Layshia Clarendon added 13 points for Cal as it was able to push the tempo and get stops with its pressure defense in the second half.

"It wasn't the prettiest, but it was a really good team win," Cal coach Lindsay Gottlieb said. "In conference play when you face unbelievable teams like Colorado, to not have a loss on one of your imperfect nights says a lot about us."

Boyd, who finished with 10 points, made one her more electrifying plays down the stretch. She saved a loose ball then drove for a layup that put the Bears up 58-54 with 2:11 left.

The shooting woes started the early for the Bears, and they found themselves in an 11-point hole just eight minutes into the game. While Cal players missed shots, the Buffaloes (15-3, 4-3 Pac-12) looked comfortable on the Bears' home floor.

Eliza Pierre provided two of the Bears' early highlights, hitting 3-pointer that just beat the shot clock and again connecting from long range to pull the Bears within 32-24 at halftime.

Though they shot just 22.9 percent from the floor in the opening period, the Bears took momentum into the locker room and tied the score five minutes after the game resumed.

"I thought we came out in the second half with great energy and we still didn't necessarily make shots, but you had that feeling that we were going to fight through," Gottlieb said. "We were getting (offensive) boards, and we were chipping away."

Cal took its first lead since the early stages of the game on a layup by Brandon with about 10 minutes left.

sunday's game

Utah (10-8, 1-6 Pac-12) at Cal (16-2, 6-1), 2 p.m.

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No. 7 California rallies from 16 points down, edges No. 20 Colorado

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Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. -- California coach Lindsay Gottlieb learned the seventh-ranked Golden Bears are pretty good, even at their worst.

Call it another step in the maturation process for one of the Pac-12's most surprising teams this season.

Gennifer Brandon had 13 points, 10 rebounds and a key block with 20 seconds left as Cal rallied from 16 points down in the first half to beat No. 20 Colorado 59-56 on Friday night.

"This really speaks to our resolve and believing that we can win any which way," Gottlieb said after the Golden Bears overcame their worst shooting half of the season to complete a season sweep of the Buffaloes. "We were exposed in the things that can tend to be our weaknesses one at a time, and they all came at once. But I loved the fact that we hung in there. The team stayed locked in."

The Bears (16-2, 6-1 Pac-12) have done a pretty good job of that lately. The win over Colorado marked Cal's fourth over a ranked team in the last three weeks and fifth overall, a school record.

Cal edged Colorado 53-49 on Jan. 6 in a game decided in the final moments. The Bears needed to sweat out a last-second shot by the Buffaloes in that one, too.

This time it was Cal that needed to come back late.

The Bears were down 32-16 with 4 minutes left in the first half but went on an 18-2 run extending into the second half. Then they went on two more big runs to secure the victory.

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The Buffaloes, off to their best start in nine years, had one final shot but Brittany Wilson's 3-point attempt was off.

"I knew we were going to knock down shots," Boyd said. "Once we saw somebody make a play, it went over and everybody started making plays."

Laysia Clarendon had 13 points and five rebounds while Boyd scored 10 for Cal, which remained tied with Stanford for first place in the Pac-12.

The Bears did it by beating the Buffaloes at their own game.

Colorado went into the game with the Pac-12's top scoring defense and extended its impressive streak of holding opponents under 60 points to nine

straight games. But Cal's defense was equally impressive in the second half, particularly down the stretch when the Buffaloes (15-3, 4-3) were held scoreless over the final 1:49.

"They upped their pressure and they sped us up, but I liked how we responded," Colorado coach Linda Lappe said. "For us to regain our composure in the last 8 minutes was a huge stepping stone for us."

It was the complete opposite in the first half.

Wilson scored nine straight points and Lexy Kresl made a 3-pointer to give Colorado a 32-16 lead. The Buffaloes had little problem against Cal's zone defense, beating the Bears both inside and from the perimeter.

As good as its offense looked, Colorado's defense made the biggest difference in the first half.

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Team Stat Comparison

	COLO	CAL
Points	56	59
FG Made-Attempted	21-54 (.389)	22-65 (.338)
3P Made-Attempted	7-17 (.412)	2-13 (.154)
FT Made-Attempted	7-8 (.875)	13-28 (.464)
Fouls (Tech/Flagrant)	22 (0/0)	12 (0/0)
Largest Lead	16	4

Game Leaders