



COLORADO BUFFALOES

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Guard Chuck Jeffery (23) looks for a driving lane against Stanford.

Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



Brooks: No. 20 Buffs Start Slow, Fall To No. 4 Cardinal

Release: 01/04/2013 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - The Stanford women's basketball team suffered a humbling home loss last weekend and that's where the Cardinal left that unpleasant experience - at home. The Stanford team that showed up Friday night at the Coors Events Center was crisp, focused and physical - and too much for slow-starting Colorado.

The No. 20 Buffaloes played the No. 4 Cardinal even (26-26) in the second half, but, oh, that forgettable first half... In the Pac-12 Conference opener for both teams, Stanford opened strong and stayed in control, downing CU 57-40 and stopping the Buffs' winning streak at 11.

The Buffs' point total was their lowest of the season and tied for the third-fewest at home ever. CU had averaged 74.3 points in its first 12 games this season, but the Cardinal held the Buffs to 28.8 percent from the field (15-for-52), outrebounded them 41-27 and overpowered them in the paint 32-16.

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CU (11-1, 0-1) doesn't have time to dwell on its first loss; No. 7 California visits the CEC on Sunday at noon. "It will show a lot about the character of our team - who we are, what we're about . . . now we just have to be ready to bounce back," CU coach Linda Lappe said. "It's a quick turnaround, but we have to be ready to play a solid 40 minutes."

Lappe said her team would "keep this (Stanford) game in perspective; it only hurts you if you let it. There were a lot of positives" - starting with how the Buffs put a first half that saw them trail 17-2 out of their minds and start fresh in the final 20 minutes.

"I liked how we came out in the second half with a different mindset," Lappe said. "But the beginning of the game basically killed us."

Stanford (12-1, 1-0)) has won or shared the league championship in every season this decade, has posted 79 consecutive conference wins (regular season/conference tournament) and has made Final Four appearances in each of the past five seasons.

And the Cardinal, bolting to a 15-point lead almost before the Buffs could blink, offered hints Friday night that success of that sort might be on the way again.

CU also was seeing big, physical Stanford up close and personal for the first time, and not having their "practice guys" to work against over Christmas break made the Cardinal's visit even more challenging for the Buffs.

"We've got big, tall guys who come in and help us," Lappe said. "That's not an excuse, but it would have helped to practice against what we were going to see . . . (Stanford's) size, athleticism and strength put us on our heels."

Forward Chiney Ogwumike, a 6-4 junior, led Stanford with a game-high 20 points and 11 rebounds. Forward Joslyn Tinkle, a 6-3 senior, and sophomore guard Amber Orrange added 13 points each.

"They've got big bodies . . . we haven't faced that type of height and strength," said CU forward Arielle Roberson, a 6-1 redshirt freshman. "We didn't get that in practice. Like coach said, it was kind of like a shocker."

Roberson, who had been in double figures for all 12 games and entered Friday night as CU's leading scorer (15.7), finally reached double digits (10) on a jump shot with 49.1 seconds to play. Senior guard Chucky Jeffery was CU's leading scorer with 17. None of their teammates reached double figures.

Jeffery attributed her team's slow start to "being tentative" as well as not being able to simulate Stanford's size, strength and athleticism. "We weren't too hyped up; they're a very good defensive team. But we just have to be ready to play at the beginning of the game," Jeffery said.

CU was hoping to get a jump on the Cardinal and get the CEC crowd (5,888) involved - but it didn't work out that way. Stanford, coming off its first loss of the season last weekend (61-35 at home to Connecticut), got a grip on CU and didn't let go.

Tinkle opened the scoring with a three-pointer as the shot clock wound down, Orrange followed with a layup, and the Cardinal was in high gear. CU, meanwhile, was struggling to find first.

It took the Buffs nearly 4 minutes to get on the scoreboard - Rachel Hargis got the first basket at 16:15 - then another 6:11 was required to score again. At the 11:37 mark, Stanford was up 15-2 and CU was 1-for-15 from the field (6.7 percent) and had suffered six blocked shots.

Hargis finally got someone to accompany her in the scoring column when Jeffery hit a jumper from just left of the free throw line with 10:04 left before intermission. She finished with eight first-half points but got little help; in addition to Hargis, Roberson and Jen Reese were the only other Buffs to score. Each had two first-half points, and Roberson's first basket didn't come until 1:24 remained before intermission.

For most of the first half's final 12 minutes, Stanford held a 15-point lead, then increased it to 17 (31-14) in the last minute. CU's 14 first-half points were the fewest ever at home and tied for the third-fewest ever.

The Cardinal scored the second half's first four points and increased its lead to 21 (35-14) before the Buffs got a conventional three-point play from Roberson to open their second-half scoring. But CU still had a mountain to climb and the time to do it was dwindling.

The Buffs pulled to within 15 (37-22) on a steal and layup by Jasmine Sborov with 14:10 remaining, but the Cardinal answered with two free throws by Ogwumike and a layup by Orrange for a 19-point (41-22) advantage.

Jeffery converted a traditional three-point play with 3:30 remaining to pull the Buffs within 12 (49-37). "I don't think we ever stopped believing," Jeffery said. "But it was at that point where, 'OK, gather ourselves and we could cut this lead; we just have to get stops.'"

But the Buffs got no closer than that.

Now comes the task of regrouping swiftly to face the team projected to finish second behind the Cardinal in the Pac-12. Cal, said Lappe, resembles Stanford in the big and physical categories, will play an up tempo style and is experienced. In other words, a tall order on a quick turnaround.

"If we're going to be one of those top teams," Jeffery said, "we have to regroup quickly and get our minds ready for the next game."

It will be here before they know it.

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Women's basketball: No. 20 CU Buffs fall to No. 4 Stanford

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado came into Friday truly believing it had the ability to knock off perennial power Stanford.

Unfortunately for the Buffs, they suffered the same fate that many teams do against the Cardinal.

Fourth-ranked Stanford got off to a blistering start and the 20th-ranked Buffs never recovered, falling 57-40 at Coors Events Center in the Pac-12 Conference opener.

"The beginning of the game basically killed us," Colorado head coach Linda Lappe said.

CU (11-1, 0-1 Pac-12) dropped from the ranks of the unbeaten and Stanford (12-1, 1-0) rebounded from its first loss in impressive fashion. Stanford, which was crushed by No. 1 Connecticut on Dec. 29, extended its win streak against Pac-12 foes to 79 games.

The Buffs had turnovers on their first two possessions of the game and then missed 15 of their first 16 shots as Stanford jumped to a 17-2 lead. Six of those 15 misses were blocked by the Cardinal, including three by Joslyn Tinkle. A 6-foot-3 senior, Tinkle also had seven of Stanford's first nine points in getting the Cardinal off to a good start.

"I just think that we were being kind of tentative," CU senior point guard Chucky Jeffery said. "We can't really simulate that kind of team in practice. We weren't being as aggressive as we should have been. We weren't playing our basketball."

Led by Chiney Ogwumike's 20 points and 11 rebounds, Stanford never let the Buffs back into the game during the final 30 minutes. Tinkle and Amber Orrange each had 13 points for the Cardinal.

Jeffery had a team-high 17 points for the Buffs, but the early deficit was too much to overcome. Colorado trailed 31-14 at the half, marking its lowest scoring first half ever in a home game.

Stanford extended the lead to 35-14 early in the second half before the Buffs went on an 8-2 run to show some life. That cut the deficit to 15 points with 14:11 to play, but that was as close as the Buffs would get until late in the game.

The Cardinal outscored the Buffs 32-16 in the paint and out-rebounded them 41-27.

"They're big bodies," CU freshman Arielle Roberson said. "We haven't really faced that type of strength at all."

Lappe said the Buffs missed having the male students they routinely practice against. Because CU is on holiday break, those guys were not available for practices the past few weeks.

"We have some big, tall practice guys that come in and help us," Lappe said. "I thought that was a factor. It's not an excuse, but it would have helped to be able to practice against what we were going to see against Stanford."

Despite all of that, the Buffs never did quit. Down 17, Jeffery hit a jumper with 4:35 to play and then

converted a three-point play with 3:30 to go, pulling the Buffs within 49-37. Ogwumike sparked a 6-1 spurt, including a steal and layup, to end CU's comeback hopes.

"I think it's a general thing, once you're down its really hard to come back," said Roberson, who had 10 points for the Buffs, extending her school-record streak to 12 consecutive double-digit scoring games to start her career. "It's really hard to do that against a team like Stanford."

After its dreadful start, the Buffs finished with a season-low 28.8 shooting percentage (15 of 52) for the game. CU also missed 10 of its 19 free throws. Stanford made 47.9 percent (23 of 48) of its field goal attempts.

Now looking to recover from its first loss, the Buffs said they were pleased with how they finished the game against Stanford.

"We just have to be ready to play at the beginning of the game," Jeffery said.

Notable

The 40 points ties for the ninth-fewest in CU history, the third-fewest in a home game. ... CU dropped to 2-19 all-time against teams ranked in the top four. ... Stanford has not lost to a Pac-12 foe since Jan. 18, 2009, at California. ... The Buffs came into the night one of just three undefeated teams in the country. Now, Connecticut and No. 3 Duke are the only unbeatens. ... Stanford has held 11 of 13 opponents under 40 percent shooting and six to under 30 percent. ... CU had hit at least 41 percent of its shots in 10 of 11 games and was shooting 44.5 percent on the year coming in. ... Stanford leads the all-time series 8-4 and is now 3-2 in Boulder.

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Fast break

What went right

The Buffs displayed some grit during the final 30 minutes and never gave up.

What went wrong

The first 10 minutes were a disaster. The Buffs missed 15 of their first 16 shots and fell behind 17-2.

Star of the game

Chucky Jeffery. She finished with 17 points and six rebounds to keep the Buffs competitive throughout.

What's next?

CU hosts No. 7 California on Sunday at noon.

No. 4 Stanford 57,

No. 20 Colorado 40

STANFORD

FG FT Reb

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

Ruef 27 0-2 2-2 0-8 4 2 2

Ogwumike 35 8-13 4-4 4-11 0 1 20

Tinkle 32 5-8 2-2 1-6 1 4 13

Kokenis 10 0-2 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

Orrange 34 6-11 1-2 2-5 6 4 13

Greenfield 21 2-4 0-2 0-0 0 2 4

James 3 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 0 0

Lakhian 0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Camp 18 2-4 0-0 0-2 0 1 5

Payne 7 0-0 0-0 2-3 0 1 0

Picknell 0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Samuelson 13 0-4 0-0 0-1 1 1 0

Totals 200 23-48 9-12 11-41 13 16 57

Percentages: FG .479, FT .750.

3-Point Goals: 2-10, .200 (Camp 1-1, Tinkle 1-2, Greenfield 0-1, Ruef 0-1, Kokenis 0-1, Samuelson 0-4).

Team Rebounds: 4.

Blocked Shots: 8 (Tinkle 3, Ogwumike 3, Ruef 2).

Turnovers: 18 (Ruef 4, Camp 3, Ogwumike 3, Orrange 2, Kokenis 2, Greenfield 2, Tinkle, James).

Steals: 5 (Orrange 2, Ogwumike, Ruef, Tinkle).

Technical Fouls: None.

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Roberson 32 3-11 4-8 1-3 0 1 10

Hargis 17 1-2 0-0 2-2 0 2 2

Kresl 16 0-6 0-0 1-3 0 1 0

A Wilson 15 0-2 1-2 1-2 0 1 1

Jeffery 35 7-15 2-5 1-6 2 1 17

B Wilson 13 0-5 0-0 0-1 0 2 0

M Malcolm-Peck 8 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

Sborov 20 1-3 0-0 0-0 1 3 2

Reese 23 2-5 0-2 1-5 2 0 4

Weston 8 0-2 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Swan 13 1-1 2-2 1-1 0 1 4

Totals 200 15-52 9-19 11-27 6 13 40

Percentages: FG .288, FT .474.

3-Point Goals: 1-12, .083 (Jeffery 1-2, Sborov 0-1, Weston 0-1, Roberson 0-2, B. Wilson 0-3, Kresl 0-3).

Team Rebounds: 4.

Blocked Shots: 2 (Kresl 2).

Turnovers: 16 (Jeffery 6, A. Wilson 3, Kresl 2, Swan, Reese, B. Wilson).

Steals: 13 (Kresl 3, Hargis 2, Roberson 2, A. Wilson 2, Jeffery, Sborov, Reese, B. Wilson).

Technical Fouls: None.

Stanford 31 26--57

Colorado 14 26--40

A -- 5,888.

Officials -- Robert Scofield, Shelley Russi, Brian Woods.

The Sun Herald

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Treadwell picks Ole Miss; USM lands QB

No. 4 Stanford cruises past No. 20 Colorado 57-40

Published: January 4, 2013



Stanford guard Amber Orrange, front, pulls in the loose ball in front of Colorado forward Arielle Roberson, back left, and guard Lexy Kresl during the first half of an NCAA women's college basketball game in Boulder, Colo., on Friday, Jan. 4, 2013.

David Zalubowski — AP Photo

By PAT GRAHAM — AP Sports Writer

BOULDER, Colo. — Chiney Ogwumike hardly gave Stanford's big loss in its previous game a second thought.

The forward simply said her team had an off day and an off day against Connecticut can make any team look bad.

What she did worry about was this: Not letting such a lopsided loss happen again. On this night, there was no need to fret.

Ogwumike had 20 points and 11 rebounds, helping No. 4 Stanford get back on track with a 57-40 win over No. 20 Colorado on Friday night in the Cardinal's first game since losing the top spot in the poll.

The Cardinal (12-1, 0-1 Pac-12) never trailed as they rebounded from a 61-35 loss to UConn that not only snapped their nation-leading home winning streak, but ended their six-week run at No. 1.

"We know what we're capable of," Ogwumike said. "We know what our expectations are. We're trying to meet that. But I think sometimes early success can make you complacent. We needed a wakeup call, a reality check."

UConn definitely provided it, showing the Cardinal they still have work to do. And they went about fixing their flaws against Colorado.

"Every team has a bad night and we had a bad night. It just happened to be against UConn, so it was exposed," Ogwumike said. "I think it was good because it grounded us. This is a great starting point for us, a new chance to start a new season."

The Cardinal began a quest for a 13th straight conference title on the right note. They also ran their winning streak against league opponents to 79 straight.

"We were ready to play," coach Tara VanDerveer said. "We came in and kind of took it to them the way some teams have taken it to us."

Stanford's swarming defense prevented Colorado (11-1, 0-1) from getting into any sort of offensive flow, as the Buffaloes scored just 14 points in the first half - the team's fewest-ever at home. With Colorado's loss, UConn and Duke are now the only undefeated teams in Division I.

Chucky Jeffery led Colorado with 17 points, while the team's leading scorer, Arielle Roberson, was held largely in check and finished with 10.

The Cardinal didn't allow altitude or aggravation to play a factor in this game, putting any thoughts of the thrashing by UConn out of their minds. Then again, Stanford hasn't lost back-to-back games since December 2010.

Coming into this contest, the Buffs figured they had the perfect recipe for an upset, a blueprint provided by UConn - bully Stanford around on the boards.

It didn't quite work out that way. The Cardinal turned out to be the aggressors, outrebounding the Buffs 41-27.

This was simply how the night went for Stanford: Joslyn Tinkle hit a long 3-pointer with the shot clock almost at zero on the team's opening possession. The Cardinal quickly jumped out to a 17-2 lead midway through the first quarter and never really looked back, taking a 31-14 lead at halftime.

From there, Colorado was trying to avoid some dubious distinctions. Namely, setting a record for fewest points in a game.

But with a late surge, the Buffs avoided that piece of history. Their record for fewest points in a contest was 32 at Texas on Jan. 17, 2009. Jeffery helped CU sidestep that on a short jumper with 4:44 remaining, slicing Stanford's lead to 49-34.

Jeffery then hit another shot - and was fouled on the play - to cut the lead to 12 and get the crowd revved up.

Ogwumike quickly silenced the audience with two layups in a 14-second span to end any idea of a comeback.

Colorado simply dug too deep of an early hole.

"We were tentative," Buffs coach Linda Lappe said. "We were trying almost too hard at times, but in the wrong way."

A member of the preseason All-America team, Ogwumike was as good as advertised, hitting jumpers in the lane, driving hard to the hoop and displaying a soft baby hook with her left hand. No matter who the Buffaloes assigned to Ogwumike, she simply couldn't be stopped.

And when Ogwumike wasn't bulldozing through the Buffs, Tinkle went to work as she got back on track after a lackluster performance against the Huskies. Tinkle and Amber Orrange each finished with 13 points.

"I said this to the team, 'Last week, we don't want that to determine the team we are. It's all about how we react. How we bounce back from it,'" Tinkle said. "I think we were embarrassed because that's not the kind of team we are."

No, they're more of a blue-collar team, as Ogwumike has taken to calling them, paying close attention to all the little things.

"We came out from the get-go. We came out to play," Tinkle said.

Although the Cardinal have an impressive conference streak going - they haven't lost to a league foe since falling at Cal on Jan. 18, 2009 - things may not be as easy this time around. After all, the league is rapidly improving, with four teams ranked in the top 25 for the first time since 2006.

With Lappe now leading the squad, the Buffs are ever so steadily becoming a formidable opponent again. They appeared in the rankings for the first time in five years and have their sights set on making the NCAA tournament field, which they haven't done since 2004.

However, this wasn't exactly the performance Lappe had in mind as Stanford returned to playing like, well, Stanford.

It doesn't get any easier as the Buffs host seventh-ranked California on Sunday.

"In this game, we learned a lot about ourselves," Roberson said. "Just because they're a bigger team and their name is Stanford, (doesn't mean) we can't play. If anything, we should believe more in ourselves. ...

"We can take that into Cal."

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