



# COLORADO BUFFALOES

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*CU senior Chucky Jeffery looks for driving room Sunday against Cal.*

Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



## Brooks: Fundamental Failure Costs CU Against Cal

Release: 01/06/2013 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**BOULDER** - Winning close basketball games usually starts with fundamentals, and a failure in one fundamental area ended No. 20 Colorado's chances Sunday afternoon against No. 7 California.

Failing to box out on Cal's late free throw attempts, CU watched its opportunity to split weekend games against a pair of Top Ten Pac-12 Conference opponents fizzle at the Coors Events Center.

It was Cal 53, CU 49 - and it was difficult to stomach for Buffaloes coach Linda Lappe.

"Boxing out was the difference in the game," said Lappe, whose team lost 57-40 two days earlier to No. 4 Stanford. "We were getting shoved under the rim; they were lower than us and quicker than us . . . they took us out of position and were athletic enough to go up and grab the rebound."

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The Buffs were outrebounded 43-34, with the most critical lapse on the boards occurring in the game's final 15 seconds. Ahead by two and three points at the time, the Bears snared two offensive rebounds after missed free throws, maintaining possession each time and foiling the home team's bid for its first Pac-12 win.

After opening 11-0 and earning its highest national ranking since the 2003-04 season, CU dropped to 11-2 overall and 0-2 in conference play. Cal improved to 12-1, 2-0. The Buffs play their third game in five days, returning to the Events Center on Tuesday at 6 p.m. to face Utah.

Chuck Jeffery (13) and Arielle Roberson (11) were the only two Buffs players in double figures. The Bears were led by Brittany Boyd's 15 points, with Reshanda Gray and Afure Jemerigbe adding 10 each.

With the exceptions of its breakdown in boxing out and encountering a pair of shooting droughts, much of what CU did was right. "But like coach said, we can't do everything well except something; we have to do everything well when we play a top-tier team in the country," Jeffery said. "We know the things that are going to get us beat."

What took the Buffs down Sunday began with 15.6 seconds to play and the Bears ahead 51-49. Cal guard Layshia Clarendon missed a pair of free throws, but Jeffery and Talia Caldwell battled for the second miss rebound and a tie ball was called.

With 13.2 seconds left, the possession arrow favored Cal. When the inbounds pass was made, Clarendon was fouled again - this time by Rachel Hargis - and this time she made one of two to give the Bears a 52-49 edge with 10.3 seconds to play.

Lappe called time out, drew up a play - but a shot was never taken. Jeffery turned it over on a drive to the basket and a back-side screen for a three-point attempt by Lexy Kresl never developed.

"Obviously we didn't get quite that far," Lappe said. "Even if we had, it wouldn't have been a great screen either . . . we were rushing a little bit too much."

Cal got possession on the turnover and CU's box out problem persisted. Fouled with 4.5 seconds showing, Boyd missed both free throws but Afure Jemerigbe controlled the second rebound. With 2 seconds to play, she hit one of two free throws, giving the Bears a four-point lead and the win.

"We had more opportunities than we can ever expect," Jeffery said. "We have to bear down and box out . . . get a rebound. They gave us opportunities to rebound and we have to get tougher."

Lappe said the Buffs were "solid defensively for the second (game) in a row. Defense is a strong point for us, but you finish your defense with a defensive rebound."

The Buffs went through droughts in each half, scoring just three points during a 7:31 stretch in the first 20 minutes then suffering through an 11:46 span in the second half when they hit only two of 17 field goal attempts. CU finished at 35.2 percent from the field (19-for-54) and was held to under 50 points in consecutive home games for the first time since the 1974-75 season.

But the Buffs' defense kept them competitive. The Bears were held to 35.8 percent from the field (19-for-53), and Cal coach Lindsay Gottlieb left Boulder "proud of my team's grit . . . Colorado's an excellent team - a legitimate Top 20 team, very, very talented. We knew it was going to be a battle."

Defense, said Jeffery, "was the main reason we were in the game. There were a couple of stretches where we weren't scoring, but they weren't either . . . we were getting stops and that's what it takes."

Sunday's first half immediately took on a defensive flavor and that didn't change; the score was tied 24-24 at intermission. But for the Buffs, that was an improvement over their first-half production (14) against Stanford on Friday night.

On Sunday afternoon, neither CU nor Cal could manage more than a four-point advantage in the first 20 minutes. The Buffs got six consecutive points from Jeffery to start the second half. But as in the first half, creating any separation was a problem for both teams until Cal, whose only loss was at then-No. 4 Duke (77-63)

on Dec. 2, increased its lead to five (43-38) on a baseline jumper by Eliza Pierre with 7:35 to play. And when Caldwell hit one of two free throws with 6:59 remaining, the Buffs faced a six-point deficit (44-38).

A short jumper in the lane by Clarendon put Cal up 46-38, and with 6 minutes left Lappe called a timeout as her team's offensive malaise continued. Reese finally snapped the dry spell with a turnaround jumper from the right baseline (46-40) and Roberson followed with her second trey of the game to cut Cal's lead to 46-43 at the 4:41 mark.

But one of two foul shots by Boyd and a put-back by Gray on Boyd's second miss sent the Bears back ahead by six (49-43), and one of two free throws by Clarendon made the Buffs' deficit seven (50-43).

Cal's eight-point lead (51-43) returned when Caldwell hit the first of two foul shots at the 2:53 mark - and time was slipping away for CU. A Jeffery basket with 1:59 left brought the Buffs to 51-45. Layups by Jeffery and Brittany Wilson pulled them to 51-49 with 16.7 remaining.

Next came the Buffs' fundamental flops in boxing out - and ultimately the loss.

"We need to learn how to push back against bigger and stronger post players," Roberson said. "I think that's what happened on the rebounds off the free throws . . . I think when it comes down to it, we have to put in a lot of effort and we have to find a way."

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*CU coach Linda Lappe and her Buffs face their third Pac-12 game in five days on Tuesday.*

*Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com*



## Buffs Looking For Turnaround After 0-2 Pac-12 Start

Release: 01/07/2013 Courtesy: Caryn Maconi, CUBuffs.com

**BOULDER** - The Colorado women's basketball team started the season with 11 straight non-conference wins, in the process defeating then-No. 8 Louisville to become ranked for the first time since 2008.

But in their first weekend of Pac-12 Conference play, the No. 20/25 Buffaloes were in for a rude awakening.

In its first conference games of the season, CU fell at home to both No. 4/3 Stanford and No. 7 California to kick off conference play 0-2.

The Buffs dropped a 57-40 loss to the Cardinal on Friday with a rocky first half, and though they kept pace with the Golden Bears for most of Sunday's matchup, their 34 rebounds compared to Cal's ultimately 43 cost them the game. Particularly troubling for CU was thwarting any chance for a late comeback by not boxing out on missed free throws in the final seconds of Sunday's game.

But head coach Linda Lappe and her players can't afford to dwell on the losses. The team has just one day to recover from a tough weekend before taking on the University of Utah on Tuesday, also at home. The rest of January will be no easier, with Arizona State and Arizona coming up quickly before rematches against Stanford

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and Cal on the road.

"If you want to be considered an elite program, you've got to learn how to (bounce back)," said redshirt freshman forward Arielle Roberson, who scored 11 against Cal and 10 against Stanford. "We've just got to regroup (Monday) in practice and take the focus off these last two games ... just focus on ourselves and not on the past."

And though it may not be a great feeling right now, there could be some benefits to facing such tough competition at the very beginning of conference play.

"Our confidence isn't lost, and I think these games are great tests for the rest of the conference," Roberson said. "We can only grow and learn from it."

Lappe agreed: "I think playing the best two teams early is going to make us better. We were better (Sunday) than we were against Stanford, and we were better in the second half of the Stanford game than we were in the first half. Every single opportunity that we have to play quality teams is going to help our team get better."

The Buffs did improve as they gained focus throughout the weekend's games. After starting slow against Stanford and falling behind 16 by halftime, the Buffs played the Cardinal even in the second half. The team also improved in free throws from 47.4 percent against the Cardinal to 70 percent against Cal, and in three-pointers from 8.3 to 36.4 percent.

Senior guard Chucky Jeffery, Colorado's leading scorer and rebounder for the weekend, was still frustrated with the Buffs' ability to compete against the Golden Bears in all areas except for rebounding.

"Like coach said, we can't do everything well except something," Jeffery said. "You have to do everything well when you play a top-10 team in the country, that's just how it is."

Regardless of the competition, the Buffs are not making excuses for their poor free throws against Stanford or their rebounding struggles against Cal.

"What it comes down to is just a lot of effort," Roberson said. "We've just got to find a way."

For sophomore guard Lexy Kresl, the weekend served as a lesson in fast-paced play and an early indicator of the effort required to compete in the Pac-12.

"It just kind of sets the tone for how hard we need to play so we don't stoop down to our competition against other teams," Kresl said. "We can't have a stagnant offense ... we just have to keep moving and keep trying to push the ball, and just make smart decisions."

At the start of the season, the Buffs set a goal to be "uncommon," to make a name for themselves and do something CU has not done in a long time. Their non-conference performance certainly shows that potential - but they'll still have to prove it in the Pac-12.

Conference play continues with back-to-back games against Utah, the first on Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Coors Events Center, then on Sunday at 3 p.m. MST in Salt Lake City in the Buffs' first Pac-12 road game of the season.

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SHOW MENU





## Colorado unable to capitalize on Cal poor shooting at line

By Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

A good chunk of Colorado women's basketball practices are spent working on boxing out and getting rebounds, but on Sunday the Buffs learned something.

"We obviously need to work on it a little bit more," head coach Linda Lappe said.

The 20th-ranked Buffaloes took No. 7 California down to the wire, but failure to snag key rebounds in the final seconds cost CU in a 53-49 loss at Coors Events Center.

CU (11-2, 0-2 Pac-12) pulled within 51-49 with 16.7 seconds to play. Cal (12-1, 2-0) then missed six of eight free throws in the final 16 seconds, but CU couldn't capitalize.

In fact, Cal was just 5-for-14 from the line during the final 4:24 and 11-for-26 in the game.

"We had more opportunities than we can ever expect," said CU senior Chucky Jeffery, who had a team-high 13 points and eight rebounds. "We have to bear down and box out, that's all it comes down to. They gave us opportunities, even down the stretch. We've got to get tougher." After a Brittany Wilson bucket pulled CU within 51-49 in the closing seconds, the Buffs fouled Cal guard Layshia Clarendon, who then missed both free throws. That's exactly what the Buffs wanted, but Cal got the rebound, Clarendon was fouled again and then went 1-for-2 to extend the lead to 52-49.

CU raced down the court and hoped for a backside screen and a Lexy Kresl 3-pointer in the corner, but Jeffery lost the ball out of bounds with 5.2 seconds to play.

"We didn't quite get that far (to get the ball to Kresl) and even if we had, it wouldn't have been a great screen on the backside," Lappe said. "We were rushing a little bit too much."

That forced the Buffs to foul again. This time, Cal's Brittany Boyd missed both free throws, but the Bears got the rebound again and drilled a final free throw to seal the game.

Cal out-rebounded the Buffs 43-34, with 17 of the Bears' rebounds coming on the offensive end.

"To me it was the difference in the entire game," said Lappe, whose team came into the game out-rebounding opponents by an average of 11.9 per game. "We've been telling our team that, yes, we're a pretty good rebounding team, but we're not good enough. We've been doing rebounding drills every single day because we knew what was to come. We knew Stanford and Cal were going to be first (on the Pac-12 schedule). We knew they were the best two rebounding teams."

Offensively, the Buffs struggled throughout. They made just 35.2 percent of their shots (19 of 54) and went through two long stretches of poor shooting that killed them.

Midway through the first half, CU went through a stretch of 7:31 in which it went 1-for-10 from the floor, and had as many turnovers (three) as points.

Despite that, the game was tied at 24 at halftime, because CU's drought coincided with Cal scoring just four

points in a stretch of 8:52.

The Buffs opened the second half strong, taking a 32-30 lead on an Ashley Wilson bucket. After that basket, however, the Buffs went 2-for-17 from the floor in the next 11:46. Cal never got the lead above eight points, though, because of CU's defense.

"Defense is the most important part of the game," Jeffery said. "That's the main reason we were in the game. There were a couple stretches where we weren't scoring, but they weren't scoring either. We realized we weren't getting shots, but we had to do it on the defensive end, because it could have got out of hand. We were getting stops and that's what it takes and once our shots started to fall, we could get back into it a little bit." CU held Clarendon, Cal's leading scorer, to just five points. The Buffs also shut down 6-foot-2 forward Gennifer Brandon and 6-3 center Talia Caldwell, holding them to a combined four points, all by Caldwell. That duo came in averaging a combined 23.7 points per game.

None of what CU did, however, was enough to earn its second top-10 win of the season.

"We've got to know that the things that are going to get us beat, we have to get better at, like rebounding," Jeffery said. "Like coach said, we can't do everything well except something; you have to do everything well when you play a top 10 team in the country. That's just how it is."

## Notable

The Buffs, who lost 57-40 to No. 4 Stanford on Friday, were held below 50 points in back-to-back home games for the first time since the program's second and third home games ever, in 1975. Those games were held at Balch Fieldhouse. ... Arielle Roberson had 11 points and six rebounds for the Buffs, while Rachel Hargis had six points, seven rebounds, three blocks and two steals. ... Boyd went down with a knee injury early in the first half, but scored 13 of her game-high 15 points after returning to the floor. ... The Buffs have lost 19 in a row to top-7 teams and are 9-40 all-time against teams ranked that high. ... CU is 1-10 the last 11 times it has been out-rebounded. Four of those games have been against Cal. ... CU leads the all-time series 5-4, but Cal is 4-0 against the Buffs since the start of last season. ... Cal improved to 10-2 in its last 12 Pac-12 games away from home, with the only losses coming against Stanford.

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.

No. 7 California 53, No. 20 Colorado 49

## CALIFORNIA (12-1)

Brandon 0-6 0-0 0, Caldwell 1-3 2-5 4, Jemerigbe 4-7 1-2 10, Boyd 5-15 3-6 15, Clarendon 1-8 3-9 5, Pierre 3-5 0-0 7, Gray 4-8 2-4 10, Lyles 0-0 0-0 0, Hartman 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 19-53 11-26 53.

## COLORADO (11-2)

Roberson 4-9 1-1 11, Hargis 2-7 2-3 6, Kresl 1-4 4-5 6, B. Wilson 1-4 0-1 2, Jeffery 6-12 0-0 13, A. Wilson 1-2 0-0 2, M. Malcolm-Peck 1-2 0-0 3, Sborov 0-3 0-0 0, Reese 3-9 0-0 6, Weston 0-0 0-0 0, Swan 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 19-54 7-10 49.

Halftime -- Tied 24-24. 3-Point Goals -- California 4-13 (Boyd 2-6, Pierre 1-2, Jemerigbe 1-2, Clarendon

0-3), Colorado 4-11 (Roberson 2-2, M. Malcolm-Peck 1-1, Jeffery 1-2, Sborov 0-1, Reese 0-1, B. Wilson 0-2, Kresl 0-2). Fouled Out -- B. Wilson. Rebounds -- California 43 (Brandon 11), Colorado 34 (Jeffery 8). Assists -- California 8 (Boyd 6), Colorado 13 (Jeffery 4). Total Fouls -- California 13, Colorado 23. Technical -- Jemerigbe. A -- 3,045.



## No. 7 Cal women edge No. 20 Colorado in Boulder

By DENNIS GEORGATOS Associated Press The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER, Colo.—Brittany Boyd scored 15 points, and No. 7 California got some timely rebounding to withstand a late surge by No. 20 Colorado for a 53-49 victory Sunday.

Afure Jemerigbe and Reshanda Gray added 10 points apiece for Cal (12-1, 2-0 Pac-12 Conference), which won its sixth straight.

Chucky Jeffery score 10 of her 13 points in the second half, leading a rally by Colorado (11-2, 0-2 Pac-12). But she also committed a key turnover in the final seconds that denied the Buffaloes a chance to try to tie the game. It was the second consecutive loss in the league for Colorado after an 11-0 start in non-conference play.

Arielle Roberson added 11 points for Colorado, which lost to No. 4 Stanford in the Pac-12 opener Friday.

With Cal leading 51-43 with less than three minutes left, Colorado ran off six straight points, capped by Brittany Wilson's fast-break layup with 16.7 seconds left.

Cal's Layshia Clarendon missed two free throws, but Talia Caldwell managed to tie up Jeffery on the rebound, and the possession arrow gave the ball back to Cal. Clarendon was again fouled with 10.3 seconds left, and she made one of two.

But Colorado never got a chance to attempt a tying 3-pointer when Jeffery turned the ball over with 5.2 seconds to go.

Colorado again missed two free throws—this time by Boyd—but Jemerigbe pulled down the offensive rebound. Jemerigbe made a foul shot to finally clinch the victory.