



# COLORADO BUFFALOES

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Senior Sabatino Chen looks for driving room Saturday against Oregon State.  
Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



## Bufs Slip Badly, Fall To Last-Place Oregon State

Release: 03/09/2013 Courtesy: Caryn Maconi, CUBuffs.com

BOULDER - Two days after stepping up and defeating No. 19 Oregon, Colorado took a step down on Saturday afternoon, losing to the Pac-12 Conference team in last-place team entering the final weekend of play. But the Buffaloes won't have to wait long to avenge the loss.

Oregon State upset CU 64-58 at the Coors Events Center in the final regular-season game for both teams. CU defeated OSU 72-68 last month in Corvallis, and the Buffs will get the chance to play the Beavers again next week in the Pac-12 Tournament in Las Vegas. With Washington State upsetting Southern California on Saturday, Oregon State becomes the tournament's No. 12 seed, drawing No. 5 CU on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. MST at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

The last time the Buffs ended the regular season with an opponent they would play five days later occurred in the 2009-10 season. CU defeated Texas Tech at the CEC, then lost

### BUFFALO EXTRAS



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03/10/2013



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Photo Gallery

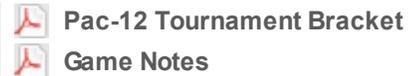


Box Score



Quotes

to the Red Raiders in the first round of the Big 12 Conference Tournament.



CU shot only 35 percent from the field Saturday and had only one player - Spencer Dinwiddie with 18 - in double figures. The Beavers shot 43.5 percent and out-rebounded the Buffs 38-32.

The Buffaloes finished with a 20-10 overall record and a 10-8 league mark, while the Beavers closed out at 14-17 and 4-14. Colorado's 20-win season is its third straight, a school record for three consecutive years and the first time a CU coach has recorded three 20-win seasons.

But third-year Buffs coach Tad Boyle wasn't happy.

"I want to apologize to everyone in this building for our performance," Boyle said to the crowd before recognizing senior Sabatino Chen and graduating junior Shane Harris-Tunks at the post-game Senior Day ceremony. Chen scored nine points while Harris-Tunks added four.

The Buffs got off to a sloppy start, committing five turnovers in the first 10 minutes compared to the Beavers' one. At the 12:42 mark, a three by OSU's Victor Robbins followed by an Eric Moreland jumper gave the Beavers a 14-9 lead.

But Colorado, led by Chen, responded. Over the next 2.5 minutes, Chen scored on a layup, assisted a Xavier Talton layup, then grabbed a steal and turned that into a three-pointer to put the Buffs up 16-14. CU held onto the lead for the rest of the half and led 29-27 at the break.

Boyle said Chen did just what he should offensively against OSU's zone defense.

"Usually when a team plays zone, they're playing because they don't feel like they can guard you man-to-man, so you let them off the hook by taking quick jump shots and by not attacking and moving the ball," Boyle said. "Sabatino, with all the things he gives you, [is] the epitome of what we want young men to be as student athletes at the University of Colorado."

At intermission, Chen led in scoring with seven points, the first time in his career he has been the Buffs' leading scorer at half.

Out of the locker room, though, OSU found its momentum. The Beavers went on a 15-6 run to take a 42-33 lead with 15:08 remaining, and the Buffs spent the rest of the half trying to recover.

Sophomore guard Askia Booker, who ended the game with eight points and no rebounds, said that recovery attempt just didn't have enough energy.

"There was no sense of urgency whatsoever," Booker said. "Especially on the defensive end, and that's where we're going to win games."

While the Beavers built their largest lead of the game - eight at the 10:15 mark - the Buffs did put together a late comeback attempt in the final two minutes that nearly made up the difference. CU was down 56-50 with 2:10 remaining when a Dinwiddie trey closed the gap to three.

Dinwiddie was the only scorer for CU in those final minutes. While he would hit another basket with 51.2 seconds on the clock and make three of three free throws with 28.8 remaining, OSU's Roberto Nelson responded on nearly every Beaver possession.

By the final buzzer, the Buffs were down six to close out their regular season with a rare home loss to the Pac-12's lowest-ranked team. CU is 12-3 in the CEC this season and 44-7 at home in Boyle's three season. Of the three home conference games CU has dropped this season (UCLA, Arizona State, Oregon State), Saturday's was by the largest scoring margin.

Boyle made no excuses for his team's performance, saying that while he'd already talked to his players about his disappointment, he'd take the blame for the loss outside of the locker room.

"This one is on me as head coach. We weren't ready to play today, mentally, emotionally or physically," Boyle said. "You get what you deserve in life, and we got what we deserved."

The 2011-12 Buffs were in a similar position at the end of the regular season, as they dropped their final two contests against Oregon and Oregon State on the road and nearly missed out on an NCAA Tournament berth. Knowing that they would need a conference tournament championship to earn their spot, they responded and took home the Pac-12 Conference Tournament trophy.

Dinwiddie said last year's postseason story was all about the seniors.

"We just kind of banded together as brothers, we understood what we were playing for," Dinwiddie said. "We had four seniors on the roster that were never going to have this opportunity again . . . so we just wanted to give them a special time."

This year's Buffs are young. Just two players - Chen, a senior, and Shane Harris-Tunks, who is graduating in May as a redshirt junior - see this postseason as the beginning of the end.

And while Boyle won't reflect for long on last season's glory, he said his team will enter Wednesday's Pac-12 Tournament first round with a very similar mindset.

"We are going to approach the Pac-12 Tournament this year just like we did last year," Boyle said. "We have to get ready to play whoever is placed in front of us. It is not about winning four games in four days, it is about beating whoever our first round opponent is and living for another day."

SHOW MENU



## Men's basketball: CU Buffs' young stars struggle against Oregon State

By Ryan Thorburn *Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera*

Posted:

Buffzone.com

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It wasn't a good freshman or sophomore day at the Coors Events Center either.

Role players Sabatino Chen (nine points, two assists) and Shane Harris-Tunks (four points, two rebounds) did their best to spark the Buffs in their final games at the Coors Events Center.

But the young stars on the team struggled during Colorado's disappointing 64-58 loss to Oregon State on Saturday.

Starting sophomore guards Spencer Dinwiddie and Askia Booker were a combined 7-for-25 from the field against the Beavers' 2-3 zone defense.

Xavier Johnson, who scored a career-high 22 points and was 7-for-7 from the floor in the 76-53 win over No. 19 Oregon on Thursday, had six points, seven rebounds and four fouls that had three officials inside his head.

Johnson had to be separated from counterpart Devon Collier during a timeout and was visibly upset after the game.

"When things go well, Xavier is fine. When things don't go well, Xavier has problems emotionally, mentally ... that's maturity," CU head coach Tad Boyle said. "It's a process that these young men have to go through. Pressure breaks pipes and everybody handles it differently.

"Xavier was emotionally taken out of the game and mentally taken out of the game, and that's something that happens when he doesn't have success. That's something that he'll have to get better at and he will."

Roberson still king

Andre Roberson has missed CU's last two games with what CU describes as a viral illness. But the 6-7 junior forward is still the nation's leading rebounder (11.5 rpg).

O.D. Anosike was unable to catch Roberson this week and won't have any more opportunities to improve is average of 11.4 rebounder per game. The 6-8 senior grabbed 10 games during Siena's season-ending loss to Niagara in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament on Saturday.

Without Roberson, the Buffs were out-rebounded 38-32 by the long and athletic Beavers.

"Right now we're without him. No excuses," Boyle said of life without Roberson. "I'm not going down that road."

Boyle doesn't know if Roberson will be available for Wednesday's rematch between CU and Oregon State at the Pac-12 Tournament in Las Vegas.

"If Andre plays we're going to play better. We play better with him than without him," Booker said. "Andre is just a big asset to our team and hopefully we can get him back as soon as possible. I think we will."

## Hurting at home

Boyle is 44-7 in Boulder as CU's head coach, but he still can't get over the fact that the Buffs lost three Pac-12 games at the Coors Events Center this season and finished three games behind outright regular-season champion UCLA.

The Bruins and Arizona State also walked off Sox Walseth Court winners.

"Losses like (Oregon State), losses to Arizona State, losses to UCLA are unacceptable," Boyle said. "It makes me sick to my stomach that we can't give our fans more than we gave (Saturday) and those other two games. They deserve more than they're getting."

## Zoned out

The Buffs shot 35 percent from the field and were just 6-for-21 from the 3-point line. CU only got to the foul line 11 times.

"Usually when a team plays zone they're playing you zone because they don't feel like they can guard you man to man," Boyle said. "And so you let them off the hook by taking quick shots, you let them off the hook by not attacking inside and moving the ball and all of the things we look to do against zones."

The Beavers shot 51.9 percent in the second half and finished with 34 points in the paint.

## Notable

Oregon State improved to 1-6 in Boulder but CU still leads the all-time series by an 8-4 margin. ... The crowd of 10,105 was the 12th of 10,000 or more this season at the Coors Events Center and the season attendance total of 155,884 smashed the program record.

Follow Ryan on Twitter:

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## Tad Boyle apologizes to home crowd after disappointing loss

Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

DailyCamera.com

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Senior Day speeches usually don't begin with an apology.

Tad Boyle tried to take the blame for Colorado's deflating 64-58 loss to Oregon State before handing the postgame microphone to Sabatino Chen and Shane Harris-Tunks on Saturday after their final games in front of a crowd of 10,105 at the Coors Events Center.

"This loss is on me as a head coach. Our team wasn't ready to play today -- emotionally or mentally or physically. We laid an egg. It's unfortunate but it's reality, and we've got to live with it," Boyle said. "I don't feel sorry for myself, I don't feel sorry for anybody in that locker room except for Shane Harris-Tunks and Sabatino Chen because they deserved more than what they got out of today.

"I told them both they're going to get over this because they're both quality young men, but they'll never forget it. Their coach and their teammates let them down."

CU's third home loss of the season came less than 48 hours after the team's impressive 76-53 romp over No. 19 Oregon.

This time the Buffs clearly missed Andre Roberson, the nation's leading rebounder, who sat out his second consecutive game with a viral illness.

Oregon State forward Eric Moreland scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds with center Joe Burton adding 10 points and 10 rebounds.

"Roberson is a special player," Burton said. "To be honest, I always watch him play because I kind of learn stuff from him, like getting in there, how he uses his body. With him out, he's like the leader on the court. ...

"Losing him is like losing a leg."

The Buffs (20-10, 10-8) will be the No. 5 seed at the Pac-12 Tournament and will get a rematch with the No. 12 Beavers (14-17, 4-14) Wednesday at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas (3:30 p.m., Pac-12 Network).

Will Roberson be back to give the Buffs a much-needed boost?

"I don't have the answer to that question," Boyle said. "I don't know, I'm not going to pretend to know. I expect him back. Andre would have played today if he could have."

Without the dynamic 6-7 forward, CU struggled in the paint (34-26 scoring disadvantage) and on the glass (38-32 rebounding disadvantage).

Oregon State opened the second half with a 15-6 run and led 42-35 on a 3-pointer by Olaf Schaftenaar with 15:08 remaining.

The visitors stretched their cushion to eight points (49-41) after back-to-back field goals by Moreland, a long

and athletic 6-10 sophomore.

"There was no sense of urgency whatsoever," Askia Booker said after scoring eight points on 3-for-13 with no rebounds in 29 minutes. "Especially on the defensive end, and that's where we're going to win games and that's the reason why we lost."

The Beavers shot 51.9 percent in second half and Roberto Nelson (15 points, all after halftime) had an answer for every run the home team made down the stretch.

A 3-pointer by Spencer Dinwiddie made it a one-possession game (56-53) with 2:01 remaining, but Nelson immediately countered with a layup after catching a length-of-the-court pass.

After three free throws by Dinwiddie cut the deficit to 60-58, Nelson put the dagger in with 15.1 seconds left.

"It was fantastic to watch him make plays out there," Oregon State head coach Craig Robinson said. "He let his offense come to him in the second half. That's the sign of a guy who really knows the game.

Dinwiddie was the only CU player to score in double figures with 18 points on 4-for-12 shooting from the field.

The Buffs were 21-for-60 (35 percent) shooting against the Beavers' 2-3 zone defense. That included a 6-for-21 (28.6 percent) performance behind the arc.

"It's a zone, they pack it in, that's what it's designed to do. They make it hard for you to get dribble penetration," Dinwiddie said. "We were having a hard time getting in the lane and we clearly didn't shoot threes well at all. When you can't hit shots or get to the line, it's going to be a hard night."

At least Boyle and his staff didn't have to spend a long night worrying about the next scouting report.

CU, which won 72-68 on Feb. 10 in Corvallis, will try to win the rubber match with Oregon State as the Buffs begin defense of their Pac-12 Tournament championship.

"I don't know if we have to win the tournament or not, all that is up in the air," Dinwiddie said. "If you win the next game, you're going to have a happy ending to the season. That's just our goal."

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Oregon State 64, Colorado 58

OREGON STATE

FG FT Reb

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

Burton 28 5-12 0-0 1-10 2 1 10

Moreland 35 7-8 2-2 2-10 2 3 17

Collier 29 3-5 1-1 3-6 0 2 7

Barton 19 2-8 0-0 0-1 1 0 5

Nelson 33 5-13 3-4 1-4 3 2 15

Robbins 6 1-2 0-0 0-0 0 0 3

Starks 22 1-4 2-2 0-0 2 0 4

Morris-Walker 5 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Schaftenaar 14 1-2 0-0 1-1 1 0 3

Reid 9 0-3 0-0 2-4 0 2 0

Totals 200 25-57 8-9 12-38 11 11 64

Percentages: FG .439, FT .889.

3-Point Goals: 6-14, .429 (Nelson 2-4, Moreland 1-1, Schaftenaar 1-1, Robbins 1-2, Barton 1-5, Starks 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Moreland 2, Burton).

Turnovers: 14 (Collier 3, Nelson 2, Burton 2, Moreland 2, Barton 2, Starks, Schaftenaar).

Steals: 1 (Nelson).

Technical Fouls: None.

## COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Johnson 28 3-7 0-0 4-7 0 4 6

Harris-Tunks 16 2-3 0-0 0-2 1 4 4

Booker 29 3-13 0-0 0-0 3 2 8

Chen 33 4-9 0-0 1-2 2 3 9

Dinwiddie 32 4-12 8-9 0-5 2 1 18

Talton 12 1-3 0-0 0-2 1 0 2

Stalzer 11 1-2 0-0 1-1 2 0 2

Adams 15 1-5 0-0 2-3 1 1 3

Scott 24 2-6 2-2 2-6 1 1 6

Totals 200 21-60 10-11 12-32 13 16 58

Percentages: FG .350, FT .909.

3-Point Goals: 6-21, .286 (Booker 2-7, Dinwiddie 2-8, Adams 1-1, Chen 1-3, Talton 0-1, Stalzer 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 4.

Blocked Shots: 5 (Johnson 3, Scott, Dinwiddie).

Turnovers: 11 (Johnson 3, Dinwiddie 2, Harris-Tunks 2, Talton, Chen, Booker).

Steals: 9 (Dinwiddie 5, Booker 2, Chen, Harris-Tunks).

Technical Fouls: None.

Oregon St. 27 37--64

Colorado 29 29--58

A -- 10,105.

Officials -- Tony Padilla, Gregory Nixon, Tom Nally.

Fast break

What went right

Not much. Spencer Dinwiddie scored the bulk of his 18 points down the stretch during the Buffs' failed comeback bid.

What went wrong

CU did not show up ready to play on Senior Day and allowed Oregon State to shoot 51.9 percent in the second rebound and win the battle of the boards 38-32.

Star of the game

Eric Moreland took full of Andre Roberson's absence by scoring 17 points on 7-for-8 shooting and 10 rebounds.

What's next?

The Buffs will be the No. 5 seed at the Pac-12 Tournament and will face No. 12 Oregon State once again in the opening round on Wednesday at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas (3:30 p.m., Pac-12 Network).

## CU Buffs lose at home to Oregon State in regular-season finale

By Tom Kensler *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

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BOULDER — As it turned out, having "laid an egg" with an awful performance Saturday against Oregon State did not affect Colorado's seeding for the Pac-12 Tournament, which begins Wednesday in Las Vegas.

The Buffaloes (20-10, 10-8 Pac-12) were the No. 5 seed in the league tourney no matter what happened in their regular-season finale — thanks to the other challenger for the fifth seed, Arizona State, losing Saturday at Arizona.

But there's no telling what the NCAA Tournament selection committee will think of Colorado's 64-58 home loss to a previously underachieving Beavers squad (14-17, 4-14) that sits at the bottom of the conference standings.

Colorado coach Tad Boyle said he's not worried about anything past Wednesday.

"We're just going to focus on our next game," he said when asked about potential implications of this dud. "If you keep focusing on your next game, good things happen."

Boyle added that his team, which was without star forward Andre Roberson (mononucleosis), had better get itself in the right frame of mind, and in a hurry. The Buffs shot 35 percent from the field, lost the rebounding battle 38-32 and were outscored 37-29 in the second half.

Colorado will open the conference tournament at 3:30 p.m. MDT on Wednesday in the MGM Grand Garden Arena vs. 12th-seeded Oregon State in a rematch.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 18 points for Colorado. But he went 4-for-12 from the field and finished as the Buffs' only scorer in double figures.

"This loss is on me," Boyle said. "Our team wasn't ready to play emotionally or mentally or physically. We laid an egg."

"The reality is, we just lost to a team that was 3-14 (in league play). They were coming into our building with a great crowd (10,105) with a snowstorm going on outside. And on 'senior night,' " Boyle added. "We'd better figure it out because, guess what, the regular season is over with. It's win or go home from here on out. All we know is, whoever we play on Wednesday in Las Vegas, we have to beat them to move on. That's all we know."

CU sophomore guard Askia Booker said the Buffs lacked energy, even with another lively crowd screaming its support.

"There was no sense of urgency whatsoever, especially at the defensive end," Booker said. "That's why we lost."

Offensively, Colorado never attacked Oregon State's 2-3 zone and played tentatively against the Beavers' big front line.

"Usually when a team plays zone, they're playing zone because they don't feel like they can guard you man-to-man," said Boyle, who acknowledged giving his players an earful in the locker room afterward. "So you let them off the hook by taking quick jump shots. You let them off the hook by not attacking inside or moving the ball."

Things might have been different if Roberson were available, with his ability to slash through a zone and pick off offensive rebounds. But Boyle said there are no excuses, and he feels bad for the two senior night honorees, guard Sabatino Chen and center Shane Harris-Tunks, having their big day tarnished.

Oregon State coach Craig Robinson told his team the Coors Events Center would be "the hardest place to play in the Pac-12."

Not on this afternoon.

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