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Scott lifts Colorado over Air Force

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Boulder, CO – Josh Scott scored 20 points and pulled down seven rebounds, lifting the 23rd-ranked Colorado Buffaloes over the Air Force Falcons, 89-74, on Sunday.

Andre Roberson added 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Buffaloes (5-0), who shot 56.6 percent from the field and went 7-of-13 from beyond the arc. Askia Booker and Spencer Dinwiddie each tallied 15 points and seven rebounds.

"He showed tonight he has good skills, composure, balance," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said of Scott. "It doesn't always look the prettiest but he has a way to put the ball in the basket."

Colorado is off to its first 5-0 start since the 1989-90 season.

Michael Lyons had 20 points to pace the Falcons (5-1), who were trying for their first 6-0 start since the 1982-83 season. Todd Fletcher donated 18 points.

"Our guys showed some toughness," Air Force coach Dave Pilipovich said. "They came out and battled."

Xavier Johnson's 3-pointer gave Colorado a 19-11 lead with 13 minutes left in the first half.

Fletcher scored Air Force's next nine points and DeLovell Earls' 3-pointer made it a 23-23 game. The Falcons took a 31-29 lead on Mike Fitzgerald's shot from beyond the arc with less than eight minutes to go.

It remained close for the remainder of the half and the Buffaloes took a 41-39 margin into the locker room.

Holding a 58-56 lead with over 12 minutes to play, Colorado put together a 19-5 run to create some distance. Scott tallied eight points during the surge, including a layup with about five minutes left to make it 77-61.

Air Force never got closer than 12 the rest of the way.

Game Notes

The Buffaloes lead the all-time series by a 19-3 margin ... Air Force went 12- of-30 from beyond the arc.

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Men's basketball: Tad Boyle hopes to develop CU Buffs' depth

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

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The Buffs' Fab Four put on a show.

Tad Boyle's dynamic backcourt and dominant post players were spectacular during No. 19 Colorado's 89-74 victory over Air Force on Sunday night.

Starting guards Askia Booker and Spencer Dinwiddie combined for 30 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists.

Starting forwards Andre Roberson and Josh Scott combined for 38 points, 20 rebounds, four assists, three blocks and three steals.

But CU's bench played to a 19-19 draw with Air Force's reserves.

Tuesday night's game against Texas Southern (1-5) should be an opportunity for Boyle to spread the minutes out and give role players like Jeremy Adams, Xavier Talton and Shane Harris-Tunks a chance to gain some more confidence.

"Depth is something that we're going to continue to develop," Boyle said after CU started a season 5-0 for the first time since 1989-90. "It's going to be a strength of this team; it may not be there yet. I thought the guys who came off the bench played well and gave us some good minutes."

Eli Stalzer only played 12 minutes, but the unflappable freshman guard knocked down two 3-pointers and only had one turnover.

Talton scored on an aggressive drive through traffic and grabbed three rebounds in nine minutes.

Xavier Johnson scored seven points in 10 minutes. The aggressive 6-7 freshman forward was also whistled for four fouls.

Neither starting guard Sabatino Chen or Adams took a shot from the field.

Everybody is going to have to be ready to catch and shoot when Pac-12 teams are scouting the Buffs more thoroughly and designing defenses to stop Scott. The 6-11 freshman was 6-for-12 from the field and 8-for-10 at the line for a career-high 20 points.

"He's going to have to learn to deal with double teams. That's going to be the next step in his progression as a post player," Boyle said. "As he continues to be a threat down there, people are going to have to double him, and that's going to free it up for our shooters."

Air Force head coach Dave Pilipovich had his team ready to play, but after the Falcons made eight 3-pointers in the first half there was no answer for Scott down the stretch.

"Josh is very good. He plays like a senior," Pilipovich said. "He's very talented, very composed on the floor. I love his demeanor, I love his work ethic. ... He made a great decision to come (to CU) and he is going to be very good here."

On Monday the Buffs moved from No. 23 to No. 19 in the Associated Press poll and also debuted at No. 19 in the USA Today Coaches poll.

Boyle is confident that his young team will be focused on taking care of business against Texas Southern and not looking ahead to looming games against Colorado State and Kansas.

"I'm not going to ignore it. It's a fact and I'm happy for our program and our fans. I'm not going to make it sound like it's insignificant," Boyle said of the national rankings. "But we have to understand how we got there and we have to understand how we can stay there."

"We don't have to win every game. We just have to figure out what to do to win the next game."

Follow Ryan on Twitter: @RyanThorburn

TONIGHT: The No. 19 Colorado Buffaloes (5-0) face Texas Southern (1-5) at 7:30 p.m. at the Coors Events Center.

BROADCAST: Television on Pac-12 Network with Jim Watson (play-by-play) and Ernie Kent (analyst). Radio on KKZN (760 AM) with Mark Johnson (play-by-play) and Chad Brown (color). Follow on Twitter @RyanThorburn.

CU STORY LINES: Josh Scott and Andre Roberson combined for 38 points and 20 rebounds to lead the Buffs to an 89-74 victory over Air Force on Sunday. ... CU is 5-0 for the first time since the 1989-90 season. ... The Buffs also moved up from No. 23 to No. 19 in this week's Associated Press poll and debuted in the USA Today Coaches poll at No. 19.

TEXAS SOUTHERN STORY LINES: Texas Southern is already playing its fifth true road game of the season and is 0-4 so far, including a 79-52 loss at Middle Tennessee State on Saturday. ... Entering Monday's games, the Tigers were 316th in scoring (58.0 ppg) and 341st in field goal percentage (.353).

KEY STAT: The Buffs are 10-0 all-time against teams from the SWAC.

COACHES: Tad Boyle is 53-26 in his third season at CU. Mike Davis, the former Indiana and UAB head coach, is 1-5 in his first season at Texas Southern.

PROBABLE STARTERS: Colorado -- F Andre Roberson, 6-7, So., 10.8 ppg, 10.8 rpg; F Josh Scott, 6-10, Fr., 13.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg; G Spencer Dinwiddie, 6-6, So., 13.0 ppg, 5.4 rpg; G Askia Booker, 6-1, So., 17.2 ppg, 3.4 rpg; G Sabatino Chen, 6-4, Sr., 5.0 ppg, 2.8 rpg. Texas Southern -- C Kyrie Sutton, 6-9, Sr., 6.7 ppg, 5.7 rpg; F Fred Sturdivant, 6-7, Sr., 9.0 ppg, 7.0 rpg; G Raymond Penn, 5-9, Jr., 16.2 ppg, 4.7 apg; G Omar Strong, 5-9, Sr., 8.7 ppg, 2.2 rpg; G Madarious Gibbs, 6-0, So., 5.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg.

SERIES: CU leads 3-0, including an 88-74 win in the NIT on March 16, 2011, and a 56-51 win on Dec. 22, 2011.

UP NEXT: The Buffs will play their first true road game of the season on Saturday at Wyoming (8 p.m., Root Sports).