

Men's basketball: CU Buffs beat Texas Southern in 2OT

By Ryan Thorburn *Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera*

Posted:

DailyCamera.com

There was a serious upset alert on Tuesday night at the Coors Events Center.

After a lot of panic in the crowd and in cyberspace, it turned out to be a pulse-pounding false alarm.

Disaster averted.

No. 19 Colorado overcame a 15-point deficit in the first half, a scare at the end of the second half, and mounted a late comeback in the first overtime to improve to 6-0 with an 85-80 double-overtime victory over Texas Southern in front of 8,325 relieved patrons.

"You can just feel the expectation level going up with this program," CU head coach Tad Boyle said after a sigh of relief. "And our guys have to handle it better."

Josh Scott put together his first of what will be many double-doubles at CU with 18 points and 12 rebounds. The 6-11 freshman scored the first five points of the final five-minute period to give the Buffs some breathing room.

"If there was a breath, it was a small one," Scott said. "Because they were hitting threes."

Especially Omar Strong. The senior sharpshooter led the Tigers (1-6) with 39 points, knocking down 9 of 21 shots from well beyond the arc.

Spencer Dinwiddie, Sabatino Chen and Askia Booker all took turns defending Strong and were able to cool the 5-9 guard off just enough after he blistered them for 20 points and six 3-pointers in the first half.

"That last shot of the game pretty much tells the tale of the whole night," Dinwiddie said of Strong's basket as time expired that was taken from somewhere near Superior. "He shot a 35-footer with his head down. He looked down at the floor, at my shoes, and then shot a 35-footer and didn't hit net."

After 45 intense minutes, the Tigers (1-6) finally ran out of gas and went nearly three minutes without a point down the stretch.

Boyle told his young team that the next four opponents -- Wyoming, Colorado State, Kansas and Fresno State -- will beat them if they turn in similar efforts.

"If we play like we did tonight, Colorado State is going to beat us by 20 and they're going to out-rebound us by 20," Boyle said.

Booker's rainbow 3-pointer as the shot clock expired gave the Buffs a 71-68 lead with 41 seconds remaining in the first overtime. But Law Danner-Johnson forced more bonus basketball with a trey with 11.4 seconds left.

Strong scored seven quick points in the first overtime and gave the Tigers a 66-63 lead with a deep 3-pointer.

Scott answered with a put back, and Booker gave CU a 68-66 lead with an old-fashioned three-point play.

Strong was fouled on a 3-pointer and made 2 of 3 free throws to tie the score with 1:15 left.

"We didn't crumble," Dinwiddie said after scoring a career-high 24 points.

The Buffs trailed 39-26 with 9.3 seconds left in the first half. Booker's 3-pointer allowed the home team to carry some momentum into the second half.

"I think the 3-pointer at the end of the half was a great play coach Boyle threw out," Texas Southern head coach Mike Davis said. "It was a perfect play for them."

CU cranked up the defensive intensity and scored 11 more unanswered points to take a 40-39 lead on a layup by Andre Roberson with 15:36 remaining.

"We couldn't sustain it," Boyle said. "Some of that was Texas Southern. My hat's off to them. ... The story tonight is Texas Southern. They played their heart out and in some respects deserved to win."

The Tigers weathered the storm and took a 50-48 lead on a 3-pointer by Raymond Penn with 9:02 to play.

Dinwiddie answered with a big shot from behind the arc on the next possession and gave CU a 56-50 cushion with another 3-pointer.

But Roberson fouled out with 1:30 left and CU clinging to a 59-56 lead.

"Without Andre we're a different team defensively," Boyle said after CU escaped with a win despite only a 46-45 edge on the glass (Roberson had 12 rebounds in 29 minutes).

After Booker missed badly on a 3-pointer, the Tigers tied the score 59-59 with 42 seconds remaining on a basket by Fred Sturdivant.

The Buffs did not get a shot off on their final possession of regulation, and Strong missed a mid-range jumper as the horn sounded.

CU trailed 39-29 at the intermission after allowing Strong to score 20 points (18 on six 3-pointers).

The Tigers shot 50 percent from the field while the Buffs built a brick house (7-for-23, 30.4 percent) and turned the ball over nine times.

"Can't repeat that," Dinwiddie said when asked what Boyle said at halftime.

CU was able to stay within striking distance by connecting on 14 of 17 free throws in the first 20 minutes.

Dinwiddie finished the game 16-for-18 at the charity stripe. Booker added 15 points but was 4-for-15 shooting.

The Buffs will put their national ranking on the line in a true road game for the first time on Saturday at Wyoming (8 p.m., Root Sports).

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Fast break

What went right

No. 19 Colorado overcame a 15-point deficit in the first half and two overtimes to stay perfect (6-0).

What went wrong

The Buffs' poor perimeter defense allowed Texas Southern guard Omar Strong to score 20 points in the first half (six 3-pointers) as the visitors led 35-20 at one point and 39-29 at the intermission.

Star of the game

Strong finished with 39 points, but Josh Scott (18 points, 12 rebounds) scored the first five points of the second overtime to finally give CU some breathing room.

What's next?

The Buffs will put their national ranking on the line in a true road game for the first time on Saturday at Wyoming (8 p.m., Root Spots).

No. 19 Colorado 85,

Texas Southern 80

TEXAS SOUTHERN

FG FT Reb

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

Sutton 18 2-4 0-0 4-6 0 2 4

Gibbs 42 2-4 4-5 0-4 4 4 8

Strong 49 13-29 4-5 1-5 0 4 39

J-Dnnr 28 2-7 0-0 0-3 0 5 6

Penn 27 2-9 0-0 1-1 3 5 5

Ellington 24 0-5 1-2 0-3 0 2 1

Strdvnt 36 5-8 2-4 5-11 0 4 12

Clayborn 26 2-7 1-4 1-5 0 4 5

Blackwell 0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Totals 250 28-73 12-20 18-45 7 30 80

Percentages: FG .384, FT .600.

3-Point Goals: 12-37, .324 (Strong 9-21, Johnson-Danner 2-5, Penn 1-6, Gibbs 0-1, Clayborn 0-1, Ellington 0-3).

Team Rebounds: 7.

Blocked Shots: 7 (Sturdivant 5, Sutton 2).

Turnovers: 14 (Strong 5, Sutton 3, Johnson-Danner 3, Penn, Gibbs).

Steals: 8 (Strong 2, Penn 2, Sturdivant, Ellington, Sutton, Johnson-Danner).

Technical Fouls: None.

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

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

Roberson 29 5-8 0-0 6-12 0 5 11

Scott 40 6-13 6-10 3-12 1 3 18

Booker 45 4-15 5-8 0-6 4 3 15

Chen 35 2-5 2-2 1-3 2 1 7

Dinwiddie 43 3-12 16-18 0-3 3 1 24

Johnson 23 2-4 2-4 2-5 0 4 6

Talton 8 1-1 0-0 0-1 0 0 2

Stalzer 12 0-1 0-0 0-0 1 1 0

H-Tnks 4 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 0 0

Adams 11 0-0 2-2 0-0 0 1 2

Totals 250 23-59 33-44 14-46 11 19 85

Percentages: FG .390, FT .750.

3-Point Goals: 6-19, .316 (Dinwiddie 2-6, Booker 2-8, Roberson 1-1, Chen 1-3, Stalzer 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 3.

Blocked Shots: 8 (Dinwiddie 2, Roberson 2, Stalzer, Johnson, Scott, Chen).

Turnovers: 13 (Chen 2, Roberson 2, Johnson 2, Booker 2, Dinwiddie, Stalzer, Harris-Tunks, Adams).

Steals: 6 (Roberson 2, Stalzer, Scott, Chen, Dinwiddie).

Technical Fouls: None.

Texas Southern 39 20 12 9--80

Colorado 29 30 12 14--85

A -- 8,325.

Officials -- Verne Harris, Randy McCall, Glen Mayberry.

some breathing room.

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CU coach wants Buffs to raise level of play after 2OT win over Texas

Southern

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

DailyCamera.com

No. 19 Colorado is an imperfect 6-0.

Head coach Tad Boyle warned the Buffs after Tuesday night's wild 85-80 double-overtime victory over Texas Southern that the record will be 6-4 "in the blink of an eye" if they play at this level.

The Buffs are now the hunted. And the Tigers (1-6) from the SWAC almost brought home an impressive pelt.

"You can just feel the expectation level going up with this program," Boyle said. "And our guys have to handle it better."

The good news is Josh Scott continues an impressive start to his collegiate career. The 6-11 freshman put together his first of what will be many double-doubles (18 points, 12 rebounds) at CU and scored the first five points of the final five-minute period to give the Buffs some breathing room.

"If there was a breath, it was a small one," Scott said. "Because they were hitting threes."

Especially Omar Strong. The senior sharpshooter led Texas Southern with 39 points, knocking down 9 of 21 shots from well beyond the arc.

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The Tigers finally ran out of gas and went nearly three minutes without a point down the stretch.

Now CU will face a tough stretch -- at Wyoming on Saturday, a showdown with Colorado State next Wednesday in Boulder, a reunion with former Big 12 rival Kansas in Lawrence on Dec. 8 and another tough road trip to Fresno State on Dec. 12.

"If we play like we did tonight, Colorado State is going to beat us by 20 and they're going to out-rebound us by 20," Boyle said.

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The Buffs will put their national ranking on the line in a true road game for the first time on Saturday against the Cowboys in Laramie, Wyo. (8 p.m., Root Sports).

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No. 19 Colorado survives 2-OT scare from Texas Southern

3:34a.m. EST November 28, 2012

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(Photo: David Zalubowski, AP)

BOULDER, Colo. -- Josh Scott helped settle matters at the end of the game by taking the ball to the hoop.

Scott scored the first two baskets of the second overtime on layups, and No. 19 Colorado fought back from an early 15-point deficit to beat Texas Southern 85-80 on Tuesday night.

The Buffaloes (6-0) withstood a 39-point performance by Omar Strong, who made nine 3-pointers, including three in the extra sessions.

"If we caught a breath, it was a small one because they were hitting 3's," Scott said after he helped Colorado pull ahead for good. "I was just trying to be aggressive, and I made some shots. I'm glad it helped us get the win."

So was Colorado coach Tad Boyle, who was hard on himself and hard on his team after the Buffaloes dodged the upset. He lit into his squad at halftime and blamed himself for his squad's sometimes lackluster play.

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"In many respects, (Texas Southern) deserved to win the game. Those kids played their hearts out and I can't say enough about the performance of Omar Strong," Boyle said. "We were fortunate to win. I'm not saying we didn't deserve to win because our guys played hard as well and did what we had to do down the stretch. But we definitely have to learn from tonight and get better. If we don't, in a week and a half, we're going to blink our eyes, and we're going to be 6-4 instead of 6-0."

"I think our guys learned tonight that nobody is going to be intimidated by you just because you're 19th in the country, you're feeling good about yourself and you're playing in front of a great home crowd. Doesn't mean jack, unless you bring it and we didn't bring it from the get-go and that's my fault as a coach."

Spencer Dinwiddie had 24 points to lead Colorado, which is off to its best start since opening 6-0 in 1989-90. Scott finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds, Askia Booker added 15 points and Andre Roberson had 11.

"You kind of got to see the makeup of our team," Dinwiddie said. "We didn't crumble or anything. They punched us in the mouth and we came back and it was a dogfight from there on out. But we didn't start going after each other or anything like that. We pulled together."

Fred Sturdivant had 12 points and 11 rebounds for Texas Southern (1-6), which just missed beating a ranked team for the first time in school history.

"It was very difficult," first-year Texas Southern coach Mike Davis said of the loss. "I'm just trying to build the team and get better every single time. I think we took a step in the right direction. We played very well. We came out competing and working hard."

Tied at 59 at the end of regulation, Booker converted a three-point play with 1:38 remaining in overtime for a 68-66 Colorado lead. But Strong was fouled attempting a 3-pointer and made two free throws to re-tie it.

Booker drained a 3-pointer from the corner with 41 seconds left in the first overtime to make it 71-68 but Law Johnson-Danner answered with a 3-pointer for the Tigers and Booker's long jumper rimmed out at the buzzer, forcing the second overtime.

Scott hit successive baskets from up close to start the second overtime, getting fouled in the lane and converting the free throw after the second shot to give the Buffaloes a 76-71 lead they would not relinquish.

After Sabatino Chen drove in for a layup with 1:09 left, Dexter Ellington made one of two free throws for the Tigers. A fastbreak layup by Chen gave the Buffaloes an 80-72 lead, enough to withstand another 3-pointer by Strong with 11.5 seconds remaining.

Trailing by 10 points at halftime, Colorado finally shook off its early shooting woes to run off 11 straight points starting the second half, moving in front 40-39 on Roberson's fastbreak layup with 15:35 remaining.

Roberson, whose blown breakaway dunk midway through the opening period epitomized Colorado's earlier offensive struggles, had seven points

during the stretch.

The Tigers came back to take a 50-48 lead when Penn connected on a 3-pointer with 9:02 left. Colorado put together an 8-0 flurry for a 56-50 lead with 6:44 remaining. Dinwidde sparked the run with two 3-pointers.

Madarious Gibbs made both ends of a 1-and-1 to pull the Tigers to 57-56 with 3:06 left and Scott made two free throws for Colorado with 1:51 left.

Roberson fouled out with 1:30 left when he fouled Aaron Clayborn as he went up for a shot. Clayborn made one of two free throws, getting the Tigers within two points.

Booker missed a jumper and Sturdivant drove in for a layup that tied it at 59-all with 42.5 seconds left.

Maneuvering for a tie-breaking shot, Colorado hung on to the ball too long, turning it over with 6.8 seconds left in regulation when the 35-second shot clock expired. Strong missed a 15-foot jumper at the buzzer.

Colorado missed its first six shots from beyond the arc before Booker connected at the buzzer, pulling the Buffaloes within 39-29 at halftime after trailing by as many as 15 points.

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