

Colorado volleyball: Buffs stun No. 1 Huskies

By Sarah Kuta Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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When the University of Colorado snapped a 41-match losing streak against ranked teams last week by beating No. 11 UCLA, they weren't quite satisfied.

Colorado upset No. 1 ranked Washington on Friday night in Boulder at the Coors Event Center, handing the Huskies their first loss of the season in four sets (25-17, 26-24, 15-25, 25-19).

The upsets aren't flukes, Colorado coach Liz Kritza said.

"Something like this doesn't just happen on a whim or just because you want it," Kritza said. "Everybody wants to beat the No. 1 team on their home court. Everybody wants to. It has to be a little bit more than that."

The last time the Buffs beat a No. 1-ranked team was in 2006 against Nebraska, when Colorado handed the Cornhuskers their first and only loss of the season.

The Buffs (10-3, 2-1 Pac-12) came out calm Friday and took the first set easily, winning 25-17. Though the Huskies played the second set close, the Buffs hung on for the 26-24 win.

"We were pretty relaxed coming in," said CU senior outsider hitter Kerra Schroeder, who was playing in and starting her 100th career match. "I don't think anyone was really nervous. Granted there were pretty big girls up there. The best blocking team in the conference and of course the best team in the conference, but we came out kind of sharp and not too frazzled or anything. I think that was huge."

Though Washington (10-1, 2-1 Pac-12) averaged 4.07 blocks per game -- the most in the Pac-12 -- coming into the match, Colorado out-blocked the Huskies 9-6.

After the mid-match break in the locker room, Colorado lost some momentum and dropped the third set 15-25. During the fourth set, when she knew they could clinch the win, Schroeder reminded everyone to stay relaxed.

"I kept saying the last couple of points 'OK do our own jobs,'" she said. "'The crowd's going crazy but this is our time. Everyone do their own jobs. Calm down. Let's just play volleyball.' And that's what really kind of got us through it."

After Tuesday's 3-2 loss to Wyoming, this win showed

Kritza that her team was resilient and able to bounce back quickly after a tough loss.

Kritza said she was also impressed by her team's flexibility and willingness to play wherever she needed them to play.

"I told the team in the huddle at the very end that I'm not surprised at the result because what we focus on is playing well," she said. "This team and this group of coaches, they're a little different. We're just not going to be satisfied until we maximize everything we have. And tonight was the best I've seen this team play this season and I still think that there's more."

Colorado junior outside hitter Taylor Simpson, who led the team with 18 kills, echoed her coach -- the team has no limits after this win. Colorado plays Washington State on Sunday at noon at the Coors Events Center.

"I can only imagine what's next," Simpson said. "We just beat the No. 1 team. I'm beyond excited."

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Volleyball takes down #1 Washington

By [Jillian Arja](#) in [Front Page](#), [Photo Gallery](#), [Sports](#), [Volleyball](#) on Oct 5, 2013 0:35 / [comments](#)

"We just beat the No. 1 team. Most exciting game I have played in my whole career thus far. I can only imagine what's next." junior outside hitter Taylor Simpson said after the University of Colorado Buffaloes beat the No. 1 Washington Huskies Friday night.

The volleyball team won in a grueling four set match, to take down the top ranked Huskies (25-17, 26-14, 15-25, 25-19).



Members of the CU Volleyball Team celebrate after winning the second set of their Oct. 4th match against top-ranked Washington. The Buffs won the match three games to one. (James Bradbury/CU Independent)

This gives the Buffs a 10-3 overall record. The Huskies were undefeated going into the match tonight, with a record of 10-0.

Senior outside hitter Kerra Schroeder played an important role in the Buffs win; she ended with a .958 receiving percentage.

"I don't think it has hit me yet, but at the same time, we finally played to our potential and I don't think anyone in the Pac-12 is ready for it," Schroeder said.

Taylor Simpson and Alexis Austin both contributed double digit kills for the Buffs, Simpson with 17 and Austin with 11.

To start the first, the Buffs started strong, getting a quick 10-6 lead early in the first set. After some good defense from Schroeder and some big kills by Simpson, the Buffs took the first set 25-17.

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The Buffs and Huskies battled in the second set, but the Buffs won 26-24.

Washington had the momentum early in the third, going up 10-4. They kept the lead and won the third 25-15.

The fourth set started close, with the Buffs holding the lead throughout the set. Sophomore outside hitter Alexis Austin had some big kills for the Buffs to end some long rallies and gave the Buffs some momentum. The Buffs kept feeding Austin, until they won it 25-19.

Head Coach Liz Kritza says that she knew her team could do it.

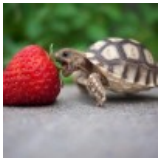
"We are not going to be satisfied until we maximize everything that we have and tonight was the best that I have seen this team play," Kritza said.

Kritza said the team should celebrate though because this is a big win.

"We are definitely going to enjoy it and celebrate it," Kritza said. "Wins like this are very significant."

The Buffs play again at Coors Events Center on Sunday at noon.

Contact CU Independent Sports Editor Jillian Arja [at Jillian.Arja@colorado.edu](mailto:Jillian.Arja@colorado.edu).



About Jillian Arja

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