



Frosh spark CU women in season-opening win

Camera staff report

Saturday, November 17, 2007

SAN FRANCISCO — A pair of freshmen got the Colorado women's basketball team rolling Friday night, and old reliable showed them how to finish off a victory.

The Buffaloes got their 2007-08 campaign started with a 66-48 rout of the San Francisco Dons at War Memorial Gym.

The contest marked just the ninth time in program history that CU started a season on the road. And the Buffs, who stumbled to a 1-10 mark on the road last season, didn't disappoint.

"It's a great way to start for our ballclub to get a win on the road," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said on the KKZN radio post-game show.

The Buffs (1-0), who play at USC on Sunday, actually sputtered out of the gate, falling behind 13-6 early. But freshman Brittany Spears scored seven straight points to tie the game, and the Buffs controlled play the rest of the way.

Spears and fellow froshBritney Blythe sparked the Buffs as they combined for 24 of the team's 36 first-half points.

With CU leading 36-25 at the intermission, senior forward Jackie McFarland, who led the Buffs with 17.8 points per game last season, scored 15 of her game-high 22 points in the second half to help CU pull away.

The Buffs shot 44 percent (25-for-57) from the field, including 5-for-15 from 3-point land. They won the rebound battle 38-35 and snatched 11 steals.

Tied at 23, the Buffs finished the final 6 minutes, 42 seconds of the first half on a 13-2 run. San Francisco (1-2), coached by former CU assistant Tanya Haave, went scoreless from the 5:21 mark in the first half until there was 17:53 to play in the second half.

McFarland, who also finished with eight rebounds, scored 11 of CU's first 12 second-half points to put the Buffs up 48-28, and Bianca Smith gave them their biggest lead of the night minutes later with a 3 that made it 55-32 with 10:40 left.

Spears got in foul trouble in the second half and didn't score after the break. But she'd made her presence felt. The 6-foot-1 forward finished with 15 points, seven rebounds, five steals and a block.

Blythe, meanwhile, who came off the bench to share point guard minutes with Whitney Houston, scored 11 points and had two assists and two steals.

"What can I say? I was back on this court for the third or fourth time," said Blythe, who played her high school ball just a few miles from the Dons' arena. "I wasn't nervous or shy. I knew I was coming out with my Buffs to get the win."

Senior center Lisa Olden paced San Francisco, scoring 14 points and grabbing seven rebounds. Necolia Simmons had 11 points and seven boards.

McConnell-Miller acknowledged that her team, which turned the ball over 16 times, still has plenty to work on. But she also saw plenty that made her confident about the road ahead.

"There's a lot of excitement in this locker room," the coach said.



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McFarland-led Buffs start fast

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SAN FRANCISCO — Jackie McFarland and the University of Colorado women's basketball team got the 2007-08 season off to a good start.

McFarland scored 22 points and pulled down eight rebounds — five of them on offense — to lead the Buffaloes to a 66-48 win over the University of San Francisco on Friday at War Memorial Gym.

Freshman Brittany Spears added 15 points, seven rebounds and five steals in her first game with CU. Another freshman, Britney Blythe, chipped in with 11 points off the bench.

"The energy we had (Friday) was amazing," McFarland said. "With the quickness and athleticism of some of the freshmen, we now have a lot of depth and didn't wear down in the end."

San Francisco (1-2) was led by Lisa Olden, who had 14 points and seven rebounds.

A 3-pointer by USF's Shay Rollins put CU in a 13-6 hole early, but Spears scored the next seven points and the Buffs outscored the Dons, 30-12, the rest of the half.

Spears sparked the Buffs midway through the half. With CU down, 17-15, Spears got a steal and layup to tie the game. After a USF hoop, Spears scored on a layup again. A steal by Blythe led to another Spears layup, putting CU ahead, 21-19.

Spears scored all 15 of her points in the first 12 minutes of the game. Blythe capped the half with a 3-pointer to put the Buffs ahead, 36-25, heading into intermission.

Coming out of the half, McFarland got hot to help CU pull away. The senior forward hit an early 3-pointer, and scored 11 points in the first 6:30 of the half.

Bianca Smith drained a 3-pointer to give the Buffs their largest lead, 55-32.

Other than McFarland and Spears, Colorado didn't get much out of its starting lineup. Kara Richards, Whitney Houston and Susie Powers combined for three points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Colorado's bench, however, outscored the USF reserves, 26-6, and the Buffs shot 43.9 percent from the floor.

The Buffaloes continue their West coast swing Sunday at Southern California.