



# Bzdelik to grade players

## System based on effort, used by Heat's Riley

By Ryan Thorburn

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Before the Colorado men's basketball team practiced on Tuesday, Richard Roby and Xavier Silas were spotted shooting and smiling together at the Coors Events Center.

What a difference a week of self-examination makes.

After last Wednesday's last-second loss to New Orleans, Roby was visibly upset at a postgame press conference during which he suggested that one of the five players on the floor was not on the same page as the other Buffs in the final seconds.

Although the senior guard didn't call anyone out by name, it was obvious he wasn't happy with the fact that Silas' man went coast-to-coast for the game-winning basket.

"I've got to look myself in the mirror," a calmer, gentler Roby admits. "I looked at the tape and I didn't play hard every minute I was out there. So I can't demand everybody to play hard if I'm not doing it every possession. I've just got to lead by example."

Jeff Bzdelik, however, can demand that everybody play hard or grab a seat on the end of the bench.

And that's what CU's head coach says he will do using a unique effort grading system that the Miami Heat employed during his time as Pat Riley's assistant.

"Against New Orleans we played a little bit more than half the game with the effort we want," Bzdelik said after breaking down the film frame by frame. "That has nothing to do with picking up an offensive system, it doesn't have anything to do with making shots ... we need to get our effort area up to 90 percent to give ourselves a chance to win. Because if we don't we have little chance to win."

Bzdelik's "accountability" formula factors in transition defense, ball pressure, containing dribble penetration, taking charges, giving early help, rebounding pursuit and contesting shots.

According to his research ...

"When your team effort grade is 90 percent or better you win maybe 76 percent of your games," Bzdelik, who didn't have to grade his players' effort at Air Force last season, explained. "When it's in the 80s it's around 50 percent. When it's in the 70s you dip down drastically to about 30-something percent."

And the Buffs? Well, Bzdelik graded his teams effort against New Orleans at 65 percent.

CU lost by two points.

"At times we've done well and at times we've fallen short," Bzdelik said. "And I say 'We' because it's all of us."

That includes Roby, who scored 27 points, grabbed 14 rebounds, handed out four assists and made two steals against the Privateers but still walked off the court with another frustrating loss.

"We've just got to make sure we're focused and play hard," Roby said. "Everything else will fall in place."



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