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TIMES-CALL

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Fully exposed

Tulsa exploits Colorado's short bench, lack of height

By Patrick Ridgell

Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — The Colorado Buffaloes will not be storming into Big 12 play.

They ended their non-conference schedule Monday with a thud, losing 81-68 to Tulsa to snap a three-game winning streak. In the second half, Tulsa shot 63 percent, 78 percent from 3-point range, and took control with a 16-2 run that featured 14 points in a row from freshman guard Glenn Andrews.

If only the Buffs' (8-6) biggest problem was seeing some freshman go off on them.

Tulsa (8-4) exploited CU's short stature and shorter bench to pull away after halftime, outscoring the Buffs 43-26. With no Dwight Thorne (right knee bone bruise), who's expected to practice Wednesday, CU coach Jeff Bzdelik limited his rotation to two substitutes, and fatigue showed as the game progressed.

"They just wore down on us as the game went on. Right now, we're not very deep," said CU guard Richard Roby, whose 27 points put him at fifth place all time at CU with 1,689. Donnie Boyce is the program's all-time leader, with 1,995 points.

CU will open Big 12 play Saturday at No. 12 Texas A&M (2 p.m., ALT), where the competition will increase considerably from what the Buffs have faced in the non-conference. Bzdelik's rotation now excludes freshman Caleb Patterson, and redshirting Jeremy Williams hurts it more. The coach is playing Roby and Marcus Hall monster minutes. Hall logged 38 Monday. He's played 36 or more in nine of his past 10 games.

Bzdelik's other options? Walk-ons.

How well the non-conference prepared CU for its next 16 games might not matter; this conference might overwhelm the Buffs. Still, that was a question no one could really answer Monday night.

"I'm not sure. Sometimes it seems like we're ready, and sometimes it doesn't," said guard Marcus Hall, who had 10 rebounds, nine assists and eight steals. "We have to take a big step physically. I think when we plays teams as physical or more physical than us, we struggle on offense and get out of what we're trying to do. We have some things we have to work on before Saturday." Hall said CU must learn to run its offense against pressure, and run it for 40 minutes.

Bzdelik said he doesn't want to make excuses and added his players' effort made him proud. He also conceded that they lost their legs in the second half, when Tulsa seemed to find its own. The coach said his players will take today off while he and his staff recruit.

Bzdelik said he might need to shorten practice to help his team's stamina, but he didn't sound thrilled about that idea. "There's so much to learn," he said.

Bzdelik was a whirlwind on the bench most of the night, pleading for movement and energy in terms audible all around



Colorado's Xavier Silas tries to maneuver past Tulsa's Ray Reese during Monday's game at the Coors Events Center in Boulder. Silas scored 13 points and went 5-for-6 from the field in the Buffs' loss. **Jill P. Mott / Times-Call**

the arena, where only 2,031 showed.

“I’m just trying anything emotionally to get our guys to play with energy,” he said. “We have to play with such great emotion at all times, and emotions are contagious. Sometimes I have to try and orchestrate that, or promote that, acting like a fool on the sidelines.”

When asked what his team must improve, Bzdelik said containing opposing guards, which has been a problem on other nights. Tulsa’s were good, but Hall said they were not the best he’s seen.

“I’ve played against a lot better,” Hall said.

With Big 12 play up next, even better ones await.

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THE DENVER POST

tulsa 81, colorado 68

Sharp-shooting Hurricane pulls away

Mike Chambers
The Denver Post

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BOULDER — Hoping to enter Big 12 Conference play on a roll, the University of Colorado men's basketball team instead got rocked by a hurricane — the Golden Hurricane.

Tulsa (8-4), from Conference USA, shot 63.2 percent in the second half Monday night and stormed out of town with an 81-68 victory at the Coors Events Center that snapped CU's three-game winning streak.

The Buffs open Big 12 play Saturday at No. 11 Texas A&M.

CU (8-6), utilizing just seven players for the second straight game, shot 51.7 percent in the first half and led 42-38 at halftime behind Richard Roby's 18 points.

"Right now we're not a very deep team and they just wore us down," Roby said. "They were relentless on their break, and we had to

get back and guys just ran out of gas."

Roby finished with a game-high 27 points. The



The Buffs' Marcus King-Stockton snags a rebound in the second half during CU's 81-68 loss to Tulsa. (Karl Gehring/The Denver Post)

senior moved into fifth place on CU's all-time scoring list with 1,689 points, 38 shy of No. 4 Stevie Wise.

"They shot the ball extremely well, and in the second half we were really a step behind in everything we did," CU coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "But we're not about explanations, not about excuses. Give Tulsa credit. They came in here and whooped our butt.

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THE DENVER POST

Freshman Glen Andrews was the hero for Tulsa,

CU Basketball

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- Visit the CU Stats Page for women's boxscores, Big 12 standings, player pages and more
- Visit Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports

which extended its winning streak to six games with its first road victory of the season, scoring all 14 points in a four-minute, 14-2 run. Andrews made four 3-pointers and a short jumper to turn a 52-49 deficit into a 63-54 lead.

"We got sucked in on some drives. They were driving and kicking, and we weren't closing out hard enough on him. We were closing out soft," Bzdelik said.

CU lost despite Marcus Hall's near triple-double. He had career-highs in rebounds (10) and steals (eight). He also had nine assists, one short of his career best.

TULSA (8-4) Walls 1-4 4-6 6, Jordan 4-6 0-2 8, Uzoh 4-8 5-6 15, McDade 3-6 5-5 12, Earls 4-6 0-0 9, Wheatley 3-4 3-4 9,

Andrews 6-8 1-2 17, Mitchell 0-0 0-0 0, Reese 2-3 0-0 5. Totals 27-45 18-25 81.

COLORADO (8-6) Jackson-Wilson 2-6 0-0 4, Hall 2-14 0-0 4, Higgins 1-6 0-1 2, Silas 5-6 1-4 13, Roby 8-16 8-9 27, Knutson 2-5 4-4 10, King-Stockton 3-6 2-3 8. Totals 23-59 15-21 68.

Halftime — CU 42-38. **3-point goals** — Tulsa 9-16 (Andrews 4-6, Uzoh 2-4, McDade 1-1, Earls 1-2, Reese 1-2, Wheatley 0-1), Colorado 7-17 (Roby 3-5, Silas 2-2, Knutson 2-4, Higgins 0-3, Hall 0-3). **Fouled out** — None. **Rebounds** — Tulsa 33 (Walls 8), Colorado 28 (Hall 10). **Assists** — Tulsa 13 (McDade 5), Colorado 17 (Hall 9). **Total fouls** — Tulsa 21, Colorado 18. **A** — 2,031.

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Bufs run out of steam vs. Tulsa

Tulsa uses 16-2 stretch to claim road victory

By Ryan Thorburn
Tuesday, January 8, 2008

The Bufs didn't have a lot to say after this one.

Mostly because they were out of breath.

The deeper and seemingly more confident Tulsa Golden Hurricane used a 16-2 run in the second half to defeat a deflated Colorado team 81-68 on Monday night at the Coors Events Center in front of 2,031 diehards.

"I'm really proud of my team because they were running on empty today," CU head coach Jeff Bzdelik said after the Bufs were outscored 43-26 in the second half.

CU (8-6) led 42-38 at the intermission after Richard Roby poured in 18 points and Golden Hurricane stars Ben Uzoh and Glen Andrews were held to two points each.

But after a 3-pointer by Levi Knutson gave the Bufs a 52-49 lead with 14:21 remaining, Tulsa went on a 16-2 sprint that included 14 consecutive points by Andrews, including four 3-pointers.

"They just wore us down as the game went on," explained Roby, who finished with 27 points and passed Emmitt Lewis to move into fifth place on CU's all-time scoring list with 1,689 career points. "We're not a very deep team, and I felt like they just beat us."

Andrews scored over Knutson and Xavier Silas and all of the Bufs who attempted soft close-outs on the fab freshman who combined with Uzoh for 28 second-half points.

"I'm not trying to take anything away from them," Marcus Hall said. "But I just think we ran out of gas."

Hall is the poster boy for what is good and bad about the 2007-08 Bufs. The senior point guard played hard for 38 minutes and nearly finished with a triple-double -- 10 rebounds, nine assists and eight steals.

But for whatever reason -- fatigue, solid Tulsa defense, one of those nights -- Hall was 2-for-14 from the field with four points.

What needs to change?

"We've got to learn how to run our stuff against pressure," Hall said.

The Bufs shot 51.7 percent in the first 20 minutes and 26.7 percent after the visitors made their halftime

adjustments. The Golden Hurricane shot 57.7 percent in the first half and 63.2 percent after CU ran out of O2.

"I believe we lost our legs and that affected our ability to score," Bzdelik said. "But we're not about explanations, we're not about excuses. Give Tulsa credit, they came in here and kicked our butt."

Bzdelik will give the Bufs today off to catch their breath while he spends his time recruiting. And that says a lot about where this team is right now and what the new staff has to continue to do to make the program better.

Notable

Dwight Thorne missed his second straight game with a knee injury but the sophomore guard could return to practice on Wednesday. CU needs Thorne to provide some much-needed help off the bench during Saturday's Big 12 opener at Texas A&M. ... It was Roby's fifth 20-point scoring game this season and the 36th of his career. ... CU finished with a season-high 12 steals. Hall's eight were a career high.

Tulsa 81, Colorado 68 TULSA

FG FT Reb

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

Walls 22 1-4 4-6 5-8 0 4 6

Jordan 21 4-6 0-2 1-3 1 3 8

Uzoh 28 4-8 5-6 1-5 1 3 15

McDade 33 3-6 5-5 0-2 5 1 12

Earls 25 4-6 0-0 1-4 3 3 9

Wheatley 27 3-4 3-4 0-5 1 1 9

Andrews 20 6-8 1-2 0-0 0 3 17

Mitchell 9 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 1 0

Reese 15 2-3 0-0 1-3 2 2 5

Totals 200 27-45 18-25 9-33 13 21 81

Percentages: FG .600, FT .720.

3-Point Goals: 9-16, .563 (Andrews 4-6, Uzoh 2-4, McDade 1-1, Earls 1-2, Reese 1-2, Wheatley 0-1).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Jordan 2, Wheatley).

Turnovers: 20 (McDade 5, Earls 5, Andrews 4, Uzoh 3, Wheatley 2, Reese).

Steals: 4 (Wheatley 2, Jordan, Walls).

Technical Fouls: None.

COLORADO FG FT Reb

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

J-Wilson 15 2-6 0-0 3-4 0 4 4

Hall 38 2-14 0-0 6-10 9 1 4

Higgins 36 1-6 0-1 0-1 3 2 2

Silas 32 5-6 1-4 3-4 1 2 13

Roby 37 8-16 8-9 2-4 2 3 27

Knutson 23 2-5 4-4 0-1 2 2 10

K-Stcktn 19 3-6 2-3 2-4 0 4 8

Totals 200 23-59 15-21 16-28 17 18 68

Percentages: FG .390, FT .714.

3-Point Goals: 7-17, .412 (Roby 3-5, Silas 2-2, Knutson 2-4, Higgins 0-3, Hall 0-3).

Team Rebounds: 0.

Blocked Shots: 2 (King-Stockton, Hall).

Turnovers: 12 (Roby 6, Hall 3, King-Stockton, Knutson, Silas).

Steals: 12 (Hall 8, Silas 2, Jackson-Wilson, Roby).

Technical Fouls: None.

Tulsa 38 43--81

Colorado 42 26--68

A -- 2,031.

Officials -- Steve Welmer, Scott Thornley, Curtis Shaw.