



Bufs debut new offense in exhibition

CU rolls, but McConnell-Miller looking for more scoring

By Chris Shelton

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Taking more 3-pointers and posting up guards, the Colorado women's basketball team unveiled its new 4-out, 1-in offense with a 58-31 exhibition game win over Colorado School of Mines on Thursday.

Buff senior Jackie McFarland led the way with 17 points and eight rebounds, while freshman forward Brittany Spears was the only other player to reach double figures with 10 points.

The new offense was designed to increase scoring, especially from the outside to keep McFarland from being double- and triple-teamed inside this season.

"The biggest surprise was our offensive output," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "I was a little surprised with as few points as we scored."

Sophomore starting guard Bianca Smith was held scoreless, starting senior Susie Powers had nine points, freshman guard Britney Blythe made two 3-pointers for six points and sophomore Whitney Houston, who started the second half in place of Smith, finished with four points.

The new offense had players rotating in and out, taking turns posting up inside. Often times McFarland and center Kara Richards would swap places inside, but other times guards such as the 5-foot-9 Blythe were posting up.

The Bufs took 26 shots from 3-point range, making just eight for 30.8 percent. The Bufs averaged 13.3 shots from 3-point range last season, making 31.7 percent.

"We're still trying to figure out where the points are going to come from and how we're going to get Jackie her touches," McConnell-Miller said. "And some of my combinations weren't the most effective."

Turnovers were made a point of interest this year and the Bufs still committed 17 against the Division II Orediggers.

Powers, however, didn't have a turnover in 30 minutes of play to go with 3-for-3 shooting from 3-point range.

"I think that's a great stat line," McFarland said.

Added Powers, "I feel comfortable shooting the 3 this year, especially on our home court. It just feels natural."

Spears made an impressive debut, once taking a rebound and running the length of the court and finishing with a layup. She finished with four steals and five rebounds in 22 minutes. Although McConnell-Miller would like to see Spears improve her shot selection, the coach liked Spears' energy.

"She definitely adds a great deal to our lineup," McConnell-Miller said. "She's got so many things I can't teach."

Notable

McConnell-Miller's seven-year-old son, Brice, was put to work as one of the floor sweepers. ... All eligible players

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were put into the game. ... Boulder High School graduate Bailey Christenson did not play for School of Mines.



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