



Bufs get lost in the fog

CU can't overcome abysmal first half in Wyoming

By Ryan Thorburn
Sunday, December 9, 2007

LARAMIE, Wyo. — A thick fog on Highway 287 made it very difficult for the Colorado basketball team to travel here.

Perhaps after the long bus rides, the Bufs will finally receive first-year head coach Jeff Bzdelik's clear message:

"They will win when they get tired of losing," Bzdelik said after CU's sobering 73-64 loss to Wyoming on Saturday at the Arena-Auditorium in front of 5,572 diehards.

The famous sign here reads: Welcome to 7,220 feet. And, sure enough, it was an uphill climb for the Bufs, who trailed 40-20 after an embarrassing first half in which the visitors shot 25.8 percent (8-for-31) from the field while allowing the Cowboys to shoot 57.7 percent (15-for-26) thanks to some easy backdoor layups.

Former CU walk-on Ryan Dermody scored 11 of his career-high 18 points to lead all scorers at the intermission. Meanwhile, CU senior Richard Roby countered with one point and only took two shots in the first half.

Even more disturbing was the body language of the Bufs. They simply were not ready to compete.

"You can talk about adjustments and those kinds of things, but the bottom line is I have failed as a coach to instill passion, desperate energy, a sense of pride," Bzdelik said. "It's an honor and privilege to play college basketball and to wear a University of Colorado jersey. I have failed in that."

The Bufs led 3-0 and 3-2 but quickly fell behind after allowing Wyoming runs of 10-0 and 11-0. After a 3-pointer by Levi Knutson cut the deficit to 16-15 with 11:15 remaining, CU was outscored 24-5 before the break.

"I was sick of losing before the first game," said senior point guard Marcus Hall, who scored 14 of his 17 points in the second half. "Last year should have been enough incentive for us to fight. ...

"I have no idea why we're not coming out with that fire for 40 minutes, but I have to challenge my teammates to make sure we can find that somehow, some way. Because if not, it's going to be a long season."

Bzdelik thought his team would come out with the necessary intensity after getting outscored 42-21 in the second half of last Sunday's 67-43 home loss to Stanford.

Combine that with Saturday's first half and you have 40 minutes of hell.

"We've got to put together 40 minutes of basketball," said Knutson, who scored eight of his 11 points in the final 20 minutes. "We have to play 40 minutes with that kind of effort we had in the second half to beat anybody. That's the focus. We have to put together an entire game."

The Buffs (5-4) made a methodical comeback and cut the deficit to six points (61-55) after a 3-pointer by Cory Higgins with 2:08 remaining and three points (65-62) after a 3-pointer by Hall with 52.3 seconds remaining. But the Cowboys (4-3) held on for the win after going 8-for-8 from the line in the last 51.2 seconds.

Roby finished with 10 points but was 1-for-7 from 3-point range. Xavier Silas was CU's leading rebounder with five as Wyoming won the battle of the boards 43-33.

"I think we are sick of losing," Knutson said. "We're 5-4 and we feel like we're a lot better than that, we know we're a lot better than that. Hopefully this does push us over the edge, hopefully we are sick enough of losing. It has to be collectively; it has to be everybody."

With five nonconference games remaining, Bzdelik obviously has plenty of work to do before these Buffs are ready for Big 12 play.

"I'm looking for a pulse," he said.

Wyoming 73, Colorado 64

COLORADO (64)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Roby 31 3-11 3-4 7 2 4 10

Jcksn-Wilson 11 1-3 0-0 1 0 3 2

Hall 40 6-16 3-4 4 4 3 17

Higgins 20 3-8 0-0 5 2 4 7

Silas 34 3-11 2-4 4 1 5 9

Thorne 24 2-5 2-2 3 2 2 6

Patterson 3 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Knutson 29 4-1 0-0 3 3 1 11

King-Stockton 8 1-2 0-0 3 0 3 2

Totals: 200 23-66 10-14 33 14 25 64

WYOMING (73)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Dermody 38 6-10 4-6 9 1 3 18

Taylor 32 4-6 1-3 12 2 3 9

Nelson 21 4-7 4-4 5 0 2 12

Jones 38 4-10 11-11 8 2 1 19

Ewing 38 3-11 5-8 3 6 3 12

Linskens 2 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Platt 28 1-6 0-0 4 2 1 3

Songondo 2 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Bunker 1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Totals: 200 22-50 25-32 43 13 13 73

Score by halves:

Colorado 20 44 — 64

Wyoming 40 33 — 73

3-point field goals — Colorado (8-33): Knutson 3-8, Hall 2-7, Roby 1-7, Higgins 1-3, Silas 1-6, Thorne 0-2; Wyoming (4-13): Dermody 2-5, Ewing 1-2, Platt 1-4.

Officials —Verne Harris, Ruben Ramos, Bobby Jacobs.

Technical fouls — None.

Attendance — 5,572.

STEALS

Colorado (8):Roby 3, Hall 2, Silas 2, Higgins.

Wyoming (5):Ewing 2, Jones, Nelson, Taylor.

BLOCKED SHOTS

Colorado (4):Roby 2, Jackson-Wilson, Patterson.

Wyoming (3):Dermody, Taylor, Ewing.

TURNOVERS

Colorado (11):Higgins 2, Silas 2, Thorne 2, Roby, Jackson-Wilson, Hall, Knutson, King-Stockton.

Wyoming (18):Taylor 5, Jones 5, Dermody 4, Ewing 2, Platt 2.



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Former Buffalo Dermody has career day vs. old team

By Neill Woelk Camera Sports Writer
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LARAMIE, Wyo. — Ryan Dermody never played a minute for the Colorado Buffaloes, but his one semester at CU plus a few practices with the Buffs were enough to officially make him an ex-Buff.

Now a starter for Wyoming, Dermody said "Hello" to his former team and teammates Saturday with a career-high 18 points in the Cowboy's 73-64 win over Colorado.

Dermody, a former Loveland High School standout, was an invited walk-on in the fall of 2005. But halfway through the semester, he decided to transfer, and found a home in Laramie, where then-Wyoming coach Steve McClain (now a Buff assistant) gave him a scholarship.

"It just wasn't the best fit for me basketball-wise or academically," Dermody said. "It felt good up here, and I haven't looked back since."

It didn't take long Saturday for Dermody to make his presence known. He hit two 3-pointers in the first three minutes of the game, giving the Cowboys a lead they would never relinquish. He had 11 of his 18 in the first half as Wyoming built a 40-20 lead, then added two free throws in the final minute to help turn back a late Colorado rally.

"The motivation for me wasn't the opponent, it was just to get a win," Dermody said. "We came in 3-3 and we didn't want to lose a game on our home floor. We wanted to take care of business."

Dermody came into the game averaging just more than 10 points and five rebounds per game. He added nine rebounds to his 18 points Saturday, just missing his third career double-double.

Welcome back

Former Wyoming head coach Steve McClain was greeted by a smattering of boos and at least an equal amount of applause Saturday when introduced as a CU assistant.

After the game, McClain had a brief handshake with Wyoming head coach Heath Schroyer, who worked as an assistant under McClain for one season in Laramie. McClain also shook hands with the entire Wyoming team after the game, and hugged guards Brad Jones and Brandon Ewing, both of whom he recruited to Wyoming.

Marathon man

Buff guard Marcus Hall once again played all 40 minutes, the third time in a row the CU senior has been on the floor for the entire game. Hall finished with 17 points, four rebounds and four assists, all above

his season average.

Hall also hit two free throws with 1:21 left in the game to cut Wyoming's lead to five, 62-57. Hall is now 16-for-16 from the free-throw line in the final two minutes of games this year.

Moving up

With his 10 points Saturday, Buff senior Richard Roby moved into sixth place on CU's all-time scoring list.

Roby now has 1,575 points in his CU career, as he passed Randy Downs (1,566 from 1982-85). In fifth place on the list is Emmett Lewis (1,680 from 1976-79).

Tough times

in Laramie

Saturday was the first time the Buffs played in Laramie since Dec. 9, 1998, a loss.

CU's last victory in Laramie came on Dec. 10, 1996 (84-68). Wyoming has now won the last four meetings between the two schools, and holds a 26-10 advantage in Laramie.

Board problems

The Buffs were outrebounded for the sixth time in nine games Saturday, as Wyoming held a 43-33 edge on the boards.

The only games in which Colorado has outrebounded its opponent were Savannah State, Colorado Christian and Denver. The Buffs did, however, improve their numbers on the offensive boards. After grabbing just three offensive rebounds against Stanford, Colorado did collect 12 on Saturday.

Up next

After playing six of their first nine games away from home, the Buffs close out the non-conference portion of their schedule with four of their next five games at home, beginning with a Wednesday home tilt vs. New Orleans.

After that, it's a road trip to Colorado State (Dec. 22), followed by home games vs. Grambling State (Dec. 29), SMU (Jan. 4) and Tulsa (Jan. 7).

CU opens the Big 12 portion of play with a road game at Texas A&M on Jan. 12.



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Uninspired Buffs fall to Wyoming

By Patrick Ridgell

Longmont Times-Call

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Jeff Bzdelik is not happy with the performance of Jeff Bzdelik.

The first-year Colorado men's basketball coach led his team to a 73-64 loss Saturday at Wyoming in a game that saw the uninspired Buffs fall behind by 20 at halftime, rally furiously to within three in the final minute, but finally lose.

CU's lethargy in the first 20 minutes would suffice to tick off any coach. But its rally did not placate Bzdelik, and his ire, which isn't focused solely on himself, lingered. So he vented with a short-but-curious monologue that he capped with this:

"Personally, I'll be fortunate to have my job Monday morning," Bzdelik said.

Bzdelik, obviously, isn't the guy who does the firing. And seeing how neat last year's search for Ricardo Patton's successor was, the chance CU's brass subjects itself soon to another coaching change is null.

Bzdelik's spiel might have been an attempt to motivate. Or, possibly, his postgame tirade merely spilled into his news conference.

But Bzdelik's frustration with his first CU team is clear. It's 5-4, but has lost two straight and it wilts against strong competition. Last Sunday's collapse against Stanford is seared in Bzdelik's mind. Worst of all, the coach believes he's unable to find the right way to get through to his players.

"The bottom line is I have failed as a coach to instill passion, desperate energy ... a sense of pride," Bzdelik began. "It's an honor and privilege to play college basketball and wear a University of Colorado jersey.

"I'm going to keep trying to get them to understand that in order to win games, you have to play with a desperate energy all 40 minutes, play with a passion, and everyone needs to do that.

"It starts with me and I have to get them individually and collectively to sell out to that."

What sparked the second-half rally?

"They were embarrassing themselves," he said. "Do we have to wait until we're embarrassed to do that?"

Was Bzdelik surprised CU started so slow and uninspired?

"Cool doesn't win you basketball games," he said. "Cool doesn't give you a chance to win games."

As uncool as CU's first half was — and it let Wyoming hit eight of its first 11 shots and shoot 58 percent — more indignity came in the performance of a former CU walk-on. Loveland-grad Ryan Dermody scored 18, shot 6-for-10



Wyoming forward Ryan Dermody, left, gets tangled up with a Colorado's Xavier Silas at Arena Auditorium on Saturday in Laramie, Wyo. **Andy**

Carpenean / AP

from the field and grabbed nine rebounds for the Cowboys. Wyoming out-boarded the Buffs, 43-33.

CU guard Marcus Hall said the Buffs hear Bzdelik, but he doesn't know why they aren't responding.

"As a team, we have to find something to make us hungry," Hall said, repeating what he said after the Stanford loss. "We haven't done that. I don't see why. Losing should be enough, and it hasn't been."

Hall said he'll take it upon himself to find ways to increase the passion, but added he didn't know how.

Bzdelik knows the feeling.

"They will win when they get tired of losing," he said.

"I'm looking for a pulse, and you can quote me on that one."

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at
pridgell@times-call.com.

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Former Buff beats old team

*By Patrick Ridgell
Longmont Times-Call*

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Wyoming's Ryan Dermody said Saturday he harbors no ill-will toward Colorado, where he walked on in the fall of 2005 following a fine career at Loveland High. His actions indicated something else.

Dermody scored a career-best 18 points and grabbed nine rebounds as Wyoming beat CU, 73-64. The 6-foot-8 sophomore keyed Wyoming's 10-0 run in the opening minutes with a pair of 3s. He finished the day by blocking a 3-point attempt by CU senior Richard Roby as time expired.

"The opponent wasn't the biggest thing on my mind," Dermody said. "It just feels good to have a great game, I think, because we really needed this win."

Dermody left CU in the spring of 2006 for Wyoming, where former coach and current Buff assistant Steve McClain put him on scholarship. He gained his eligibility in time for Mountain West Conference play last season, and averaged 2.9 points per game. He starts for the Cowboys and entered Saturday with averages of 10.2 points and 5.5 rebounds per game.

"It just wasn't the best fit for me, basketball or academically," Dermody said about CU. "I just felt maybe I could go to a better place that was just a better fit me, I guess."

"(McClain) gave me an opportunity to play up here. I'm thankful to him for that."

Said Roby: "I remember his game a lot. He can shoot the ball long."

A few Buffs remain on the roster from Dermody's short stint in Boulder. Roby, Marcus Hall and Marcus King-Stockton were on the team in 2005. Jermyl Jackson-Wilson was redshirting after he transferred from Ohio State.

"Those guys were great players when I was there and they're still great players," Dermody said.

"They have a lot of talent on that team. They're going to have a good year."

MCCLAIN RETURNS: McClain coached his first game as an opponent in Wyoming's Arena-Auditorium. Aside from a few cat calls from hecklers during the game's quieter moments, his presence was not a big deal.

McClain hugged several of his former players during postgame handshakes. McClain recruited most of Wyoming's roster. He won 157 games over the past nine seasons in Laramie.

TIP-INS: Roby scored 10 points and passed Randy Downs to move into sixth place on CU's all-time scoring list. Roby has 1,575 points. Emmett Lewis is in fifth place with 1,680. ... King-Stockton played eight minutes after not playing at all in the past two games. ... Wyoming's Brad Jones led all scorers with 19 points. He shot 11-for-11 from the free throw line. ... Hall led the Buffs with 17. Half of CU's 66 field goal attempts were from 3-point range. CU made eight of them. ... The attendance was 5,572 on a cold, snowy day.

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at pridgell@times-call.com