



# Stanford pummels 'tentative' Buffaloes

## Cardinal blows open game in second half

Sunday, December 2, 2007

Two steps forward.

After stringing together a couple of road victories last week at Denver and Air Force, Jeff Bzdelik's Buffs thought they were ready for another test against a team expected to be in the NCAA Tournament field come March.

Stanford 67, Colorado 43.

One step back.

"I just want to keep going forward," Bzdelik said after the Buffs' loss on Sunday at the Coors Events Center, which was part of the Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series. "We got our butts beat at home badly. I can't deal with that."

The Buffs (5-3) seemed to be dealing with the Cardinal (8-1) just fine in the first half. Despite the visitors' significant size advantage, Stanford only outrebounded CU 16-14 and only led 25-22.

Bzdelik and his staff had to feel pretty good through 20 minutes, especially considering the fact that the home team had committed nine turnovers.

But for some reason the Buffs were lethargic after the intermission as Stanford dominated them 22-7 on the glass and outscored them 41-21 on 15-for-24 shooting (62.5 percent) in the second half.

CU, which was able to win three consecutive games after its humbling 78-52 loss at Wisconsin, is going to have to regroup and use the final six nonconference games to get better.

That or risk taking a long winter's nap in conference play.

"We showed that we were capable of rebounding with this team, so we played a good 20 minutes on the boards," Marcus Hall said. "We've just got to fight for 40 minutes. Being smaller, being younger, we're going to have to fight for 40 minutes. And we're going to have to make our mark on defense to have a chance to win in the Big 12."

The Buffs were warned about not getting caught on screens chasing Anthony Goods. The Stanford sharpshooter was still able to lose his defenders and knocked down three quick 3-pointers to give Stanford a 46-34 lead with 11:01 remaining.

After a hoop by Hall, who led CU with 16 points, the deficit was cut to 10 points. The Cardinal didn't blink and rattled off the next 10 points to make the score 56-36 with 6:23 left.

"I think in the second half we played too soft," Hall said. "I don't want to take anything away from Stanford, they're a good team. But I just fail to believe that they're 24 points better than us on our home court."

Cory Higgins (10 points) was the only other CU player that scored in double figures. Richard Roby scored seven points on 3-for-10 shooting after playing very well on the two-game road trip.

Bzdelik refused to point fingers at any specific players and said the entire team needs to get more aggressive in all areas.

"We need to really be operating on all cylinders. We're not. We have some tentativeness," Bzdelik said. "Tentativeness in terms of playing maybe not to lose as opposed to playing aggressively to win. Tentativeness around the rim finishing. Tentativeness defensively when we really want to get up and pressure some people and be a little bit disruptive. ...

"We're just too cautious, too tentative. And we need everybody playing fearless."

### **Stanford 67, CU 43 FG FT Reb**

#### **STANFORD Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

Hill 32 5-11 5-6 2-10 3 2 15

Washington 32 1-2 1-3 1-4 5 3 3

RLopez 16 2-5 0-0 1-6 1 4 4

Johnson 27 2-5 1-2 0-3 4 1 6

Goods 32 5-11 0-0 0-4 1 1 15

Fields 8 0-1 0-0 0-1 1 0 0

Shiller 10 1-1 0-0 0-0 1 3 3

Brown 11 3-6 2-2 1-4 0 1 8

Owens 8 1-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 2

Finger 24 4-7 3-4 4-5 0 2 11

Totals 200 24-50 12-17 10-38 16 17 67

Percentages: FG .480, FT .706.

3-Point Goals: 7-14, .500 (Goods 5-6, Shiller 1-1, Johnson 1-3, Brown 0-2, Hill 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 1.

Blocked Shots: 0.

Turnovers: 9 (Washington 4, R.Lopez 4, Hill).

Steals: 0

Technical Fouls: None.

### **FG FT Reb**

#### **COLORADO Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

Jackson-Wilson 23 2-6 0-2 2-4 1 4 4

Hall 40 4-12 6-7 0-3 4 1 16

Higgins 34 4-7 0-0 0-6 0 2 10

Silas 26 1-2 1-2 0-2 1 2 3

Roby 29 3-10 0-0 0-0 2 3 7

Thorne 7 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

Patterson 19 0-4 0-0 0-2 0 1 0

Knutson 22 1-2 0-1 0-2 0 3 3

Totals 200 15-43 7-12 3-21 9 16 43

Percentages: FG .349, FT .583.

3-Point Goals: 6-15, .400 (Hall 2-4, Higgins 2-4, Roby 1-1, Knutson 1-2, Jackson-Wilson 0-1, Patterson 0-3).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Jackson-Wilson, Higgins, Patterson).

Turnovers: 11 (Higgins 3, Silas 3, Hall 2, Roby 2, Jackson-Wilson).

Steals: 1 (Roby).

Technical Fouls: None.

**Stanford 25 42—67**

**Colorado 22 21—43**

A—6,175.

Officials—Curtis Shaw, Paul Janssen, Gerry Pollard.



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stanford 67, cu 43

## Cardinal leaves Buffaloes red-faced

By Chris Dempsey  
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 12/02/2007 11:40:58 PM MST

BOULDER — Philosophically, both Stanford and Colorado are technical teams, meaning precision passing, cutting and attention to detail are the hallmarks of their success.

But games aren't won with philosophies.

At some point, execution and shot-making become paramount, and Colorado didn't do much of either Sunday afternoon in a 67-43 loss to Stanford at the Coors Events Center. The game was part of the Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series.

"We got our butts beat at home," coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "And I can't deal with that."

Colorado hit just 15-of-43 shots in the loss, which snapped the Buffs' three-game winning streak.

"They are the best team we've played so far on our schedule," said Stanford coach Trent Johnson,

whose team raised its record to 8-1. "We knew going into this game they were a team that is playing well. Anytime you can win, it's a

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good trip."

CU players pointed to a lack of energy in a second half in which the Buffs were outscored 42-21. Stanford's biggest first-half issue was making shots (9-of-26). It rectified that issue by hitting 62 percent in the second half.

"We just let up," CU guard Marcus Hall said. "I think as a team in the second half we played too soft."

Said guard Cory Higgins: "I don't think we came out with the same energy. In the first half, everybody was on the boards, keeping people out of the middle. In the second half, you could see they were just driving right down the middle. We didn't play good team defense."

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The start was positive. Jermey Jackson-Wilson's one- hand tomahawk dunk opened the scoring for CU (5-3). He got a similar dunk a few minutes later, but those were basically the only highlights for the Buffs on an ugly afternoon.

"We as a team just got to find something to make us more hungry," Hall said. "Because, not to take anything away from Stanford, but I just fail to believe they are 24 points better than us."

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Longmont, Colorado  
Tuesday, December 04,  
2007

DAILY TIMES-CALL

Publish Date: 12/3/2007

## CU takes nosedive at home

*By Patrick Ridgell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Jeff Bzdelik knew there'd be days like this when he came to Colorado.

At least he should have, because Stanford's 67-43 defeat of the CU men's basketball team Sunday was both methodical and brutal. It was the kind of defeat that'll leave a mark, and the kind that came because one program is miles beyond the other.

Stanford was too big, quick and good for CU, which has a ways to go before it can hang with the likes of the Cardinals. That's not entirely the first-year coach's fault, but such knowledge offered no comfort.

"We got our butts beat at home, badly," said Bzdelik, whose Buffs snapped a three-game winning streak. "I can't deal with that."

CU actually trailed 25-22 after guard Levi Knutson hit a 3 right before the end of the first 20 minutes. But Stanford pounded the Buffs in the second half.

The Cardinals opened the half with a 11-2 run. Guard Anthony Goods led the charge with two of his five 3 pointers. CU (5-3) never pulled to within fewer than 10 again.

Stanford shoved the smaller Buffs around after halftime, outrebounding them 22-7 and shooting 62.5 percent from the field in the second half. For the game, Stanford grabbed 38 boards to CU's 21, a scary number for the Buffs who'll face bigger and stronger teams than the Cardinals in Big 12 play.

Stanford finished at 48 percent from the field, including 7-for-14 on 3s and several easy baskets in the paint. CU's point total was its season low. Only Wisconsin's 26-point victory over CU in November was more lopsided for the Buffs.

Perhaps most annoying for Bzdelik was the way he told his players to defend Goods during halftime, and then they did something totally different on Stanford's first possession of the second half. Actually, many facets of Sunday perplexed the coach, which is probably why he had trouble dealing with what he saw.

"We're too cautious, too tentative," he said. "We need everybody playing fearless."

"Right now we need to be at the top of our game for everybody on every possession, because quite frankly, we're undersized and not very deep. But we run out of gas and we get this deer-in-the-headlights look. I don't know why that is."

Do the players?

"I don't think we came out with the same energy," guard Marcus Hall said. "I guess we as a team have to find something to make us more hungry."

"Not to take something away from Stanford, they're a good ball club. But I just can't believe they're 24 points better than us on our home court."

Stanford (8-1), which was ranked prior to its Nov. 17 loss at Siena, might agree. Coach Trent Johnson called the Buffs “the best team we’ve played so far on our schedule,” a difficult statement to fathom Sunday considering the distance between the two programs.

Stanford, meanwhile, might be the best team CU has played. More good opponents await.

“We just have some tentativeness right now,” Bzdelik said. “I think that’s the right thing to say.”

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## Stanford cruises past CU men 67-43

By B.G. Brooks

Originally published 04:28 p.m., December 2, 2007

Updated 05:04 p.m., December 2, 2007

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BOULDER – Trailing by only three points Sunday at halftime, the Colorado Buffaloes inexplicably lost their intensity somewhere between their locker room and their return to the Coors Events Center court.

And without that intangible, the undersized Buffs aren't very competitive, verified by a 67-43 loss against Stanford that snapped a three-game CU win streak.

“We got our butts beat at home – badly, and I can't deal with that,” CU coach Jeff Bzdelik said. “Right now, we need to be at the top of our game on every possession, (but) we run out of gas and get that deer-in-the-headlights look.”

With the dazed and disrupted Buffs (5-3) managing only two field goals in the first 7:04 of the second half, the Cardinal (8-1) opened a 15-point lead, then steadily pulled away. CU's 24-point loss is second only this season to a 78-52 drubbing last month at Wisconsin.

Bzdelik said his team became “tentative” in several key areas in the last 20 minutes, and senior guard Marcus Hall agreed.

“We just let up,” Hall said. “Stanford is a good ball club and I don't want to take anything away from them. But I can't believe they're 24 points better than we are on our home court.”

After hitting only 9-of-26 (.368) from the field in the first half, the Cardinal went 15-for-24 (.625) in the second. The Buffs, meanwhile, shot just .349 (15-of-43) for the game and were outrebounded 38-21 (22-7 in the second half).

Stanford coach Trent Johnson called CU “the best team we've played so far . . . . I was pleased with (our) energy in the second half.”

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