



Bzdelik's Buffs in search of consistency

By Ryan Thorburn
Friday, January 4, 2008

If Colorado is going to compete in the Big 12 conference this season the Buffs will have to put some complete games together.

So far Jeff Bzdelik's team isn't half bad. Or half good?

Against Stanford, CU trailed 25-22 at the intermission but came out flat in the second half and lost 67-43. At Wyoming, CU was outscored 40-20 in the first half before rallying to within three points, but ultimately falling 73-54.

The Buffs outscored Wisconsin in the second half after falling behind by 17 points. New Orleans erased a six-point halftime deficit against CU with a 41-33 edge after the break.

In the first half of the 73-70 win at Colorado State, the Buffs shot 56.5 percent from the field. In the second half of the 93-47 victory over Grambling State, the Buffs shot 56.1 percent from the field.

CU will attempt to play 40 good minutes when it hosts SMU tonight at the Coors Events Center (8 p.m., FSN). On Monday, the Buffs wrap up the nonconference portion of the schedule with another home game against Tulsa.

"You always have to respect your opponent, but we feel if we do what we're supposed to do and play how we're supposed to play on our home court these are games we can win," Richard Roby said.

The Buffs (7-5) have already matched last season's win total and would like to carry some momentum and confidence into league play.

"We're getting better and that's the way we're looking at it," Marcus Hall said. "Of course, we think we could have won a couple more games than we have. But we're at seven wins already and it took us almost 30 games to do that last year."

CU received some good news this week when Dwight Thorne's knee injury was diagnosed as a deep bone bruise and not a torn ACL. The backup point guard will miss tonight's game and will be listed as day-to-day after that.

Roby will help Hall bring the ball up the court as a point-forward if necessary. But the Buffs will need their post players to get the job done tonight against a much taller Mustangs (6-5) lineup that is averaging almost seven more rebounds per game than CU this season.

"They're very long inside," Bzdelik said. "At times they've struggled to shoot the ball well, but when they shoot the ball well they're very dangerous."



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.