



Colorado rallies past Texas A&M in volleyball

Bufs bounce back after dropping first two games vs. Aggies

By Joshua Lindenstein
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Just when it looked like the Colorado volleyball team's home-court demons had returned on Saturday night, the Buffaloes found a way to pull off their most clutch performance of the season.

The Buffs rallied from a two games to none deficit to beat Texas A&M 16-25, 23-25, 25-22, 25-20, 15-9 in front of 621 at the Coors Events Center.

The victory was the Buffs' second in a row at home after dropping their first three.

"It was crazy," CU outside hitter Emilee Sisco said. "The whole team felt like we were playing pretty well in the first two games. We were disappointed that we lost (at intermission), but in the locker room it wasn't too down. Everyone came out with a lot of passion in the third and fourth and fifth games, and that's why we won."

The Buffs improved to 8-4 overall and 2-1 in Big 12 Conference play. But more importantly, they head into a tough week of road trips to Baylor and Nebraska on a winning note.

CU right side Alex Buth had a career night, racking up 26 kills on .429 hitting to lead the way. She also had 17 digs.

Sisco and Amber Sutherland, meanwhile, had season highs in kills with 20 and 15, respectively. Setter Kaitlyn Burkett added a season-high 61 assists, and libero Callie Webster had 17 digs. "I didn't think about that just because everyone played so well," Buth said of her career kills record. "Knowing that, that's incredible for me. But I would rather have no stats and get a win. So I'm just happy that we won."

After watching the Aggies hit .500 and dominate the first game, CU began clamping down defensively.

Texas A&M hit just .050 and .095 in the fourth and fifth games. The Buffs, meanwhile, hit .421 in the final frame, jumping out to an 11-6 lead and extending it to 14-7 before holding on for the win.

"We just got a lot more consistent," Buffs head coach Pi'i Aiu said.

The balanced Aggies were led by outside hitter Mary Batis's 14 kills.

Like the Buffs, they entered the match having lost four of five matches. But it appeared as though they would cruise to victory after the first two games. They led 8-4 in the third when the Buffs began chipping away.

The Aggies suffered a huge loss early in the third when setter Kristen Schevikhoven -- an Eaglecrest High School grad -- landed on a CU player's foot under the net and left the game with an apparent broken ankle.

"I've already got my No. 1 middle out," Aggies coach Laurie Corbelli said. "We've been going through that for four weeks, and now we've got our starting setter out. So it shakes you up a little bit."

The Buffs are now 2-0 in five-game matches after going 0-10 a year ago, a season in which they won just one conference match.

"It's a big win," Buth said. "In fifth games you need to come out in the clutch and we did that."

"We're 2-1 now (in the Big 12) and we've beaten two teams that we lost to last year twice, and that just shows that we've come out and forgot about last season and we're completely a new team."



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