



Bufs get reality check at Stanford

By Ryan Thorburn

Saturday, November 29, 2008

PALO ALTO, Calif. -- Jeff Bzdelik brought his young team out here on Thursday night to practice the tryptophan out of them for two days.

The Bufs still looked like a team hitting the snooze button.

Colorado fell behind by 17 points early and never recovered during a 76-62 loss to Stanford on Saturday night at Maples Pavilion in the Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series.

Nate Tomlinson and Dwight Thorne scored 18 points each on a combined 13-for-19 shooting but it wasn't enough on a night when Jermyl Jackson-Wilson was playing through an illness, Casey Crawford missed the only shot he bothered to take and leading scorer Cory Higgins didn't reach double figures.

"We just have to get back into the workshop," Thorne said after the Bufs fell to 3-2 on the season.

This appeared to be a good time to catch the Cardinal (4-0) with the Stanford Sixth Man Club gathering in uncharacteristically sparse and subdued numbers for the post-holiday non-conference game.

But CU missed nine of its first 13 shots and went without a field goal for a stretch of six minutes and 35 seconds, which allowed Stanford to build a 29-12 cushion with 8:06 remaining in the first half.

"It's kind of hard to get down by that much to a good team like Stanford and battle back," said Crawford, who started instead of Jackson-Wilson but only finished with one point and two rebounds in 12 minutes.

The Bufs did show some fight and trailed 42-32 at the intermission after making a 20-13 run over the final 7:50 of the first half to cut into the deficit.

Thorne was 2-for-3 from behind the arc with 12 points at the break while his teammates went 0-for-6 from 3-point land with 20 points.

"We've been getting off to some slow starts this season," Thorne said. "But against a quality team like Stanford the bad start really hit us in the mouth."

Tomlinson, who was 2-for-4 shooting in the first half with five points, made his first five shots in the second half, including a floater in the lane to make the score 58-48 with 11:57 remaining.

"I think you saw what he can do," Bzdelik said of his freshman point guard, who finished 8-for-12 shooting.

Higgins held Anthony Goods, who was averaging 21.3 points and shooting 45.8 percent from 3-point

territory, to 15 points with only two makes from behind the arc.

However, Cardinal center Josh Owens (21 points on 8-for-12 shooting) and forward Lawrence Hill (16 points on 7-for-11 shooting) dominated the paint against the weak CU frontcourt.

"I don't know if it was some bad food or a little stomach virus," said Jackson-Wilson, who was unable to participate in pre-game warm-ups or even the national anthem while getting an IV in the locker room. "It was very disappointing. I wasn't keeping anything down all day."

The Buffs shot 50 percent from the field but were 3-for-15 (20 percent) from behind the arc. They were out-rebounded 33-30 and turned the ball over 15 times compared to 11 for Stanford.

"They just have to find their own rhythm within this new level that they're experiencing," Bzdelik said.

CU will return to action against TCU on Wednesday night at the Coors Events Center.

Notable

Thorne led CU with six rebounds. ... Austin Dufault has 10 points and has scored in double figures in all five games. ... Stanford will be in Fort Collins on Dec. 14 to play Colorado State. The Rams lost a 65-63 heartbreaker on Saturday just up the 101 to the University of San Francisco. ... The Cardinal leads the all-time series 7-3, including last season's 67-43 triumph in Boulder.

Stanford 76, CU 62 COLORADO FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Dufault 34 5-12 0-0 1-5 0 4 10

Crawford 12 0-1 1-2 1-2 2 4 1

Tomlnsn 35 8-12 1-2 0-3 3 0 18

Higgins 36 4-12 1-4 1-4 1 4 9

Thorne II 37 5-7 6-7 2-6 1 1 18

Veal 0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Knutson 8 0-1 0-0 0-1 1 0 0

Jkn-Wlsn 11 2-2 0-0 1-2 0 4 4

Kelley 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Coney 2 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 0 0

Eckloff 23 1-3 0-1 2-4 1 3 2

Totals 200 25-50 9-16 10-30 9 20 62

Percentages: FG .500, FT .563.

3-Point Goals: 3-15, .200 (Thorne II 2-3, Tomlinson 1-4, Knutson 0-1, Eckloff 0-1, Higgins 0-2, Dufault 0-4).

Team Rebounds: 2.

Blocked Shots: 1 (Jackson-Wilson).

Turnovers: 15 (Higgins 5, Tomlinson 3, Thorne II 2, Eckloff 2, Coney, Dufault, Jackson-Wilson).

Steals: 6 (Thorne II 2, Eckloff 2, Knutson, Crawford).

Technical Fouls: None.

STANFORD FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

Hill 37 7-11 0-1 1-6 2 2 16

Owens 33 8-12 5-9 4-8 2 1 21

Johnson 19 0-3 0-0 1-1 6 3 0

Fields 23 4-7 2-2 1-4 0 3 10

Goods 33 4-9 5-5 0-6 1 0 15

Shiller 14 2-4 0-0 0-1 0 4 5

Mann 3 0-1 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

Brown 10 0-5 0-0 0-1 0 0 0

Green 17 2-3 0-0 1-1 0 3 6

Dildy 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Trotter 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Bullock 7 0-1 3-4 4-4 0 0 3

Totals 200 27-56 15-21 13-33 12 16 76

Percentages: FG .482, FT .714.

3-Point Goals: 7-17, .412 (Hill 2-3, Green 2-3, Goods 2-4, Shiller 1-2, Johnson 0-1, Fields 0-2, Brown 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 1.

Blocked Shots: 3 (Hill, Green, Owens).

Turnovers: 11 (Johnson 4, Hill 3, Owens 2, Green, Mann).

Steals: 4 (Johnson, Mann, Owens, Fields).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 32 30--62

Stanford 42 34--76

A -- 6,988.

Officials -- Dave Libbey, Mike Reed, Bobby McRoy.



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