



CU women fall to Drexel in Coors Classic

Bufs last in own tournament

By Chris Shelton

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For the first 19 minutes and 43 seconds, Hannah Skildum and Alyssa Fressle each played the best game of their Colorado careers in Saturday's Coors Classic consolation game.

But that's not what they'll take away from being on the only Buffalo team to lose both games of the Thanksgiving weekend tournament.

Skildum let her Drexel opponent score the final go-ahead bucket with 17 seconds to play, and Fressle threw a pass that was intercepted by Drexel to seal a 67-63 victory for the Dragons.

"It is a matter of finishing," said Skildum, who attacked Drexel's zone defense as well as anyone for 10 points -- scoring in double figures for the first time since last year's Coors Classic. "We're going to get better, and we're going to learn from it."

The Buffs have some learning to do if they want to break a three-game losing streak.

Sophomores Kelly Jo Mullaney and Britney Blythe were ineffective at point guard for the second consecutive game so CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller turned to Fressle, a freshman, to run the team down the stretch.

Fressle, who had a career-high 19 points, tried to pass the ball to Brittany Spears on a play to tie the game with less than 10 seconds remaining.

Drexel's Gabriela Marginean anticipated the pass, stole it and took it in for a layup to put CU away with four seconds to go.

"I just think it's unfortunate that this was (Fressle's) best game, her best all-around performance offensively and defensively, and the last play of the game is the one she's going to remember," McConnell-Miller said.

Marginean scored 26 of her 32 points in the second half to lead Drexel (3-3) over CU (2-3). The Romanian junior forward also set a Coors Classic record by going a perfect 12 of 12 from the free throw line.

"I pretty much guarded her the whole game," Skildum said. "I take full responsibility for that."

Another key turning point came much earlier when Colorado center Kara Richards picked up a foul on the offensive end and fouled out with 4:48 to play and CU leading 59-57.

The Buffs had gone inside to Richards to start the second half and it was paying off to the tune of a 13-point lead. Richards finished with 12 points in 18 minutes.

"We needed Kara in the game," McConnell-Miller said. "Your captain, your fifth-year senior, needs to know she needs to be in the game. Not an offensive foul. That type of foul is disheartening."

The Dragons hung around, too, by hitting 23 of 26 free throws.

Colorado led by 13 with 15 minutes remaining in the second half, but Drexel went on a 15-3 run to get back in the game.

The Buffs almost recovered, leading 53-46 with 7:32 to play. But Drexel, which made four 3-pointers all game, hit three in less than two minutes to keep its momentum going.

Colorado also struggled to make 3-pointers, shooting 23.8 percent on Saturday and 25 percent in Friday's loss to UMass.

"Unfortunately, this team feels it can live and die by the 3," McConnell-Miller said. "We have died by the 3."

Drexel 67, Colorado 63

DREXEL (67)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Stjarnstrom 20 1-4 3-4 4 1 3 5

Hester 27 1-5 0-0 3 3 1 2

Marginean 28 10-17 12-12 8 1 4 32

Peterson 38 2-5 4-4 6 2 1 9

Rosseel 38 4-12 0-0 6 2 2 10

Hale 9 0-1 0-0 3 0 2 0

Crane 4 0-0 0-0 1 0 1 0

Nacickaite 26 2-5 1-2 1 0 0 6

Cornish 10 0-0 3-4 2 0 3 3

Totals: 200 20-49 23-26 34 9 18 67

COLORADO (63)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Richards 18 4-6 4-7 4 0 5 12

Fressle 38 8-14 1-1 4 3 2 19

Smith 24 2-6 0-0 2 3 3 6

Spears 36 5-15 5-6 9 2 2 16

Mullaney 10 0-0 0-0 2 1 2 0

Blythe 19 0-4 0-0 3 2 2 0

Skildum 25 4-7 2-4 4 1 4 10

Seabrook 10 0-0 0-0 0 0 3 0

Piterniece 5 0-0 0-0 3 0 0 0

Dunn 15 0-3 0-0 0 0 0 0

Totals: 200 23-55 12-18 31 12 23 63

Score by halves:

Drexel 21 46 -- 67

Colorado 29 34 -- 63

3-point field goals -- Drexel (4-20): Rosseel 2-9, Peterson 1-2, Nacickaite 1-3, Marginean 0-1, Stjarnstrom 0-2, Hester 0-1; **Colorado (5-21):** Smith 2-6, Fressle 2-4, Spears 1-6, Dunn 0-3, Blythe 0-2.

Officials --Courteau, Dahlem, Cross.

Technical fouls -- Drexel: Team.

Attendance -- 1,109.

STEALS

Drexel (2):Marginean 2.

Colorado (5):Fressle 3, Spears, Skildum.

BLOCKED SHOTS

Drexel (1):Stjarnstrom.

Colorado (3):Fressle, Spears, Dunn.

TURNOVERS

Drexel (15):Rosseel 5, Hale 5, Crane 2, Stjarnstrom, Peterson, Nacickaite.

Colorado (14):Fressle 4, Spears 4, Richards 2, Smith, Blythe, Seabrook, Dunn.



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