



Tomlinson practices, expects to play vs. CSU

By Ryan Thorburn
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Nate Tomlinson is back.

Colorado's point guard returned to the practice court on Friday and plans to start next Wednesday's home game against Colorado State.

This is an extremely positive development for a team searching for something to feel good about after a humiliating 62-46 loss to Texas Christian less than 72 hours ago at the Coors Events Center.

Coach Jeff Bzdelik wanted an official diagnosis on Tomlinson's foot and didn't allow Tomlinson to suit up against TCU. The fear was that the freshman had a stress fracture that would keep him out of the lineup for six weeks, but an MRI taken Thursday revealed nothing more than a sprain.

"I was so relieved," Tomlinson said. "I felt sort of sick waiting for it to come back. It was good news. It's still going to be sore but at least I can play. And I'm happy to get out there."

Tomlinson was miserable watching the Buffs finish with five assists and 20 turnovers in the lopsided loss to a Horned Frogs team picked to finish last in the Mountain West Conference.

"Watching that hurt more than what my foot did," Tomlinson said. "It will be good to get out there with the guys and especially Wednesday."

Needless to say, Bzdelik was much more upbeat before Friday's practice than he was after the deflating loss to TCU. Having Tomlinson on the court with the other young players is vital to the development of the program.

"We're not very deep and we're extremely young and inexperienced. We need to be at full strength at all times and of course we need to have lady luck on our side. We were lucky this time," Bzdelik said. "That point guard position — from a leadership standpoint and the flow of the offense and ball movement — it's critical for us."

Tomlinson, despite sustaining his injury in the opener against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, is averaging 9.6 points, 3.6 assists, and 3.4 rebounds this season.

He played his best game, at least offensively, against Stanford a week ago with 18 points on 8-for-12 shooting.

Without their true point guard from Australia, CU feel behind 12-0 at TCU and scored a total of 14 points in the second half. Shooting guards Dwight Thorne and Cory Higgins combined for 22 points on 7-for-15 shooting but only mustered three assists with five turnovers.

And the Buffs' big men — Jermyl Jackson-Wilson (no points, one rebound), Casey Crawford (two points, three rebounds), Austin Dufault (eight points, no rebounds, six turnovers) — looked completely lost.

“Mostly I thought we just lacked energy and enthusiasm,” Tomlinson said when asked what his observations were from the bench. “Which is pretty sad considering the people that we had here and the amount of students that were here for the game.”



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