



# Higgins ends Big 12 honors drought

## Bufs sophomore named Big 12 player of week

By Ryan Thorburn

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

For the first time in three years a Colorado men's basketball player was named the Big 12's player of the week.

Cory Higgins became the first Buff to be recognized for the award, which is voted on by a panel of media covering the conference, since Richard Roby during the 2005-06 season.

The sophomore scored a career-high 33 points to lead CU to a 75-56 victory over Colorado State last Wednesday at the Coors Events Center. Higgins' 28 second-half points were the third-best point total for a half in program history.

"It was a special performance at a special time in the game," CU head coach Jeff Bzdelik said during Monday's Big 12 coaches teleconference. "What was really special about it is he scored within the framework of the offense. There wasn't one play designed for him. ...

"As a young player he's really coming into his own now."

Higgins' 33 points were the most scored at the Coors Events Center since Michel Morandais also tallied 33 points against Missouri on Feb. 22, 2002. Higgins leads CU this season in scoring (18.4 ppg), rebounding (6.0 rpg) and steals (1.7 spg).

"We can orchestrate (the offense) to players who have a hot hand or to where we might be able to exploit a mismatch," Bzdelik said. "We did focus on (Higgins) a lot more than others throughout the course of the second half because he had the hot hand."**Crawford update**

Bzdelik said there is a chance Casey Crawford will be able to return to the lineup for Friday's game against Prairie View A&M.

The 6-9 sophomore has a sprained deltoid ligament in his right ankle. On Sunday Crawford removed the protective boot he had been wearing and was able to do some shooting after a pre-practice rehab session.

"It looks like he might be able to play in the next game," Bzdelik said. "We'll see how he is today and what kind of soreness he has."

The Buffs (4-3) did not practice on Monday as the players continue focusing on taking their final exams.

**Keep 'em guessing**

Bzdelik surprised counterpart Tim Miles by using a 1-3-1 zone defense against the Rams, something the long-time coach had never done in his career.

"I've always been very interested in (the 1-3-1) and we've studied it for over a year now," Bzdelik said. "With the personnel we have on our basketball team it might fit our personality."

CSU shot 41.5 percent for the game and 35 percent from 3-point land. Marcus Walker, the Mountain West Conference's leading scorer last season, was held to eight points.

"We're going to continue to work on that, along with a number of other defenses," Bzdelik said. "We need to be a team that teams have to prepare for in a variety of ways. Not allowing teams to get in a rhythm is probably the path that we're going to have to go down."

### **The waiting game**

Bzdelik is proud of the fact that the Buffs will not miss one day of class this semester and have a light schedule during finals week. But having a week off after the loss to Texas Christian and nine days off between the win over CSU and Friday's game isn't ideal in terms of making pre-holiday on-the-court progress.

"It's good from the standpoint that we can just worry about ourselves," Bzdelik said. "It's bad from the standpoint that we had to sit on the TCU loss all week and now we have to sit on a win all week. It would have been nice to have played a game to keep that momentum going."

CU's game against Prairie View A&M will start at 8 p.m.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.

# Rocky Mountain News

## CU's Higgins named Big 12 player of week

By **B.G. Brooks**, Rocky Mountain News ([Contact](#))

Published December 15, 2008 at 10:58 p.m.



Photo by © AP

Cory Higgins scored 33 points against CSU.

Cory Higgins' effort last week against Colorado State earned him player-of-the-week honors in the Big 12 Conference - a just reward for his

career- best 33 points in Colorado's 75-56 victory.

But beyond that, CU coach Jeff Bzdelik believes it explicitly showed Higgins and his teammates what to expect when they finally grasp and execute the second-year coach's offense.

Higgins' points - 28 were scored in a pivotal second-half stretch - came "within the framework of the offense; not one play was designed for him," Bzdelik said Monday. "It was a special game, and (Higgins' scoring) came at a special time in the game."

While crediting Higgins, a 6-foot-5 sophomore from Danville, Calif., with "creating opportunities" to score, Bzdelik indicated his young players were given a glimpse of "where their shots will come from" if they continue to move without the ball and make the hard cuts they are being taught.

Higgins' highlights included hitting 9-of-10 from the floor in the second half and career highs in field-goals made (11), attempted (16) and three-pointers made (three). His 18.4 points a game lead the Buffaloes.

Meanwhile, Bzdelik said he had studied the 1-3-1 zone he sprung on CSU "for over a year," and that defense was among several he believes could benefit the Buffs (4-3).

"With the personnel we have, it might fit our personality," he said. "Teams will have to prepare for us (and) using a variety of defenses, we won't

Advertisement

**Office Liquidators is Now Offering Office Supplies**

Office Liquidators has been Colorado's **Low Price Leader** for Office Furniture for 23 years and will now do the same with **Office Supplies!**

**\$20 off**  
initial order of \$60  
enter code PC2060

Still locally owned with the same **great service.**

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience

**ORDER ONLINE**  
[www.OfficeLiquidators.com](http://www.OfficeLiquidators.com)

**303-759-3375** 11111W. 6th Ave/LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

## Rocky Mountain News

allow teams to get into a rhythm."

With its previous game against CSU on Wednesday, CU won't play again until Friday against Prairie View A&M (Coors Events Center, 8 p.m.) - a layoff Bzdelik views as a mixed blessing.

Players can concentrate this week on finals, and forward Casey Crawford gets extra healing time for a sprained ligament in his right foot. Bzdelik is hopeful Crawford, who sat out against CSU, can play Friday.

On the downside, Bzdelik said the eight days between games is more than a young team needs: "We had to sit on the TCU loss (a lackluster 62-46 effort) all week; now we have to sit on a win all week."

Advertisement

### Office Liquidators is Now Offering Office Supplies

Office Liquidators has been Colorado's **Low Price Leader** for Office Furniture **for 23 years** and will now do the same with **Office Supplies!**



**\$20 off**  
**initial order of \$60**  
enter code PC2060

Still locally owned with the same **great service.**

## OFFICE LIQUIDATORS

Profit From Our Experience

**ORDER ONLINE**  
**www.OfficeLiquidators.com**

**303-759-3375** 11111W. 6th Ave/LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

college basketball

## CU hoops: Higgins tops Big 12

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 12/15/2008 12:48:15 PM MST

Updated: 12/15/2008 02:16:00 PM MST



Colorado guard Cory Higgins. (The Denver Post)

That 33-point effort by Colorado's Cory Higgins last week against Colorado State evidently turned

some heads around the Big 12 Conference.

On Monday, the sophomore guard became the first member of the CU men's basketball team to earn Big 12 player-of-the-week honors in almost three years — since Richard Roby received the award in back-to-back weeks in January, 2006.

Higgins scored 28 of his career-best 33 points in the second half, helping Colorado (4-3) erase an eight-point deficit. The 28 second-half points ranks third in school history for a half. Higgins finished with the most points in a game at the Coors Events Center since CU's Michel Morandais scored 33 against visiting Missouri on Feb. 22, 2002.

"(Higgins) had a special game, at a special time," Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik said Monday on the Big 12 teleconference. "What was special about it was, he scored within the framework of the offense. There wasn't one play designed for him.

"He did a great job of reading the defenders. His teammates did a great job of passing him the ball. And he was able to knock down shots and score in a variety of ways."

Higgins leads Buffaloes scorers with 18.4 points per game.

"He's really coming into his own now," Bzdelik said.

**CRAWFORD'S ANKLE IMPROVING** Sophomore forward Casey Crawford was able to participate in some parts of practice on Sunday and could be ready for Friday's 7 p.m. home game against Prairie View A&M, Bzdelik said.

Crawford sat out the Dec. 10 game against CSU with an ankle injury that an MRI confirmed to be a ligament sprain.

Advertisement

**Office Liquidators is Now Offering Office Supplies**

Office Liquidators has been Colorado's **Low Price Leader** for Office Furniture for 23 years and will now do the same with Office Supplies!

Still locally owned with the same **great service.**

**OFFICE LIQUIDATORS**  
Profit From Our Experience

**ORDER ONLINE**  
[www.OfficeLiquidators.com](http://www.OfficeLiquidators.com)

**303-759-3375** 11111W. 6th Ave/LAKEWOOD  
Between Kipling & Simms

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

**\$20 off**  
initial order of \$60  
enter code PC2060

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

"We'll progress through the week with aggressive rehab," Bzdelik said of Crawford. "There is hope that Casey will be able to play on Friday."

**LONG BREAK** The date with Prairie View A&M on Friday will end a stretch of eight full days off between games. This is finals week on the CU campus.

"In some ways (the break) is a benefit and in some ways it's not," Bzdelik said. "It's good that we can just worry about ourselves and get better individually and as a team, and not have to prepare (for an opponent)."

"It's bad because we played very well with great effort against Colorado State and it would have been nice to play a game (sooner) to keep that momentum going."

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or  
[tkensler@denverpost.com](mailto:tkensler@denverpost.com)

Advertisement

## Office Liquidators is Now Offering Office Supplies

Office Liquidators has been Colorado's **Low Price Leader** for Office Furniture **for 23 years** and will now do the same with **Office Supplies!**

Still locally owned with the same **great service.**

## OFFICE LIQUIDATORS

Profit From Our Experience

**ORDER ONLINE**  
[www.OfficeLiquidators.com](http://www.OfficeLiquidators.com)

**303-759-3375** 11111W. 6th Ave/LAKEWOOD  
 Between Kipling & Simms

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5



**\$20 off**  
**initial order of \$60**  
enter code PC2060

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™