



# Bulls' buzzer-beater sinks Buffs

## CU comeback falls short in tourney semis

Camera staff report

Monday, December 29, 2008

HONOLULU -- Calvin Betts made a floater in the lane with .5 on the clock to give Buffalo a 62-60 victory over Colorado in the semifinals of the Rainbow Classic on Monday night here at the Stan Sheriff Center.

The last-second loss prevented the Buffs from facing rival Colorado State in the championship game. The Rams -- who lost 75-56 to CU in Boulder on Dec. 10 -- advanced with an 82-76 victory over Vermont in the other semifinal.

CU will face Vermont in the third-place game at 4:30 p.m. today. CSU will play Buffalo for the title at 10:30 p.m.

"He made a good move and made a tough shot," senior forward Jermyl Jackson-Wilson, who was guarding Betts on the decisive possession, said during the 760 AM post-game show. "Good players make plays and he made a good one."

The Buffs (7-4) fought back from a nine-point halftime deficit and finally tied the score 56-56 after Nate Tomlinson made a steal and layup with 4:47 to play.

The Bulls (7-4) seized a 60-56 lead after scoring on offensive rebounds on the next two possessions.

Tomlinson made two free throws and Dwight Thorne tied the score 60-60 on a drive with 11.7 seconds left.

"We dug ourselves such a deep hole at the beginning of this game," CU head coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "They had better energy than us from the start."

The Buffs trailed by as many as 13 points in the first half and were down 38-29 at the intermission despite shooting 60 percent (12-for-20) from the field.

CU was out-rebounded 16-7 in the first half and allowed Buffalo to grab four offensive boards. Thanks to the extra possessions the Bulls took 10 more shots than the Buffs in the first 20 minutes and shot 56.7 percent (17-for-30) from the floor with 18 points on offensive rebounds and turnovers.

"At the beginning of the game we weren't playing our game and we were letting them get a lot of offensive rebounds," Jackson-Wilson said. "We needed to come out with a lot more fire in our bellies than we did. If we do this in the Big 12 we'll be down 20 points at halftime."

Buffalo out-rebounded CU 32-21 with 13 offensive rebounds. Andy Robinson led the Bulls with 16 points on 7-for-13 shooting, and Betts added 15 points on 7-for-11 shooting.

"I can't dive on the floor. I would if I could," Bzdelik said. "I'd take a charge for them if I could. I'd block somebody off for them if I could. But I can't do those things for us. ..."

“And we’re talking about a one-possession game here.”

CU shot 51.1 percent from the field but allowed Buffalo to shoot 50 percent. Cory Higgins (15 points), Tomlinson (13), Thorne (11) and Casey Crawford (11) all scored in double figures.

None of the Buffs grabbed more than four rebounds.

“They weren’t bigger than us. It’s just a case of a will and a want to,” Bzdelik said. “I don’t know the answer ... maybe I need to go recruit rebounders.”



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