



Catamounts pummel Buffs in third-place tilt

Young Buffs lackluster in wake of semifinal loss

Camera staff report

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

HONOLULU -- Jeff Bzdelik has a lot of work to do before the Buffs participate in the Maui Invitational next season against some of the best programs in the country.

Colorado's young roster had trouble competing with the competition in the Rainbow Classic.

The Buffs were dominated 84-59 by Vermont in the third-place game Tuesday at the Stan Sheriff Center.

CU, which opened the tournament with an 80-63 victory over Coppin State, was unable to bounce back from losing 62-60 to Buffalo on a buzzer-beater in Monday's semifinal.

"It shouldn't have been that way, but probably so," Bzdelik said on the 760 AM post-game show when asked if his young players had trouble putting the emotional loss behind them. "That's where maturity comes in. With a young team the reality is when you play three games in three days there's a whole gamut of emotions and the preparations are different."

The Catamounts (8-4) shot 56.9 percent from the field and were 7-for-11 (63.6 percent) from 3-point range. Mike Trimboli led the way with 24 points on an 8-for-9 night from the floor (4-for-4 behind the arc).

"It wasn't very pretty," Bzdelik said of CU's defensive effort. "Maybe it's good we're this far away from home so our fans didn't have to see it."

Cory Higgins led his with 18 points before fouling out with six minutes remaining. CU shot 40.8 percent from the field and 31.3 percent from behind the arc.

The Buffs (7-5) trailed 42-33 at halftime after allow-ing Vermont to shoot 58 percent (15-for-26) from the field and 86 percent (6-for-7 behind the arc).

Trimboli made three consecutive 3-pointers to give the Catamounts a 10-point lead. Higgins led CU with 12 points in the first half.

The Buffs did not have a turnover in the first half but committed 10 of them in the second half. CU was out-rebounded 30-27 and outscored 30-22 in the paint.

"If you're going to build this thing right you have to start at the ground level," Bzdelik said. "And there's going to be hard lessons along the way."

CU will return to action on Monday at SMU.

Vermont 84, CU 59 COLORADO**FG FT Reb****Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

Dufault 28 2-10 1-2 0-3 0 2 6

Tmlnsn 34 3-8 4-4 1-2 1 1 11

Higgins 34 6-10 4-4 0-5 2 5 18

Thorne 16 3-6 1-2 0-1 0 3 7

Jkn-Wlsn 19 1-2 2-4 2-4 2 2 4

Kelley 4 1-1 1-1 0-0 0 1 3

Coney 9 0-3 0-0 0-0 2 0 0

Veal 8 0-1 0-0 2-2 0 0 0

Knutson 20 0-2 0-0 0-2 1 2 0

Zehnder 12 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 4 0

Crawfrd 4 2-4 0-0 0-1 0 1 4

Eckloff 12 2-2 1-1 1-4 0 3 6

Totals 200 20-49 14-18 6-27 9 24 59

Percentages: FG .408, FT .778.**3-Point Goals:** 5-16, .313 (Higgins 2-2, Eckloff 1-1, Dufault 1-2, Tomlinson 1-4, Knutson 0-2, Thorne II 0-2, Coney 0-3).**Team Rebounds:** 3.**Blocked Shots:** 2 (Jackson-Wilson 2).**Turnovers:** 10 (Higgins 4, Veal 2, Knutson, Zehnder, Tomlinson, Jackson-Wilson).**Steals:** 3 (Jackson-Wilson, Coney, Thorne II).**Technical Fouls:** None.**VERMONT**

FG FT Reb**Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

Blakely 25 5-9 6-13 0-6 2 4 16

McIntosh 30 5-11 1-1 1-6 1 1 12

Vier 25 4-5 0-1 1-1 2 3 9

Trimboli 31 8-9 4-5 0-4 5 2 24

Young 19 0-3 0-0 0-2 1 3 0

Accaoui 16 1-1 0-0 0-0 2 1 3

Hughes 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Joseph 15 1-5 4-5 0-2 1 0 6

Clarke 12 1-4 0-0 2-3 1 0 2

Brgmnn 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Fjeld 10 1-1 2-2 2-4 1 1 4

Dean 2 1-1 2-2 0-0 0 0 4

Shields 2 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Kissel 9 2-2 0-1 1-1 0 0 4

Totals 200 29-51 19-30 7-30 16 16 84

Percentages: FG .569, FT .633.**3-Point Goals:** 7-11, .636 (Trimboli 4-4, Vier 1-1, Accaoui 1-1, McIntosh 1-1, Clarke 0-1, Joseph 0-1, Young 0-2).**Team Rebounds:** 1.**Blocked Shots:** 4 (McIntosh 3, Blakely).**Turnovers:** 6 (Young 2, Blakely, Bergmann, McIntosh, Vier).**Steals:** 6 (Vier 3, Young 2, Trimboli).**Technical Fouls:** None.**Colorado 33 26--59**

Vermont 42 42--84



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