



K-Mac's Buffs win fifth in row

Smith leads way with 23 points for Colorado

Camera staff report
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HONOLULU -- Aloha, Big 12 play.

The Colorado women's basketball team believes it is ready for the conference grind after sweeping its two-game set here in the Paradise Classic with a 67-55 victory over Hawaii on Sunday at the Stan Sheriff Center.

The Buffs (8-4), who have won five consecutive games, picked up their first true road win against host Hawaii after beating Pepperdine on Saturday night.

"It was a great road trip. We were excited to come out here and experience Hawaii," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said on the KKZN radio post-game show. "But the main objective when we finished our last practice and left the Coors Events Center was to come back 2-0 and perform to the best of our ability. I think they did that the past two games."

The Warriors (3-10), who fell behind by as many as 15 points in the first half, opened the second half with a 7-0 run, capped with a 3-pointer by Leilani Galdones that tied the score 36-36.

"There were so many things that contributed to that," McConnell-Miller said. "And they were all caused by mental errors on our part."

But 6-foot-4 senior center Kara Richards -- who only played eight minutes and did not score in the first half after picking up two early fouls -- answered with two field goals to give the Buffs a four-point lead.

"I don't know if I have to write her a letter or keep e-mailing her, but she is not hearing the significance of having her on the floor," McConnell-Miller said. "We need her on the floor and for her to not take dumb fouls."

Richards finished with 12 points before fouling out in the final moments.

Brittany Spears -- who scored 18 points in the win over Pepperdine -- was named the tournament's most valuable player after scoring 15 points against Hawaii.

Smith led the Buffs with 23 points on 8-for-10 shooting, including a 6-for-7 performance from 3-point range.

"We decided before this trip that our motto was going to be: business before pleasure," Smith said. "That's what we did, we took care of business."

The Buffs open Big 12 play on Saturday against No. 7 Baylor at the Coors Events Center.

"Three or four weeks ago we weren't feeling good about where we were," McConnell-Miller said. "I think we feel good now and that monster they call the Big 12 is in front of us."

Colorado 67, Hawaii 55

COLORADO (67)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Spears 37 5-13 3-4 6 1 3 14

Richards 24 6-8 0-0 7 2 5 12

Fressle 38 1-10 3-4 2 8 3 5

Smith 31 8-10 1-3 7 2 4 23

Blythe 14 0-1 0-0 1 1 3 0

Skildum 11 1-3 4-4 2 0 0 6

Seabrook 7 0-1 0-0 2 0 2 0

Dale 1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Piterniece 2 0-0 0-0 1 0 0 0

Mullaney 22 2-4 0-0 1 5 2 4

Dunn 13 1-2 0-1 2 0 2 3

Totals: 200 24-52 11-16 32 19 24 67

HAWAII (55)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Hittle 30 0-5 1-4 7 1 2 1

Liepkalne 26 0-5 2-2 7 2 1 2

Jones 8 1-4 0-0 0 0 2 2

Cho 37 4-9 4-4 1 4 2 15

Tinnin 6 0-1 0-0 1 0 0 0

Linton 13 3-8 3-4 7 1 2 9

Hamilton 4 0-3 0-0 0 0 1 0

Wilson 7 1-3 1-2 0 0 1 3

Arbuckle 28 4-10 4-7 3 2 1 12

Galdones 20 2-4 0-0 4 2 2 6

Patterson 10 1-2 1-2 2 0 2 3

Dew 11 1-1 0-0 1 0 2 2

Totals: 200 17-55 16-25 38 12 18 55

Score by halves:

Colorado 36 31 -- 67

Hawaii 29 26 -- 55

3-point field goals -- Colorado (8-18): Spears 1-3, Fressle 0-3, Smith 6-7, Blythe 0-1, Skildum 0-1, Mullaney 0-1, Dunn 1-2; Hawaii (5-16): Liepkalne 0-3, Cho 3-6, Tinnin 0-1, Hamilton 0-1, Arbuckle 0-1, Galdones 2-4.

Officials --Fujimoto, Apo, Ishikawa.

Technical fouls -- None.

Attendance -- 988.

STEALS

Colorado (8):Spears 2, Fressle, Smith 3, Mullaney, Dunn.

Hawaii (4):Hittle 2, Linton, Arbuckle.

BLOCKED SHOTS

Colorado (9):Spears 4, Richards, Fressle, Smith, Seabrook, Dunn.

Hawaii (1):Arbuckle.

TURNOVERS

Colorado (13):Spears 3, Richards, Fressle 5, Blythe 2, Seabrook, Mullaney.

Hawaii (16):Hittle 2, Liepkalne 4, Jones, Cho 2, Tinnin, Arbuckle, Galdones 3, Dew 2.



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