



# Bufs' Fressle draws tough assignment in Riley

## CU frosh will guard Big 12's top scorer

By Chris Shelton

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Colorado freshman Alyssa Fressle has played in all of 13 games in her burgeoning college career, but tonight she will be asked to defend one of the better players in women's basketball.

The Buffs take on No. 22 Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla., (6 p.m., KKZN radio) and Fressle will be charged with defending Big 12 leading scorer Andrea Riley.

The junior point guard averages 22.3 points per game -- sixth best in the country -- and is coming off a 32-point performance against Iowa State on Saturday.

"The biggest challenge will be for Alyssa Fressle," CU junior guard Bianca Smith said. "Being a freshman having to guard the leading scorer in the Big 12 is quite a challenge."

Smith and the rest of the CU staff, however, believe Fressle is the team's best defender.

And Fressle, who has only seen Riley play once, is looking forward to the challenge.

"I'm actually really excited," Fressle said. "At first I was like, 'Oh my gosh, it's Andrea Riley.' But I'm really excited. I don't feel like I'm incapable. I feel pretty confident that I can do pretty well."

If the Cowgirls (11-3, 0-1 Big 12)aren't scoring in transition, the team likes to run the offense so that Riley gives up the ball, runs off a screen, gets the ball back and scores.

She can hit a shot from anywhere on the court, too.

"Even if you show it to Alyssa on film ... you still don't expect her to take the shots she takes," Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "They're not always in the flow of the offense and they're past NBA range. It's hard to expect that."

Meanwhile, the Buffs (8-5, 0-1) are hoping to get their scoring star back on track. Sophomore guard Brittany Spears was taken out of her game in Saturday's 63-50 loss to Baylor.

Spears, the Big 12's second-leading scorer at 18.5 points per game, was held to 14 points and wasn't much of a factor against the Bears. It was the first time this season a team identified Spears as a player to shut down, and succeeded.

"She has to do a better job of using the screens we set for her. She didn't really use them," McConnell-Miller said. "She hasn't needed them too much this year. She's got to see that the players in this league

are going to respect her game."

McConnell-Miller plans on going to her bench more against Oklahoma State, too.

Against Baylor, senior forward Hannah Skildum never got off the bench. Reserve center Courtney Dunn played less than a minute. Guard Kelly Jo Mullaney -- who started the first seven games this season -- played 16 scoreless minutes. The Buffs made one field goal in the last eight minutes Saturday.

"I should have gone to the bench in the first half," McConnell-Miller said. "I saw that we were tired at the end. ... That substitution pattern was on me. That was no reflection on how they played in practice or of anything that was going on with the team."



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## CU women's preview: at Oklahoma St.

**TODAY** -- Colorado (8-5, 0-1) faces No. 22 Oklahoma State (11-3, 0-1) at 6 p.m. in the Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla.

**BROADCAST** -- No TV. Radio on KKZN (760 AM).

**STORYLINES** -- CU's defense will be key as Oklahoma State ranks second in the Big 12 and ninth in the nation in scoring at 78.5 points per game. Leading the way for the Cowgirls is junior point guard Andrea Riley, who leads the Big 12 in scoring at 22.3 points per game. CU counters with sophomore forward Brittany Spears, who is second in Big 12 scoring at 18.5 points per game.

**KEY STAT** -- Riley has scored 30 points or more in each of her last two games.

**COACHES** -- Kathy McConnell-Miller is 140-146 overall and 49-58 at Colorado. Kurt Budke is 417-91 overall and 64-44 at Oklahoma State.

### PROBABLE STARTERS:

**CU** -- G Britney Blythe, 5-9, sophomore, 2.5 ppg, 1.5 apg; G Alyssa Fressle, 5-10, freshman, 9.2 ppg, 4.2 apg; G Brittany Spears, 6-1, sophomore 18.5 ppg, 7.7 rpg; G Bianca Smith, 5-9, junior, 10.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg; C Kara Richards, 6-4, senior, 12.5 ppg, 6.4 rpg.

**OSU** -- G Andrea Riley, 5-5, junior, 22.3 ppg, 6.9 apg; G Taylor Hardeman, 5-10, senior, 7.1 ppg, 2.5 apg; F Tegan Cunningham, 6-1, junior, 12 ppg, 4.4 rpg; F Shaunte Smith, 6-0, senior, 12 ppg, 7.4 rpg; F Shyvonn Spears, 6-1, senior, 3.4 ppg, 6.1 rpg.

**THE SERIES** -- Oklahoma State has won three of the last four, but still trails 26-22 overall.

**UP NEXT** -- The Buffs get back out on the road to take on No. 16 Texas at 6 p.m. Saturday.



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