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oklahoma 72, colorado 58

## Bufs remain upbeat despite Big 12 drought

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

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Oklahoma All-America center Courtney Paris, who had 19 points and 14 rebounds, is fouled by CU counterpart Kara Richards in the first half. (Jack Dempsey, The Associated Press)

BOULDER — All-America center Courtney Paris and No. 3 Oklahoma were a load for the Colorado women's basketball team Wednesday night.

So what else is new? The Sooners' 72-58 victory completed a murderer's row of four consecutive ranked opponents to open the Buffaloes' conference schedule.

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Colorado (8-8, 0-4 Big 12) is winless after four league games for the first time in the program's 35-year history. But spirits remain high, CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said afterward.

"We knew coming in what a tough stretch this was going to be," McConnell-Miller said. "But we maintained our composure. A lot of teams at this point could have fallen apart, lost their confidence. . . . There's nobody on this team that is

## CU Basketball

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headed in that direction."

Getting a game-best 21 points from sophomore guard Brittany Spears, Colorado held an early lead and was tied (28-28) at halftime. Oklahoma took control early in the second half with a 16-0 run, making it 47-33 with 12 1/2 minutes remaining. Paris, a 6-foot-4 senior and one of the strongest players in the country, worked for position and scored seven points during the

flurry.

The daughter of former all-pro Bubba Paris and a double-double machine ever since she stepped on campus, Paris finished with 19 points and 14 rebounds.

"Coach (Sherri Coale) said at halftime we had to get on people and start burying them," Paris said.

Oklahoma (15-2, 4-0 Big 12) overcame early sloppiness against Colorado's switching defenses and made it seven wins in a row over the Buffaloes.

In her final appearance at the Coors Events Center, Paris secured the 114th double-double of her career while extending her active streak of 109 in succession. Both are NCAA records.

Colorado senior center Kara Richards did what she could. At least Richards can say Paris failed to match her averages of 24 points and 16 rebounds in three previous meetings against CU.

"Their guards know how to get her the ball," Richards said of Paris. "And she knows how to use her body."

Twin sister Ashley Paris, a 6-3 senior, contributed 10 points and nine rebounds.

"I always wondered why they didn't redshirt Ashley," CU's McConnell-Miller said.

"Thank God."

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## OKLAHOMA (15-2, 4-0 BIG 12)

A.Paris 5-11 0-2 10, Thompson 1-4 1-2 3, C. Paris 9-10 1-3 19, Robinson 5-9 0-0 10, Hand 5-10 0-1 13, Stevenson 2-5 0-0 5, Roethlisberger 2-6 2-4 7, Hartman 0-0 2-2 2, Vining 1-3 1-1 3.  
**Totals 30-58 7-15 72.**

## COLORADO (8-8, 0-4)

Spears 7-17 3-4 21, Richards 3-12 1-7 7, Fressle 5-9 2-4 12, Smith 5-9 0-0 15, Blythe 1-2 0-0 3, Skildum 0-0 0-0 0, Mullaney 0-0 0-0 0, Dunn 0-3 0-0 0. **Totals 21-52 6-15 58. Tied 28-28. 3-point goals — Oklahoma 5-16 (Hand 3-6, Stevenson 1-3, Roethlisberger 1-4, Thompson 0-1, Vining 0-2), Colorado 10-18 (Smith 5-8, Spears 4-7, Blythe 1-1, Dunn 0-2). Fouled out — Smith. Rebounds — Oklahoma 44 (C.Paris 14), Colorado 24 (Richards 7). Assists — Oklahoma 17 (Robinson 5), Colorado 10 (Blythe 4). Total fouls — Oklahoma 11, Colorado 15. A — 2,066.**

Halftime —

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# Upset still not in cards for Buffs

## Oklahoma's 16-0 run too much for CU to overcome

By Chris Shelton  
Thursday, January 22, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — First Baylor, now Oklahoma.

The Colorado women's basketball team came out strong at home against another top-10 team on Wednesday, but another 5-10 minute lapse cost the Buffs a chance at the upset.

This time No. 3 Oklahoma used a 16-0 run early in the second half to take control en route to a 72-58 Big 12 victory. The Buffs suffered a similar lapse down the stretch in their Big 12 opener 11 days earlier against Baylor and lost.

"As much as you say it, as much as you try to emphasize it, we have to execute," Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "We have to know what our strengths are, and our strengths are not going one-on-one, not breaking down people. Our strength is utilizing every player on the floor in a 30-second time frame. The message has to get through."

For the first time in program history, Colorado has opened Big 12 play 0-4. Also for the first time in program history, CU opened against four consecutive ranked opponents.

The Buffs certainly had their chance to avoid the unkind distinction.

Colorado was tied with Oklahoma 28-28 at halftime and led the Sooners 33-31 two minutes into the second half. But the Sooners went on a 16-0 run over the next six minutes.

"We had the confidence we could win this game," Colorado sophomore Brittany Spears said of the first half. "It was just hard because they're a smart and experienced team. So it was hard for us to come back from a 16-0 run."

Senior All-American center Courtney Paris continued her NCAA record double-double streak with 109 in a row and 114 overall. She posted 19 points and 14 rebounds for Oklahoma (15-2, 4-0).

Twin sister Ashley Paris added 10 points and nine rebounds and freshman guard Whitney Hand scored 13 points.

Spears led CU (8-8, 0-4) with 21 points. Junior guard Bianca Smith scored 12 of her 15 points in the first half to keep CU in the game. Freshman Alyssa Fressle scored 10 of her 12 points in the second half as the Buffs tried to make a run.

Oklahoma led by as many as 16 in the second half. Colorado cut the lead to nine, 62-53, with 4:11 to

play but could get no closer.

Courtney Paris wasn't concerned that her team was tied with CU at halftime, just irritated.

"When you're tied up playing your best, that's one thing," Paris said. "But when you're not doing your best, that's a whole other thing."

## **Oklahoma 72, Colorado 58**

### **OKLAHOMA (72)**

**min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp**

A. Paris 36 5-11 0-2 9 0 2 10

Thompson 16 1-4 1-2 2 2 0 3

C. Paris 29 9-10 1-3 14 1 4 19

Robinson 30 5-9 0-0 4 5 2 10

Hand 33 5-10 0-1 7 1 3 13

Stevenson 14 2-5 0-0 1 1 0 5

Roethlisberger 18 2-6 2-4 4 1 0 7

Hartman 10 0-0 2-2 1 3 0 2

Vining 14 1-3 1-1 0 3 0 3

**Totals: 200 30-58 7-15 44 17 11 72**

### **COLORADO (58)**

**min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp**

Spears 37 7-17 3-4 6 0 1 21

Richards 37 3-12 1-7 7 0 3 7

Fressle 37 5-9 2-4 2 0 1 12

Smith 26 5-9 0-0 1 2 5 15

Blythe 31 1-2 0-0 2 4 2 3

Skildum 8 0-0 0-0 1 3 1 0

Mullaney 9 0-0 0-0 1 0 1 0

Dunn 15 0-3 0-0 0 1 1 0

**Totals: 200 21-52 6-15 24 10 15 58**

**Score by halves:**

Oklahoma 28 44 -- 72

Colorado 28 30 -- 58

**3-point field goals --** Oklahoma (5-16): Hand 3-6, Stevenson 1-3, Roethlisberger 1-4, Thompson 0-1, Vining 0-2; Colorado (10-18): Smith 5-8, Spears 4-7, Blythe 1-1, Dunn 0-2.

**Officials --**Dee Kantner, Cameron Inouye, Brian Hall.

**Technical fouls --** None.

**Attendance --** 2,066

**STEALS**

**Oklahoma (7):**Robinson 2, Hartman 2, Hand, Stevenson, Roethlisberger.

**Colorado (8):**Spears 4, Fressle 4.

**BLOCKED SHOTS**

**Oklahoma (5):**C. Paris 4, A. Paris.

**Colorado (2):**Richards, Fressle.

**TURNOVERS**

**Oklahoma (17):**Robinson 7, Thompson 4, C. Paris 3, A. Paris, Hand, Stevenson.

**Colorado (14):**Fressle 4, Blythe 4, Spears 2, Richards 2, Smith, Mullaney.



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**BREAKING NEWS:** [It's official: Bennet sworn in](#)

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

Published January 21, 2009 at 9:08 p.m.

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Colorado center Courtney Dunn is pressured by Oklahoma forward Carlee Roethlisberger during the first half in Boulder on Wednesday.

BOULDER — University of Colorado women's basketball coach Kathy McConnell-Miller has seen enough — no, too much — of Oklahoma's Paris sisters. But then, so has every other coach in the Big 12 Conference.

"Yeah, it feels like they've been around forever," McConnell-Miller said Wednesday night after seniors Courtney and Ashley Paris pushed the No. 3 Sooners to a 72-58 victory at the Coors Events Center.

Held to six points in the first 20 minutes and committing two of the Sooners' 11 first-half turnovers, Courtney Paris rallied in the second to score nine points in the opening 5:10 and ignite a 14-2 run that swept the Sooners (15-2 overall) to their 11th consecutive victory and fourth straight Big 12 win (4-0).

Courtney Paris finished with 19 points and 14 rebounds — her 114th double-double in 117 career games — while her sister was one rebound shy of a double-double (10 points, nine boards). CU's Brittany Spears was the game's high scorer with 21.

The Buffaloes (8-8, 0-4) battled the Sooners to a 28-28 halftime tie. Oklahoma coach Sherri Coale credited CU, but added, "I felt the reason the score was tied was due more to our lack of readiness . . ."

But by game's end, Oklahoma was OK, committing only six more turnovers and dominating every category that counted: points in the paint (44-16), second-chance points (21-3), fast-break points (16-2) and bench scoring (17-0).

McConnell-Miller wants her players to understand "what our strengths are. Our strengths are not one-on-one or breaking people down and pulling up for jump shots. Our strengths are utilizing everyone on the floor in a 30-second time frame."

Having opened Big 12 play with losses to four top 25 teams and dropping to 0-4 in league play for the first time in team history, CU plays at unranked Missouri on Saturday.

McConnell-Miller said her team realized the opening stretch's difficulty and has responded well: "There's not one day they've come to practice and didn't want to be coached."

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Longmont, Colorado  
Friday, January 23, 2009

Publish Date: 1/22/2009

## Steamrolled by Sooners

Okla. scoring burst seals CU's fate

*By Patrick Ridgell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — The worst-case scenario has unfolded for the Colorado women's basketball program.

Four straight games against ranked teams to open Big 12 play has resulted in four straight losses, capped by Wednesday's 72-58 defeat to No. 3 Oklahoma. CU (8-8, 0-4 Big 12) had never started Big 12 play with four straight losses before.

With Saturday's trip to Missouri up next (6 p.m., no TV), CU's immediate and daunting task is to climb from this hole and salvage something in 2008-09. Its hopes are the frustrations of the past four games will yield something worthwhile.

"We have to use all the things we learned, both positive and negative, against future opponents," guard Bianca Smith said.

What CU might have learned Wednesday, if it didn't know already, was one-on-one play is not its style, coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. The Buffs entered halftime tied 28-28 with the Sooners because they had executed well on offense, involving all five players on the court. They got away from that early in the second half, which was when Oklahoma went on an 18-2 run to take control.

What CU already knew was the Sooners would pound the basketball into the paint and use the size of senior twins Courtney and Ashley Paris, listed at 6-foot-4 and 6-3. They did. The Sooners outscored the Buffs 21-3 on second-chance points and 44-16 in the paint, and they grabbed 44 rebounds to CU's 24.

Courtney Paris recorded her 109th double-double in a row Wednesday with 19 points and 14 rebounds. She has 114 in her career. Both are NCAA records.

Unless it's in the postseason, the Paris twins, the daughters of former NFL all-pro lineman Bubba Paris, won't show up on CU's schedule again.

"Thank God," McConnell-Miller said.

McConnell-Miller knows the Buffs will not find most of its success in the paint, or on second-chance points. When it doesn't involve all five players in its offense, it'll struggle, too, as it did Wednesday.



Colorado's Brittany Spears saves the ball from going out of bounds as Oklahoma's Amanda Thompson is tripped up at the Coors Events Center in Boulder on Wednesday.

**Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

## OKLAHOMA 72, COLORADO 58

OKLAHOMA (15-2, 4-0)

A. Paris 5-11 0-2 10, Thompson 1-4 1-2 3, C. Paris 9-10 1-3 19, Robinson 5-9 0-0 10, Hand 5-10 0-1 13, Stevenson 2-5 0-0 5, Roethlisberger 2-6 2-4 7, Hartman 0-0 2-2 2, Vining 1-3 1-1 3. Totals 30-58 7-15 72.

COLORADO (8-8, 0-4)

Spears 7-17 3-4 21, Richards 3-12 1-7 7, Fressle 5-9 2-4 12, Smith 5-9 0-0 15, Blythe 1-2 0-0 3, Skildum 0-0 0-0 0, Mullaney 0-0 0-0 0, Dunn 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 21-52 6-15 58.

Halftime—28-28. 3-Point Goals—Oklahoma 5-16 (Hand 3-6, Stevenson 1-3, Roethlisberger 1-4, Vining 0-2, Thompson 0-1), CU 10-18 (Smith 5-8, Spears 4-7, Blythe 1-1, Dunn 0-2). Fouled Out—Smith (CU). Rebounds—Oklahoma 44 (C. Paris 14), CU 24 (Richards 7). Assists—Oklahoma 17 (Robinson 5), CU 10 (Blythe 4). Total Fouls—Oklahoma 11, CU 15. Technicals—none. A—2,066.



The coach said the same problems plagued CU in Saturday's 62-32 loss at Texas, in which the Buffs scored a program-low points. The players were sent home with a tape from that game and told to do a report on it. They did.

"The message has to get through," McConnell-Miller said.

"I think that'll come with more maturity and understanding of their own strengths."

McConnell-Miller better hope confidence and resiliency are two of them. She said she's spoken with her players "at length" about the challenge of opening with four ranked teams, and through it all, everyone maintained their composure and continued to work hard. For now, that's what the Buffs have to hang their hats on.

"A lot of teams at this point could have fallen apart, lost their confidence, done lot of things, gone in a lot of different directions," McConnell-Miller said. "But there isn't a player on this team that was headed in that direction.

"We need to get better as a result of these four games. I don't not know that there's a tougher stretch on our schedule."

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).