buffzone
Your Daily Camera Online

Jayhawks surge past Buff women in Big 12 tilt

21-4 KU run sinks Colorado on road

Camera staff report
Wednesday, February 4, 2009

LAWRENCE, Kan. -- Any momentum the Colorado women's basketball team had gained by winning two of its last three games came to a screeching halt in the closing minutes of the first half on Wednesday night.

The Kansas Jayhawks used a 21-4 run before haltime to take control in a 65-54 victory over CU at Allen Fieldhouse in a battle of two teams trying to scratch their way out of the bottom of the Big 12 Conference.

The Buffaloes fell to 10-10 overall and 2-6 in league play, while KU passed CU in the Big 12 standings, improving to 13-7 overall and 2-5 in conference.

The Buffs had been trying for a rare set of consecutive conference road wins after winning at Missouri on Jan. 24.

After a solid start that saw the Buffs hit their first four 3-pointers of the game, CU was plagued the rest of the night by spotty shooting, turnovers and foul trouble.

Kansas led by as much as 15 points in the second half as CU tried to play catchup.

The Buffs did manage to cut KU's lead to 55-48 with 4:34 to play on a bucket by Kara Richards. But the Jayhawks answered each CU basket from that point on to squelch the rally.

KU's Danielle McCray led all scorers with 24 points, and she also added six rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Richards led the Buffs with 17 points and seven rebounds and was a key part of CU's rally in the second half.

But it was also her absence in the first half that helped Kansas gain control. Richards picked up her second foul of the game just 10½ minutes in and sat much of the rest of the half.

"I think the tale of the half is we didn't have Kara Richards on the floor," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said during KKZN's postgame show. "We desperately need her presence on the floor. We're a different team (without her)."

Colorado took a 14-11 lead on a 3-pointer by Courtney Dunn with just more than eight minutes to play before halftime. But that's when the Jayhawks went on their run, which also included CU forward

Brittany Spears picking up her second foul.

A layup by Nicollette Smith gave KU an 18-16 lead that it would never relinquish.

Despite the early 3-point success, Colorado shot just 29 percent from the field in the first half and committed 21 turnovers for the game. Kansas, meanwhile, shot 53 percent from the field.

Spears was the only other Buff to score in double figures, scoring all 10 of her points in the second half. Sade Morris scored 13 and Aishah Sutherland added 12 for the Jayhawks.

Colorado returns home to host Iowa State at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Coors Events Center.

Kansas 65, Colorado 54

COLORADO (54)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Spears 36 5-13 0-1 7 2 4 10

Richards 30 7-13 3-4 7 2 4 17

Fressle 26 1-3 2-2 2 2 2 5

Smith 39 2-9 0-0 3 5 3 5

Blythe 39 2-5 0-0 1 3 1 5

Skildum 2 1-1 0-0 0 0 1 2

Seabrook 1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Mullaney 17 2-2 0-0 0 1 1 5

Dunn 10 2-3 0-0 3 0 1 5

Totals: 200 22-49 5-7 27 15 17 54

KANSAS (65)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

McCray 39 10-21 3-3 6 4 1 24

Smith 39 3-5 0-0 4 2 3 7

Boogaard 17 1-6 0-1 1 0 1 2

Catic 3 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Morris 33 6-10 1-3 4 3 2 13

Jacobs 37 0-1 1-2 2 5 3 1

Sthrland 25 6-8 0-0 5 0 2 12

Kohn 7 2-2 0-0 2 1 0 6

Totals: 200 28-53 5-9 30 15 12 65

Score by halves:

Colorado 18 36 -- 54

Kansas 32 33 -- 65

3-point field goals -- Colorado (5-13): Fressle 1-1, Smith 1-5, Blythe 1-3, Mullaney 1-1, Dunn 1-2, Spears 0-1; Kansas (4-10): Kohn 2-2, McCray 1-4, Smith 1-3, Morris 0-1.

Officials --Scott Yarbrough, Laura Morris, Gator Parrish.

Technical fouls -- None.

Attendance -- 2,081.

STEALS

Colorado (9): Fressle 3, Smith 3, Richards 2, Blythe.

Kansas (10): Morris 3, McCray 2, Boogaard 2, Catic, Jacobs, Sutherland.

BLOCKED SHOTS

Colorado (3): Spears 3.

Kansas (1): Sutherland.

TURNOVERS

Colorado (21): Smith 6, Fressle 5, Spears 5, Blythe 3, Richards, Mullaney.

Kansas (16): McCray 5, Smith 4, Morris 3, Jacobs 2, Catic, Sutherland.