



Colorado 64, Texas Southern 29

By Staff Reports

Saturday, December 15, 2007

The defense didn't rest Friday night for the University of Colorado women's basketball team.

The Buffaloes overcame weak shooting with suffocating defense to forge a victory against overmatched Texas Southern.

CU won a sixth straight game for the first time since the 2003-04 season. It also held an opponent to fewer than 30 points for only the fifth time in program history, helped by 32 turnover and 18 steals.

The Buffs employed a 1-2-2 press that caused a healthy portion of the turnovers, the most by a CU opponent since Central Michigan registered 33 on Nov. 29, 1997.

CU's pressure also amounted to 18 steals for the Buff, a season high and the most since swiping 19 against California on Nov. 29, 2003.

The Tigers shot a microscopic 26.7 percent from the floor for the game.

Brittany Spears matched a career high with five steals and Hannah Skildum had a personal-best four steals.

"I definitely think the 1-2-2 press helped a lot," Skildum said. "I like playing it. We have a big presence in the front and we play off of each other's energy."

The CU defense compensated for cold night on offense as the Buffs shot a season-low 32.3 percent. Spears led all scorers, with 13 points, and Bianca Smith and Jackie McFarland each added 11 points.

"You have to be happy with the win," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "I thought that we didn't see the offensive production we are capable of, in particular the shot selection and ball movement. We have shown we are better at that on certain days than we are on others. Defensively, I thought we played well and applied good pressure all game long."

Regis High School graduate Aija Putnina grabbed 10 rebounds to go along with seven points. The Buffaloes enjoyed a 47-35 edge on the boards and corralled 22 offensive rebounds. Skildum finished with eight points and also had two assists.

TEXAS SOUTHERN (2-6) - Lewis 2-9 0-0 4, Brown 0-3 0-0 0, Parks 0-2 0-0 0, Richard 0-0 0-0 0, Riles 2-6 0-0 5, Hornage 3-6 3-6 9, Justice 1-3 1-1 3, Collier 2-3 0-0 4, Gorman 1-6 0-0 2, Norwood 1-5 0-0 2, Vann 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 12-45 4-7 29.

COLORADO (7-2) - Putnina 0-3 7-8 7, McFarland 3-7 5-6 11, Skildum 3-8 1-2 8, Powers 0-3 0-0 0, Spears 6-13 1-1 13, Smith 4-11 0-0 11, Houston 0-3 0-0 0, Blythe 0-4 2-2 2, Ridge 0-0 1-6 1, Dale 1-2 0-0 3, Dunn 1-2 1-3 3, Dow 1-3 0-0 2, Richards 1-2 1-2 3, Piterniece 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 20-62 19-19 64.

Halftime - Colorado 35-16. **Three-point goals** - TS 1-14 (Lewis 0-3, Riles 1-3, Hornage 0-3, Collier 0-1, Gorman 0-2, Vann 0-2); CU 5-31 (Putnina 0-1, McFarland 0-2, Skildum 1-3, Powers 0-1, Spears 0-6, Smith 3-9, Houston 0-1, Blythe 0-4, Dale 1-1, Dunn 0-1, Dow 0-1, Piterniece 0-1). **Fouled out** - Brown, Richard. **Rebounds** - TS 35 (Lewis 9); CU 47 (Putnina 10). **Assists** - TS 5 (Richard 2); CU 15 (Several tied with 3). **Total fouls** - TS 23, CU 9. **A** - 1,062.

© Rocky Mountain News

[Print page](#)[Close
window](#)

Longmont, Colorado
Tuesday, December 18,
2007

DAILY TIMES-CALL

Publish Date: 12/15/2007

Buffs extend roll

Home rout is CU's 6th straight win

By Brian Howell

Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Watching film, University of Colorado women's basketball coach Kathy McConnell-Miller had seen Texas Southern look very good, and she had seen the Lady Tigers look not so good.

"We didn't know what to expect," McConnell-Miller said. "We prepared our players for the strong team that we've seen on film."

Turns out the Buffs were prepared for the wrong team. The good Texas Southern never showed up, as CU routed the Tigers, 64-29, at the Coors Events Center on Friday night. Brittany Spears led the Buffs with 13 points, while Bianca Smith and Jackie McFarland each had 11.

It was the sixth consecutive win for Colorado (7-2), which held an opponent to less than 30 points for just the fifth time in team history. Texas Southern (2-6) had 32 turnovers, missed 33 of 45 shots and pulled down just nine offensive rebounds.

Using a 1-2-2 zone press, the Buffs disrupted everything Texas Southern tried to do.

"I definitely think the 1-2-2 press helps a lot," said junior Hannah Skildum, who had eight points and a career-high four steals. "I like playing that. It's fun, up there with Brittany Spears and Susie (Powers). I think we definitely have a big presence in the front there, and it's harder for people to move the ball around. You really play off the energy everybody has."

Texas Southern was actually in the game early. When Jessica Hornage hit a jump shot from the top of the key with 5:49 to play in the first half, CU's lead was down to 20-16. From that point, it was all Colorado. The Buffs closed the half on a 15-0 run and stretched that run to 19-0 early in the second half.

After Hornage's bucket, Texas Southern went 11 minutes, 29 seconds without a single point. When the Lady Tigers did score again, it was a Hornage free throw.

"We just couldn't score," TSU coach Claude Cummings said. "You would think that our quickness would help us, but they're quick, too. They are really solid on defense, and they made it hard for us to get anything going offensively. They really smothered us on defense."

Skildum said the Buffs spend a lot of time on their defense, working against a male practice squad.

"I like being able to stop people," she said. "That's what I kind of pride myself on. I just don't like people to beat me on the drive. I just try to play hard on defense."

Apparently, so do the rest of the Buffs, who had their stingiest defensive night since allowing 29 points to Iowa State on Feb. 19, 1993.

"It is definitely a team effort," Skildum said. "Everybody played great defense."

It's a good thing, too, because the offense wasn't there Friday. Colorado made just 32.3 percent of its shots, including a dismal 5-for-31 from 3-point range.

"You have to be happy with a win, but I thought offensively I just didn't see the production and the shot selection and the ball movement that I know we are fairly strong at," McConnell-Miller said. "I know it's a work in progress, and I know there are times when we're better at it than others, but tonight I just thought that was a weak part of our game. We settled for quick 3s, and we settled for shots that, from a personnel standpoint and an offensive standpoint, we probably could have gotten better."

All in all, it was a win the Buffs were happy to have. During a tough time in which the players are studying for and taking finals, picking up an easy win was welcomed. It was especially nice because McConnell-Miller was able to empty her bench. All 14 players in uniform played at least four minutes.

"Yeah, it was fun because everybody got to play," Spears said. "We just enjoy watching everybody play and everybody score. It was really a good win."

BUTTERFLIES: Junior Dina Piterniece saw her first action in a Colorado uniform. The transfer from Odessa College missed the first eight games with a broken toe. On Friday, she had three rebounds and an assist in four minutes.

"It was good to see her out there," McConnell-Miller said. "What you saw tonight was anxiety on her part. When I called her name, she didn't get up. Then I called it a second time, and she looked like, 'Me?'"

TIP-INS: Junior RyAnne Ridge, a transfer from Tulsa, scored her first point as a Buffalo. She hit a free throw with seven seconds to play. ... Aija Putnina had 10 rebounds and seven points. ... Spears had five boards and five steals to go with her 13 points. ... Powers, who leads the country in assist-to-turnover ratio, had three assists and three turnovers.



Buffaloes push victory streak to six

CU holds Texas Southern to 29 points, 4th-fewest ever against Buffs

By Chris Shelton

Saturday, December 15, 2007

Drop a net near halfcourt and watch it catch basketballs like flies.

That's the way Hannah Skildum and Brittany Spears operated on defense Friday, and it produced one of the best defensive efforts in Colorado women's basketball history.

Colorado dispatched Texas Southern 64-29 in the Coors Events Center. The Lady Tigers' offensive output tied for fourth-fewest points scored against CU in program history — the record being 22 points scored by New Mexico on Dec. 31, 1991.

The Buffs credited their 1-2-2 zone press, which isn't designed for trapping opponents, but takes time off the shot clock by slowing down opponents. Guards such as Skildum, Spears and Susie Powers, however, have long wingspans and can snare errant passes or careless dribbles. Spears finished with five steals and Skildum had a career-high four in leading the Buffs, who had 18 — the most by a CU team in four seasons.

Also, Texas Southern had 32 turnovers in being one of five teams to score under 30 points against CU.

"The 1-2-2 press helps a lot," said Skildum, who added eight points in 17 minutes. "We have a big presence up front. It's harder for people to move around."

Early in the first half, Spears had two steals that, when she deflected the ball ahead, hit the referee and went back to Texas Southern.

"I didn't like that at all," Spears said. "I wanted to ask the referee to move off the court."

Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller didn't like the way her team performed on offense. The Buffs shot just 32.3 percent overall (20 of 62) and 16.1 percent from 3-point range (5-of-31).

"We settled for quick 3s," McConnell-Miller said. "At some point, you have to stop taking those shots and look inside."

That CU defeated Texas Southern (2-6) was expected and the Buffs are off to their best start in four seasons.

Colorado (7-2) extended their win streak to six — best in four seasons — and were coming off

consecutive wins over ranked teams. Plus, Texas Southern's RPI was 323 out of 339 coming into the game, according to CollegeRPI.com.

Colorado's RPI was 36 coming into this game, but is likely to drop.

The quality of CU's opponents leading up to the Big 12 get better than Texas Southern, but only slightly, according to Friday's RPI rankings.

Beginning with CU's next opponent next Friday, Dartmouth has an RPI of 274. Then, in order, CU's schedule goes Southern Utah (Dec. 28, RPI 285), Jacksonville State (Dec. 30, RPI 184), and then Pepperdine (Jan. 4, RPI 140).

All of those games are at home. The schedule is by design, however. Jackie McFarland, for instance, missed practice Thursday and shoot-around Friday due to finals. Several players have finals at 7:30 a.m. today. For the freshmen, it's the first time they've had to balance preparing for finals with preparing for games.

"I was very concerned about this game and next Friday's, and all of the practices in between," McConnell-Miller said. "It was a tough week."

Notable

Senior Susie Powers, who came into the game leading the nation in assist-to-turnover ratio at 4.0, didn't improve her numbers with three turnovers and three assists. ... Junior Dina Piterniece saw her first action of the season. The 3-point shooting specialist missed the first eight games of the season to recover from a broken toe suffered in practice on Oct. 19. ... All eligible players played. ... Kelly Jo Mullaney (ineligible due to transfer rules) didn't attend the game so she could prepare for a final today.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.