



CU women thump rival Rams

By Chris Shelton

Originally published 09:02 p.m., November 19, 2008

Updated 09:03 p.m., November 19, 2008

Sophomore Brittany Spears turned on Colorado's scoring spigot Wednesday against rival Colorado State and senior center Kara Richardson ran the well dry.

Spears made her first five shots en route to a career 24 points and Richards scored 18 of her career-high 25 in the second half to power CU to a 93-63 victory.

Colorado sophomore point guard Kelly Jo Mullaney added 14 points against her old team as CU beat CSU for the third year in a row and for the sixth time in the last seven meetings.

"They really didn't have an answer for Kara inside," Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "And Brittany Spears is a very difficult perimeter player to guard because she can hit the 3, and if you get too close she can go by you. Those two did a real nice job in picking apart their defense."

The Buffs (2-0) opened the second half with an 11-0 run to take control, leading 53-35 in the Coors Events Center.

The run started with a change on defense for CU as the Buffs filled the gaps to keep the Rams from driving the basket. The Rams couldn't score from the outside, either, making 1-of-9 shots from 3-point range in the second half. And Colorado never let the Rams (0-2) back into the contest by making 22 of 24 free throws and with 52.5 percent shooting from the floor.

"The adjustment on defense," McConnell-Miller said, "gave this team the extra bounce they needed."

Mullaney, who scored 17 points two years ago for the Rams in the Coors Events Center before transferring to CU, made 5-of-7 shots and had six assists against two turnovers. It was a much-improved effort after being held to two points with one assist and three turnovers in Sunday's season opener.

"I've been looking forward to this game for a really long time," Mullaney said. "I just tried to look at it as any other game. I was just excited to play them."

Spears, who made six of her first seven shots and scored 23 points in Sunday's win over Central Florida, opened against CSU by scoring 10 of her team's first 12 points.

The 6-foot-1 guard/forward added 10 rebounds for her eighth career double-double. "It gets my team pumped up," Spears said of scoring early. "We all get motivated to keep scoring."

Colorado's 93 points were the most it has scored against Colorado State since a 94-77 win on Dec. 20, 1980.

The Buffs outscored the Colorado State 51-28 in the second half.

"Well I know in the second half we came out pretty flat and you know you can't do that against a team like Colorado," first-year Colorado State coach Kristen Holt said.

"I was pretty pleased with the first half. But the second half was a big letdown for us and we couldn't come back."

Notable

The Buffs improved to 20-2 against the Rams in Boulder, and 30-10 overall. ... Richards last had a career high (24) in her freshman season in 2004-05. ... The Buffs hadn't started 2-0 since Tera Bjorklund was a senior, opening the 2003-04 season with wins over Old Dominion and Notre Dame in the WBCA Classic. CU started 3-0 that season. ...

CU was outrebounded 51-40 by UCF, but beat Colorado State on the boards 41-39. ... Junior Bianca Smith began the season with a career 1.7 rebounds per game average. She had a career-high eight against CSU and has 14 after two games. ... CU made its first 17 free throws, its best mark since going 19-for-19 against Nebraska on Feb. 7, 1987. ...

Colorado State freshman Meghan Heimstra, a Silver Creek graduate, played 11 minutes and had four points and two rebounds.

Colorado 93, Colorado State 63

COLORADO STATE (63)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Minor 23 3-8 5-6 3 1 4 11

Reimink 20 3-9 0-0 7 1 1 6

Cornell 26 0-8 0-2 7 1 3 0

Barbee 29 5-14 1-2 1 1 2 13

Beemer 33 6-12 0-0 2 4 4 15

Uzomah 10 2-4 0-0 3 0 1 4

Mestdagh 12 1-7 0-1 0 0 1 2

Heimstra 11 2-5 0-0 2 0 0 4

Ackley 2 1-1 0-0 0 0 0 2

Cheney 20 1-2 2-2 2 2 2 4

Tanacan 14 1-3 0-0 9 1 4 2

Totals: 200 25-73 8-13 39 11 22 63

COLORADO (93)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Spears 34 9-15 3-4 10 2 2 24

Richards 25 8-12 9-9 8 1 3 25

Fressle 28 1-7 0-0 2 5 1 3

Smith 26 3-10 2-2 8 2 0 9

Mullaney 31 5-7 4-4 3 6 1 14

Blythe 9 0-0 1-2 0 1 1 1

Skildum 14 0-1 2-2 0 1 0 2

Seabrook 19 4-5 1-1 5 2 2 9

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

Dunn 12 2-4 0-0 4 0 1 6

Totals: 200 32-61 22-24 41 20 12 93

Score by halves:

Colorado State 35 28 -- 63

Colorado 42 51 -- 93

3-point field goals -- Colorado State (5-23): Beemer 3-9, Barbee 2-7, Mestdagh 0-4, Cornell 0-2, Heimstra 0-1; Colorado (7-16): Spears 3-5, Dunn 2-4, Fressle 1-1, Smith 1-6.

Officials --Sue Blauch, Michael Price, Lisa Jones.

Technical fouls -- None

Attendance -- 3,588

STEALS

Colorado State (2):Barbee, Beemer.

Colorado (3):Spears, Smith, Mullaney.

BLOCKED SHOTS

Colorado State (2):Uzomah, Mestdagh.

Colorado (1):Fressle.

TURNOVERS

Colorado State (11):Heimstra 3, Uzomah 2, Cornell 2, Minor, Reimink, Barbee, Beemer.

Colorado (12):Fressle 3, Mullaney 2, Spears 2, Richards, Smith, Skildum, Seabrook.



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THE DENVER POST

women's basketball

Bufs blast Rams with dynamic duo

Colorado 93, Colorado State 63

By Theresa Smith
Special to The Denver Post

Updated: 11/19/2008 11:46:05 PM MST



CU guard Brittany Spears works past CSU forward Juanise Cornell on Wednesday night. Spears had 24 points and 10 rebounds. (Marty Caivano, Boulder Camera)

BOULDER — Colorado's offense banked on the best two players at the Coors Event Center on Wednesday night: guard Brittany Spears and center Kara Richards. Both had career highs, combining for 49 points in a rout of rival Colorado State 93-63 before 3,588 fans.

While helping the Buffs (2-0) improve their in-state series advantage to 30-10, Spears used a torrid touch from the outset to post a career high-tying 24 points. It was the eighth career double-double for the 6-foot-1 sophomore from Pasadena, Calif.

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THE DENVER POST

In the late stages, the Buffs took advantage of Richards' abilities in the low post. She scored 25 points.

The rivalry game featured a player who has worn both colors: Kelly Jo Mullaney. The daughter of former CSU stalwart and Minnesota Vikings defensive lineman Mark Mullaney started her college career in Fort Collins but was suspended as a freshman for her involvement in a homemade bomb "prank." After transferring to CU, Mullaney sat out last season under NCAA rules.

"I've been looking forward to this game for a long time," said Mullaney, who scored 14 points and had a game-high six assists.

Mullaney was playing against only one former teammate, however. CSU's program has been in transition. Interim coach Kristen Holt's squad lacks size and players who can create shots.

The Rams (0-2), who suffered lengthy field-goal droughts, were led by guard Kandy Beemer's 15 points. Guard Bonnie Barbee added 13 and forward Britney Minor 11.

CU's Richards decided to be as aggressive-looking as the shiner under her right eye.

"I started calling for the ball more," she said.

Along with going 8-for-12, she sank all nine of her free throws, helping CU to a 22-for-24 mark from the line.

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Longmont, Colorado
Thursday, November 20,
2008

Publish Date: 11/20/2008

Buff's rout Rams

*By Justin Williams
Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Kelly Jo Mullaney was easily the focus entering Wednesday night's showdown between two in-state rivals.

Making her first appearance against her former team, the Colorado point guard heard non-stop questions regarding her transfer in the days leading up to the tilt at the Coors Events Center.

But a couple of Mullaney's new teammates were quick to take the pressure off Wednesday night.

Kara Richards and Brittany Spears combined for 49 points, leading the Buffs to a 93-63 win over Colorado State. Mullaney, who played at CSU two years ago, finished with 14 points.

"That's a different Colorado State team than we played a year ago," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "They're more athletic, they've got shooters and they've got a good combination of players. We knew they were going to come in here with a lot of energy."

And from the on-set, it appeared as if the Buffs (2-0) were going to have their hands full. Both teams came out on fire, shooting better than 50 percent from the floor, and Colorado led, 35-33, with 6 minutes left in the half.

But the Buffs made a few defensive adjustments before the break and into the second half to turn the game around. Colorado went on a 11-0 run to open the second half, and the Rams (1-1) shot just 29 percent from that point on. The Buffaloes shot 53 percent on the night and made 22 of 24 free throws, their best performance from the line in seven seasons.

"You can't just play a half, and that's what our players have to learn," Colorado State coach Kristen Holt said. "You can't be satisfied with that."

Most of Richards' career-high 25 points came in the second half. There was one stretch when she scored 15 straight points for the Buffs. Her inside presence, combined with Spears' dribble-drive ability, proved too much to handle for the Rams.

"I think (the turnaround) started on the defensive end," McConnell-Miller said. "We just went right inside and tried to establish a presence, and I think Kara dominated on the interiors. She was phenomenal."

"But the adjustments on the defensive end gave this team the extra bounce they



Colorado's Brittany Spears drives to the basket in the first half against Colorado State on Wednesday at the Coors Events Center in Boulder. **Lewis Geyer/Times-Call**

COLORADO 93, COLORADO STATE 63

COLORADO STATE (0-2)

Minor 3-8 5-6 11, Reimink 3-9 0-0 6, Cornell 0-8 0-0 0, Brabee 5-14 1-2 13, Beemer 6-12 0-0 15, Uzomah 2-4 0-0 4, Mestdagh 1-7 0-1 2, Heimstra 2-5 0-0 4, Ackley 1-1 0-0 2, Cheney 1-2 2-2 4, Tanacan 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 25-73 8-13 63.

COLORADO (2-0)

Spears 9-15 3-4 24, Richards 8-12 9-9 25, Fressle 1-7 0-0 3, Smith 3-10 2-2 9, Mullaney 5-7 4-4 14, Blythe 0-0 1-2 1, Skildum 0-1 2-2 2, Seabrook 4-5 1-1 9, Piterniece 0-0 0-0 0, Dunn 2-4 0-0 6. Totals 32-61 22-24 93.

Halftime — Colorado 42-35. 3-point goals — Colorado State 5-23

needed.”

Specifically, McConnell-Miller said the Buffs did a better job on CSU’s screens after the adjustments.

“The chemistry just gets better and better. I really like this team,” the Buffs coach said. “I like what they bring every night.”

And finally, Mullaney can put this highly anticipated game in the past.

(Beemer 3-9, Barbee 2-7); Colorado 7-16 (Spears 3-5, Dunn 2-4, Smith 1-6, Fressle 1-1). Fouled Out — None. Rebounds — Colorado State 39 (Tanacan 9, Reimink 7, Cornell 7); Colorado 41 (Spears 10, Richards 8, Smith 8). Assists — Colorado State 11 (Beemer 4); Colorado 20 (Mullaney 6, Fressle 5). Total Fouls — Colorado State 23; Colorado 12. A — 3,588.

The sophomore point guard, who earned Colorado’s starting job, left CSU two years ago when she was involved in a prank where she and some friends left a homemade bomb outside another friend’s door. Nobody was injured in the incident, but Mullaney was suspended afterwards and never played for Colorado State again.

She sat out last season for the Buffs due to NCAA transfer rules.

“I’ve been looking forward to this game for a long time,” Mullaney said. “It’s an exciting game to play because they’re our in-state rivals and, having played in that uniform, I got to come back and play against them. But I just tried to look at it as any other game.”

NOTES: Former Silver Creek High School star Meghan Heimstra had a successful 11 minutes of action Wednesday night. The Rams’ freshman forward scored four points and pulled down two boards in the loss. But Heimstra also committed a team-high three turnovers. ... Colorado improved to 30-10 all time against Colorado State. ... Spears tied her career high with 24 points and came away with her eighth-career double-double. ... CU guard Bianca Smith recorded a career-high eight rebounds.

Justin Williams can be reached at jwilliams@times-call.com.

Rocky Mountain News

CU rips CSU in women's basketball

By **Paul Willis**, Rocky Mountain News (**Contact**)

Published November 19, 2008 at 11:36 p.m.



Photo by Marty Caivano / Daily Camera

The Buffaloes' Bianca Smith passes while Colorado State's Carine Reimink closes in Wednesday night in Boulder.

Sure, the Colorado State women's basketball team is in a rebuilding mode.

That doesn't make it any less sweet for the University of Colorado to beat the Rams.

The Buffaloes walloped the youthful Rams 93-63 at the Coors Event Center on Wednesday night, getting career performances from center Kara Richards and forward Brittany Spears in the process.

"I love rivalries and what it brings out, and it clearly brought out more fans tonight," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "But that was a different Colorado State team than we played a year ago. They are more athletic and they have a lot of shooters."

With a crowd of 3,588 watching the annual version of the in-state rivalry, Richards scored a career-best 25 points, converting 15 straight for CU in one stretch in the second half.

"I just got more aggressive," said Richards, sporting a bruise beneath her right eye. "I started calling for the ball."

Spears matched a career most with 24 points and added 10 rebounds for her eighth career double-double. The sophomore, quickly emerging into a marquee player in the Big 12 Conference, is averaging 23.5 through two games.

She nailed her first five shots, including three three-pointers, to ignite CU to its sixth win in seven years in the series.

"Now I feel more comfortable having a year under my belt," Spears said. "I'm a lot more

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Rocky Mountain News

confident."

Former CSU guard Kelly Jo Mullaney showed no signs of nerves against her former squad, as the Buffaloes' newly anointed point guard had 14 points and six assists in 31 minutes.

"I've been looking forward to this game for a long time, having played in that uniform," Mullaney said. "But I tried to look at it like just another opponent."

CSU, led by 15 points from Kandy Beemer, kept pace with the Buffaloes early and trailed only 35-33 late in the first half.

But the Buffaloes ripped off a 20-4 run that spilled into the second half as the Rams converted only one field goal in 12:28.

"I thought right at the beginning of the second half we came out a bit flat, and that time more than any is when we needed to come out with intensity," CSU coach Kristen Holt said.

CU 93, CSU 63

COLORADO STATE (0-2) - Minor 3-8 5-6 11, Reimink 3-9 0-0 6, Cornell 0-8 0-2 0, Barbee 5-14 1-2 13, Beemer 6-12 0-0 15, Uzomah 2-4 0-0 4, Mestdagh 1-7 0-1 2,

Heimstra 2-5 0-0 4, Ackley 1-1 0-0 2, Cheney 1-2 2-2 4, Tanacan 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 25-73 8-13 63.

COLORADO (2-0) - Spears 9-15 3-4 24,

Richards 8- 12 9-9 25, Fressle 1-7 0-0 3, Smith 3-10 2-2 9, Mullaney 5-7 4-4 14, Blythe 0-0 1-2 1, Skildum 0-1 2-2 2, Seabrook 4-5 1-1 9, Piterniece 0-0 0-0 0, Dunn 2-4 0-0 6. Totals 32-61 22-24 93.

Halftime - Colorado 42-35. **Three-point attempts** - Colorado State 5-23 (Cornell 0-2, Barbee 2-7, Beemer 3-9, Mestdagh 0-4, Heimstra 0-1); Colorado 7-16 (Spears 3-5, Fressle 1-1, Smith 1-6, Dunn 2-4). **Fouled out** - None. **Rebounds** - Colorado State 39 (Tanacan 9); Colorado 41 (Spears 10). **Assists** - Colorado State 11 (Beemer 4); Colorado 20 (Mullaney 6). **Total fouls** - Colorado State 22; Colorado 12. **A** - 3,588.

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November 20, 2008

Bufs trample Rams

CSU falls apart in second half of loss to Colorado

BY SEAN DUFF

SeanDuff@coloradoan.com

BOULDER - The CSU women's basketball team hit a dead zone Wednesday night, and it cost the Rams any chance of a victory over the University of Colorado.

The Rams scored just four points in a 12-minute stretch that ended the first half and began the second en route to a 93-63 loss to the Buffaloes before 3,588 fans at the Coors Events Center.

The 30-point margin wasn't an accurate reflection of the game, Colorado State University coach Kristen Holt said.

"That's what ticks me off," Holt said. "I mean, you can't just play a half, and that's what our players have to learn. You can't be satisfied with that; you have to put two halves together."

The Rams (0-2) stayed close for much of the first half. Kandy Beemer's layup with 6:40 left in the first half brought CSU within two points, 35-33.

But the Rams didn't get their next field goal until 14:12 remained in the game. That basket, another Beemer layup, ended a 20-4 run by the Buffaloes and made it 55-39.

CU (2-0) led by double digits the rest of the way.

"We just came out flat in the second half," CSU forward Juanise Cornell said. "I think after a while they kind of wore on us."

"It's real easy in the beginning of the game to go hard and push against their 6-4 post players. But most of our post players are 6-3 or under. I think we got worn down and stopped playing our game and let them dictate the speed and tempo of the game."

Holt also felt the Rams lacked a spark to start the second half.

"I was pretty pleased with the first half, but the beginning of the second half was a big letdown for us, and we couldn't come back," Holt said.

The Buffaloes simply had too many good players to let the Rams back in the game. Brittany Spears, an athletic 6-foot-1 sophomore forward, hit her first five shots and showed her versatility in doing so. In order, she sank a 3-pointer from the right side, a fast-break layup, a driving baseline floater, a 3 from the left corner and another 3 from the right corner.

"Obviously, she's good all around," said Cornell, the primary defender on Spears. "She's a good player who is going to get to the basket and get her points."

Spears, who had 15 points and seven rebounds at halftime, finished with her eighth career double-double of 24 points and 10 boards.

CU center Kara Richards led all players with a career-best 25 points, including a mind-boggling 15 in a row for her team in the second half.

"I don't think they had an answer for Kara inside," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said.

And point guard Kelly Jo Mullaney - who played half a season for CSU before leaving the team and eventually transferring to CU - totaled 14 points, six assists and three rebounds.

"It's an in-state rivalry game and having played in that uniform, I was looking forward to playing against them," Mullaney said.

Beemer was the Rams' top scorer with 15 points. Fellow guard Bonnie Barber had 13 points and forward Britney Minor 11.

"That was a different Colorado State team than we played a year ago," said McConnell-Miller, whose team won by 35 points, 82-47, last year in Fort Collins. "They are more athletic, they have shooters and they have a good combination of players. They came in here with a lot of energy and expected to win."

Additional Facts

CU 93, CSU 63

> **Next up:** Idaho at CSU, 2 p.m. Saturday, Moby Arena.

> **TV/radio:** none/KIIX (AM 1410).
