



# Higgins sparks CU surge

## Bufs guard scores 33 in victory over Rams

By Ryan Thorburn

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Cory Higgins couldn't really describe what was missing for Colorado during its embarrassing home loss to Texas Christian.

"There's no real explanation," he said earlier this week. "It's just something that has to be turned on when the lights are turned on."

Whatever it is -- intensity, passion, instincts, skill, leadership, a hot hand -- Higgins was dripping with on Wednesday night.

The sophomore shooting guard scored a career-high 33 points to lift CU to a 75-56 victory over Colorado State on Wednesday night in front of a crowd of 5,963 at the Coors Events Center.

The Rams scored 28 points in the second half. So did Higgins.

"He was absolutely awesome. He really was," CU coach Jeff Bzdelik said of Higgins. "He just opened it up. The most important thing is he got it within the scheme of the offense. They were all really good shots. He finished around the rim and made his free throws."

Higgins was 11-for-16 from the field, 8-for-9 at the line and also led the Buffs with six rebounds and three steals in 38 minutes.

After CSU center Dan Vandervieren went on a personal 10-1 run, the visitors led 40-32 with 16:03 remaining. Higgins answered with four straightpoints, and the Buffs clawed back to tie the score 43-43.

And then Higgins scored 20 of CU's points during a 22-13 run to break the game open. His 3-pointer with 4:08 remaining made the score 65-56.

"I just wanted to be aggressive within the offense," Higgins said. "I didn't want to force anything, but the opportunities presented themselves and I knocked them down."

CU outscored the Rams 20-2 over the final 7:36, including a 13-0 finish after Willis Gardner scored the Rams' final points with 4:43 remaining.

"We played really well," Dwight Thorne said. "The effort was through the roof."

It was a far cry from the 62-46 loss to TCU a week earlier. After that game Bzdelik questioned his team's heart and whether or not he was the right man for the job.

"I think Coach is a pretty honest man, that's the way he felt at the time," Thorne said. "I thought he was over-reacting a little bit because it was our fault. We didn't play well last week."

The score was tied 28-28 at the intermission Wednesday night.

The Buffs (4-3) took a 26-20 lead on a 3-pointer by Thorne with 4:31 remaining but it would be the home team's last field goal of the half.

The Rams (3-6) made six 3-pointers in the first half but Bzdelik made some adjustments to the 1-3-1 zone defense CU sprung on Tim Miles' team and CSU finished the game 7-for-20 from behind the arc.

"Our perimeter guys weren't great," Miles said.

Marcus Walker, who came into the game averaging 18.0 points, finished with eight points on 3-for-8 shooting. Andre McFarland, who was averaging 13.1 points, mustered only one point and was 0-for-3 from the field.

Vandervieren scored all 16 of his points in the second half to lead the Rams.

"The big guy, with him getting his, he's not their main guy," Higgins said. "So I thought it actually took a little bit away from them. Walker and McFarland were way under their season average."

Higgins more than doubled his average (16.0). Austin Dufault (12), Nate Tomlinson (11) and Thorne (10) also scored in double figures as CU shot 58.3 percent from the field while holding CSU to 41.5 percent.

"Leadership is a lot of things. Cory worked extremely hard and he was a little bit more vocal in practice," Bzdelik said. "And of course he made shots and really lifted us with the way he was playing out there, not only from an offensive standpoint but a defensive standpoint."

**Colorado 75, Colorado St. 56 COLORADO ST.**

**FG FT Reb**

**Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS**

McFrld 20 0-3 1-4 0-3 1 2 1

Vndrvrn 25 8-11 0-0 0-4 0 5 16

Walker 31 3-8 0-0 0-2 2 2 8

Simmons 23 0-4 0-0 3-5 1 3 0

Gardner 35 1-6 0-0 0-3 4 3 2

Franklin 25 3-7 1-2 5-9 5 3 7

Carr 19 4-7 0-2 0-1 2 5 12

Nigon 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Annese 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Perry 13 2-5 3-4 1-4 0 2 8

Bocar Ba 7 1-2 0-0 1-2 0 1 2

**Totals 200 22-53 5-12 10-33 15 26 56**

**Percentages:** FG .415, FT .417.

**3-Point Goals:** 7-20, .350 (Carr 4-7, Walker 2-6, Perry 1-1, Simmons 0-1, Gardner 0-2, McFarland 0-3).

**Team Rebounds:** 0.

**Blocked Shots:** 1 (Franklin).

**Turnovers:** 15 (Simmons 4, Walker 4, Vandervieren 3, Franklin 2, Carr, McFarland).

**Steals:** 3 (Franklin 2, Walker).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

## COLORADO

### FG FT Reb

### Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PTS

JksnWlsn 24 3-5 0-3 1-4 4 4 6

Dufault 32 5-10 1-3 1-5 1 4 12

Tmlnsn 36 5-6 0-1 0-4 3 1 11

Higgins 38 11-16 8-9 1-6 3 0 33

Thorne II 34 3-8 3-6 1-4 3 3 10

Kelley 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Coney 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Veal 10 1-1 0-0 0-2 0 0 2

Knutson 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

Zehnder 7 0-1 1-2 0-0 1 1 1

Eckloff 14 0-1 0-0 0-3 0 0 0

**Totals 200 28-48 13-24 4-28 16 13 75**

**Percentages:** FG .583, FT .542.

**3-Point Goals:** 6-13, .462 (Higgins 3-5, Tomlinson 1-2, Dufault 1-2, Thorne II 1-4).

**Team Rebounds:** 0.

**Blocked Shots:** 3 (Jackson-Wilson 2, Higgins).

**Turnovers:** 8 (Tomlinson 2, Thorne II, Knutson, Veal, Dufault, Jackson-Wilson, Higgins).

**Steals:** 7 (Higgins 3, Thorne II 2, Jackson-Wilson, Tomlinson).

**Technical Fouls:** None.

**Colorado St. 28 28--56**

**Colorado 28 47--75**

A -- 5,963.

**Officials** -- Steve Welmer, Tom O'Neill, Eddie Jackson.



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# Bufs' Crawford to have MRI

By Ryan Thorburn

Thursday, December 11, 2008

The Colorado men's basketball team is hoping for some more good MRI news this week.

Casey Crawford, who did not play during CU's 75-56 victory over Colorado State on Wednesday night at the Coors Events Center, will have an MRI on his right foot either today or Friday.

The sophomore forward was wearing a protective boot at Tuesday's practice and while watching his teammates beat the Rams.

"We all better start to rebound like we did tonight," Nate Tomlinson said when asked about the impact of possibly losing the 6-9 Crawford.

CU was out-rebounded by CSU 33-28.

The Rams were without starting forward Andy Ogide, who was unable to play due to a toe injury. The 6-9 sophomore was averaging 14.9 points and 9.4 rebounds.

"It was out of my hands. I would have loved to play Andy," CSU head coach Tim Miles said. "To be honest, Andy was the one who felt like he couldn't go and I support his decision 100 percent."

CU head coach Jeff Bzdelik was the one who decided to hold Tomlinson out of the Texas Christian game a week earlier due to a sore right foot.

Without the starting point guard the Buffs were humiliated during a 16-point loss to the Horned Frogs.

An MRI last week showed no structural damage and Tomlinson scored 11 points on 5-for-6 shooting in his return against the Rams.

"It's like the Broncos losing (Jay) Cutler. It really is," Bzdelik said of the Buffs without Tomlinson. "He's our quarterback. He gets us going. He steadies us."

## The real Veal

Toby Veal -- who was averaging two minutes of playing time with no points and one rebound all season -- took advantage of Crawford's absence with two points and two rebounds in 10 minutes.

But the freshman was taken to school on the defensive end by 6-10 sophomore Dan Vandervieren, who scored on five consecutive possessions in the paint for CSU early in the second half to give the visitors a 40-32 lead.

## Series

The Buffs lead the all-time series 87-33, including a 52-7 advantage at home.

CU won 73-70 in Fort Collins last year and CSU won 72-69 in Boulder two years ago.

## Notable

Bzdelik is now 6-0 against CSU (4-0 at Air Force and 2-0 at CU). ... The Buffs ended the game with a 43-16 run after the Rams took a 40-32 lead with 16:03 remaining. ... Cory Higgins (33 points) tallied the first 30-point game for the Buffs since Richard Roby scored 32 in the upset win over Baylor at the Big 12 Tournament on March 13.



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## Woelk: Rams, Buffs give hope to hoops fans

By Neill Woelk

Thursday, December 11, 2008

Every once in a while, we are tantalized. We see a college basketball game that makes us think maybe ... just maybe ... this state could turn into a place where college hoops fans are not an endangered species.

If you happened to stop by the Coors Events Center on Wednesday night -- and 5,963 folks did just that -- you got a taste of what such a place would be. Two teams in the throes of rebuilding, two teams whose best seasons are still a couple of years down the road, still managed to put on a good show.

Don't let the 75-56 final score fool you. Colorado's 19-point win over rival Colorado State did not come easily. The Buffs trailed by eight early in the second half, and with 7:34 remaining in the game, CU held only a 57-54 lead.

"Our fans were awesome," said CU coach Jeff Bzdelik. "Even when we got down by eight, they were still a lively crowd. It was just a great atmosphere."

Granted, Wednesday night's game was by no means a typical non-conference affair. When CU and CSU get together, it's guaranteed to bump the attendance in just about any sport.

But it still provided a look at what could be if both schools involved could someday build programs that were regular contenders in their conferences.

"No question -- if CU or CSU or Air Force raise their level of play to where they are competitive, to where they are beating ranked teams and are ranked themselves, people will come," CSU coach Tim Miles said. "This state will no doubt support basketball." Hey, a game like tonight is what college basketball is about. You go to someone else's gym, you've got a raucous crowd and you play a good game. It was a great environment."

But at no time in recent history has either program provided more than brief glimpses of what hardwood success can produce. Colorado has made just two NCAA Tournament appearances since 1969 -- with one of those appearances, in 2003, matched by a CSU entry into the Dance. Before that, CSU hadn't been to the tournament since 1990.

No, hoops madness has never been a disease in this state. Rather, it's been an occasional fever, quickly eradicated by years of mediocrity.

Now, both schools have coaches in their second years attempting to do what many consider impossible -- produce programs that regularly draw big crowds instead of once or twice a year. Programs that people follow instead of showing up only when they play each other or good teams from their respective conferences pay a visit.

Talk to folks who know the game, and they'll tell you both coaches have the ability to do exactly that.

"There's no reason it can't be like that all the time," said CU's Cory Higgins, whose 33 points were definitely worth the price of admission on Wednesday. "That's what we want to do, create something, an environment like that for every game."

"It's definitely headed in the right direction."

No doubt, Wednesday's effort was a far superior performance than that produced by the Buffs in their last outing, a disappointing loss to TCU.

But maybe a better indication of what could be ahead is the age of the players on the floor. Of the starting 10 players Wednesday night, only three were seniors.

Higgins is just a sophomore, meaning he'll be on display for another couple of years at the Events Center. Buffs Austin Dufault (12 points and five rebounds) and Nate Tomlinson (11 points, four rebounds and three assists) are sophomores.

At the other end of the floor, CSU's Dan Vandervieren (16 points, five rebounds) is just a sophomore, and sharp-shooter Jesse Carr (12 points on four treys) is just a freshman.

It's some young talent that will be around for a few years.

Young talent that might -- just might -- give starving hoops fans in the state something to look forward to.



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Longmont, Colorado  
 Tuesday, December 16,  
 2008

Publish Date: 12/11/2008

## Higgins explodes as CU tops Rams

By Patrick Ridgell

Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Cory Higgins may have more nights like the one he had Wednesday against Colorado State. The Colorado men's basketball program can only hope so.

Behind Higgins, the Buffaloes blew open a close game and beat CSU, 75-56. Higgins scored a career-high 33 points, including 28 after halftime. Higgins' tear started when it was 43-43 with 11 minutes, 35 seconds left. He scored 20 of CU's next 22 points, and the Buffs finished the night on a 20-2 run.

Higgins, a sophomore, said he had never had a half like the second one on Wednesday, nor a game like that since high school ball.

"He was just absolutely awesome; he really was," CU coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "He opened it up and ... the most important thing was, he got it within the scheme of the offense. They were all really good shots."

Higgins went 11-for-16 from the floor, 3-for-5 on 3s and 8-for-9 on free throws. He took what CSU's defense gave him, whether it was a drive or an open jumper.

"I just wanted to be aggressive within the offense," Higgins said. "I didn't force anything. Opportunities presented themselves within the offense in the second half. I just knocked them down."

Said CSU coach Tim Miles: "We just didn't have an answer (for Higgins) in any way, shape or form."

A Coors Events Center season-high 5,963 attended, and there was a buzz in the building all night. The two student sections hurled insults at one another, and the first half featured six lead changes and four ties before ending at 28-28 apiece.

Higgins' heroics aside, what might have pleased Bzdelik the most was the effort. It left him disappointed in CU's previous game one week earlier. Wednesday's, he said, made him "really proud."

"I just want to keep getting better, and (Wednesday) was a testimony to us getting better," Bzdelik said.

Getting better for CU will mean improving its post defense, which was shorthanded Wednesday without forward Casey Crawford. Wearing a boot on his right foot, Crawford did not dress. He's scheduled to have an MRI today,



CU's Cory Higgins drives to the basket Wednesday night at the Coors Events Center. Higgins finished with a career-high 33 points, leading the Buffs to a 75-56 win over Colorado State. **Lewis Geyer/Times-Call**

### COLORADO 75, COLORADO STATE 56

#### COLORADO STATE (3-6)

McFarland 0-3 1-4 1, Vandervieren 8-11 0-0 16, Walker 3-8 0-0 8, Simmons 0-4 0-0 0, Gardner 1-6 0-0 2, Franklin 3-7 1-2 7, Carr 4-7 0-2 12, Nigon 0-0 0-0 0, Annese 0-0 0-0 0, Perry 2-5 3-4 8, Bocarba 1-2 0-0 2.  
 Totals 22-53 5-12 56.

#### COLORADO (4-3)

Jackson-Wilson 3-5 0-3 6, Dufault 5-10 1-3 12, Tomlinson 5-6 0-1 11, Higgins 11-16 8-9 33, Thorne 3-8 3-6 10, Kelley 0-0 0-0 0, Coney 0-0 0-0 0, Veal 1-1 0-0 2, Knutson 0-0 0-0 0, Zehnder 0-1 1-2 1, Eckloff 0-1 0-0 0.  
 Totals 28-48 13-24 75.

Halftime—28-28. 3-Point Goals—CSU 7-20 (Carr 4-7, Walker 2-6, Perry 1-1, McFarland 0-3, Simmons 0-1, Gardner 0-2), CU 6-13 (Higgins 3-5, Dufault 1-2, Tomlinson 1-2, Thorne 1-4). Fouled Out—Vandervieren (CSU), Carr (CSU).

and Bzdelik said the results will be made public today or Friday.

CSU played without 6-foot-9 forward Andy Ogide, who sat out with a toe injury. The Rams had 6-foot-10 center Dan Vandervieren, who scored 16 points, all in the second half, and all from within three feet of the basket.

Rebounds—CSU 33 (Franklin 9), CU 28 (Higgins 6). Assists—CSU 15 (Franklin 5), CU 16 (Jackson-Wilson 4). Total Fouls—CSU 26, CU 13. Technicals—none. A—5,963.
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With Vandervieren scoring at will after halftime, the Rams built a 40-32 lead. Higgins took over a few minutes later.

“We told each other before the game that one of us has to get going,” CU guard Dwight Thorne said. “It was him. He decided it was his turn.”

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at  
pridgell@times-call.com.

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Longmont, Colorado  
Tuesday, December 16,  
2008

Publish Date: 12/11/2008

## **Buffs push on despite injuries**

*By Patrick Ridgell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Good news and bad news came Wednesday from Colorado's injury front.

Nate Tomlinson returned from the sprained right foot that kept him out of the Buffaloes' last game against TCU on Dec. 3. He played 36 minutes in Wednesday's 75-56 victory over Colorado State, scoring 11 points on 5-for-6 shooting. Tomlinson said he has been monitoring it in practice.

"It felt good," he said. "It hurt toward the end of the game, but that's the way it's going to be. I'll just have to play through it."

With Tomlinson in the lineup, Cory Higgins had a career-high 33 points, and Dwight Throne scored 10. Neither was burdened with handling the ball as much, and both were free to cut to the basket and find points.

CU coach Jeff Bzdelik said losing Tomlinson is like the Denver Broncos losing quarterback Jay Cutler.

"He's our quarterback, he gets us going," Bzdelik said.

Tomlinson, who has nine days before CU's next game to rest his sore foot, was the good news. Casey Crawford's absence was the bad news.

He'll have an MRI today to see what's going on with his right foot, on which he wore a boot Wednesday. He did not dress for the game. Crawford sprained his right ankle at halftime of the Montana State game on Nov. 18.

CU's front line is thin, and Bzdelik even played freshman forward Austin Dufault late in the first half when he had already committed three personal fouls.

"We have to stay out of foul trouble," guard Dwight Thorne said.

**INJURED RAM:** CSU played without forward Andy Ogide, whose 14.9 points per game was the team's second-best average entering Wednesday. He sat due to a toe injury that has bothered him since the Rams lost at San Francisco on Nov. 29.

Coach Tim Miles said Ogide's decision not to play was Ogide's only.

"I would have loved to play Andy," Miles said. "I think he would have helped us. To be honest, Andy was the one who felt like he really couldn't go, and I support his decision 100 percent. His foot is really bothering him, and I don't know how quickly we can get him back."

CSU center Dan Vandervieren scored 16 points. But the Buffs held guard Marcus Walker and forward Andre McFarland to eight points and one point. They entered averaging 18.8 and 14 points apiece.

“The big guy, with him getting his, he’s not their main guy, so I think it took a little away from them,” Higgins said. “Walker and McFarland were way under their season averages. I think that hurt them a little bit.”

**EXTRA POINTS:** CU had not used its renovated dressing room since the Dec. 3 loss to TCU prior to Wednesday. “I hope we earned the right to go back into the locker room,” Thorne said. “The last week was not too much fun.” ... Bzdelik is 6-0 against CSU. ... CU’s next game is Dec. 19 against Prairie View A&M.

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at  
pridgell@times-call.com.

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THE DENVER POST

college basketball

## Bufs: best in Colorado

**CU's Cory Higgins scores 28 points in the second half and finishes with 33.**

**By Natalie Meisler**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 12/11/2008 12:30:00 AM MST

Updated: 12/11/2008 09:49:23 AM MST



In a battle of freshman guards, CSU's Jesse Carr drives past CU's Nate Tomlinson on Wednesday night. Carr scored 12 points, and Tomlinson had 11. (Karl Gehring, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — Cory Higgins lit it up inside, outside and everywhere in between during a 28-point second half tour de force Wednesday night. He and his Colorado teammates wanted to get back inside their refurbished locker room — and wanted to lock out Colorado State's own one-man charge by center Dan Vandervieren.

Higgins' 12-2 run in the second half and career-high 33 points exploded CU past CSU 75-56 before 5,963 fans at the Coors Events Center.

"He was awesome, just absolutely awesome," said CU coach Jeff Bzdelik, who banished the team from its locker room after a lackluster effort against TCU last week. "He just opened up that game. The most important thing is he got it within the offense."

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The Buffs trailed by as many as eight points before Higgins erupted. His second-half scoring line included 9-for-10 from the floor, 7-for-7 from the foul line, three steals and

## CU Basketball

[View slide show of CSU-CU men's basketball Dec.](#)

- 10
- [Visit the CU Stats Page for men's boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more](#)
- [Visit the CU Stats Page for women's boxscores, Big 12 standings, player pages and more](#)
- [Visit Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports](#)

making all three shots behind the arc.

"We didn't have an answer for him in any way, shape, or form," CSU coach Tim Miles said. He added, "When (Higgins) started making 3s, we knew we were going to have a problem."

Higgins, who came in averaging 16 points, took the TCU loss to heart. He said he had games like his career-best 33 points in high school, but never a half like his second half.

"This feeling should really make us want to play like this every night," Higgins said. "The feeling we had last week against TCU was bad, and we don't ever want to feel that again."

As for his numbers, he said: "I just wanted to be aggressive within the offense. I didn't want to force anything, and the opportunities presented

themselves in the second half, and I was able to knock them down."

The second half played out as an individual battle between Higgins and Vandervieren, a 6-10 center. Neither factored much in the first half.

Higgins all but decided the game when he sliced between Vandervieren and CSU guard Marcus Walker for a basket, a foul and a 60-54 lead with 6:05

## CSU Basketball

[View slide show of CSU-CU men's basketball Dec.](#)

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- [Visit the CSU Stats Page for men's boxscores, MWC standings, team leaders, more](#)
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- [Visit Natalie Meisler's All Things Rams blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CSU sports](#)

left.

The Buffs (4-3) finished with a 20-2 run against CSU (3-6).

Vandervieren paced the Rams to start the second half after the in-state rivals came out of intermission in a 28-all tie. He scored inside on four straight trips, lifting the Rams to a 38-32 lead with 16:29 left. Bzdelik called a timeout and inserted 6-9 freshman Trey Eckloff, less than a year removed from Cherry Creek, to counter CSU's Purdue transfer.

The Buffs missed their first shot after a timeout and

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Vandervieren went in for his second straight dunk and 10th straight point. He finished with a team-high 16 points, all in the second half.

## Footnotes:

Miles said he hadn't seen CU's 1-3-1 zone on film. It turns out Bzdelik had never run it before. . . . CU forward Casey Crawford, who sat out with a foot injury, will have an MRI on Friday. . . . Bzdelik said he e-mailed the CU student body that its support was awesome but the Buffs weren't against TCU. . . . Bzdelik is 6-0 for his career against the Rams.

Natalie Meisler: 303-954-1295 or  
nmeisler@denverpost.com

*This article has been corrected in this online archive. Originally, due to a reporting error, it included an incorrect second-half point total for Cory Higgins.*

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# Rocky Mountain News

## CU's Higgins leaves CSU in dust

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

Published December 10, 2008 at 11:43 p.m.

Cory Higgins couldn't remember being in such a flow since high school, but when the feeling returned in the second half Wednesday night, he and the Colorado Buffaloes simply went with it.

And Colorado State simply couldn't cope.

With Higgins scoring 28 of his career-best 33 after intermission and coach Jeff Bzdelik breaking with a personal tradition and introducing a 1-3-1 zone, the Buffs buried the Rams 75-56 at the Coors Events Center.

"I just wanted to be aggressive within the offense, and the opportunity presented itself," said Higgins, whose output was the best at the Events Center by a CU player since Michel Morandais had the same total in 2002.

But modesty becomes Higgins, whose previous best points total was 24 this season against Lafayette. Bzdelik called Higgins' performance "absolutely awesome. He opened the game up and, most important, he got (his points) within the scheme of the offense."

CSU coach Tim Miles agreed, calling Higgins "the story of the night - and we didn't have an answer for him in any way, shape or form. I was

impressed with his aggressiveness."

After the Buffs' lackluster performance in a loss one week earlier against Texas Christian, Bzdelik banished his team from its locker room, sending them to auxiliary dressing quarters.

It was a motivational ploy that had an effect on the Buffs. Guard Dwight Thorne II said the effort was "through the roof," while Bzdelik called it "wire-to-wire."

CU led by as many as six points (26-20) in the first half, building that advantage as Thorne hit seven straight points. But in the half's final 3 1/2 minutes, the Rams outscored the Buffs 8-2, tying the score 28-28 at intermission.

But in the CSU locker room, a conversion of sorts must have taken place.

Center Dan Vandervieren, at 6-foot-10 and 260 pounds the biggest player on either team, went scoreless in the first 20 minutes.

But less than five minutes into the second half, the sophomore had used his bulk around the basket to account for 10 of the Rams' first 12 points, giving them their largest lead of the night - 40-32.

Then CU countered with Higgins, a lithe sophomore from Danville, Calif.

After Vandervieren's run - and with the big man taking a breather - CU upped the tempo and went on an 11-2 run to regain the lead 43-42.

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# Rocky Mountain News

Contributing four points in that spurt, Higgins was merely getting dialed in.

CSU tied the score 48-48, but from that point, Higgins made a highlight reel.

Driving, pulling up for jumpers and catching and shooting, he scored 20 of the Buffs' next 22 points, as they forged their largest lead of the night 65-56 with just less than four minutes to play.

CSU appeared stunned and done, but CU kept pouring it on.

The difference between their feeling Wednesday and after the TCU loss was incomparable, said Higgins: "This should really make us want to play like this every night. The feeling we had (after) TCU was bad, and we don't ever want to feel that again."

The Buffs played the game without forward Casey Crawford, who is believed to have a right ankle injury and is out indefinitely.

Crawford, a 6-foot-9 sophomore, is expected to undergo a magnetic resonance imaging exam today or Friday, Bzdelik said.

Absent for the Rams was sophomore forward Andy Ogide, who is nursing a sore toe. Miles wouldn't speculate whether Ogide could return for CSU's Sunday game against Stanford.

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