



K-Mac's Buffaloes crash Waves

Spears scores 18; Fressle, Richards add 16 apiece in Paradise Classic

Camera staff report
Sunday, January 4, 2009

HONOLULU -- Brittany Spears scored 18 points to lead Colorado to a 63-55 victory over Pepperdine here on Saturday at the Stan Sheriff Center in the Paradise Classic.

The Buffs (7-4) -- who won their fourth consecutive game and picked up their first victory outside of Boulder this season -- will play Hawaii at 8 p.m. tonight. The Rainbows lost 65-52 to Pepperdine on Friday night.

Alyssa Fressle and Kara Richards added 16 points each for CU. Kelly Jo Mullaney (eight points) and Bianca Smith (five points) were the only other Buffs who scored.

"Our last two games on the road we didn't play Colorado basketball. We know we're so much better than that," Fressle, whose Buffs lost 77-43 at Virginia and 77-40 at Seton Hall earlier this season, said on the KKZN post-game radio show. "Being in Hawaii we wanted to enjoy this experience off the court and win and prove we can be just as good on the road."

CU led by 12 points early in the second half but allowed the Waves (7-7) to cut their deficit to 48-44 with 6:43 remaining.

"I didn't even know it got within four points," said Fressle, who was 6-for-9 from the field with seven assists. "We just continued to play hard."

The Buffs answered with an 11-4 run that included a key 3-pointer by Fressle and a transition basket by Spears that made the score 59-48 with 2:17 remaining.

"There is no doubt that players like Alyssa and Brittany, two players who we feel like are go-to players on the offensive end, have really done some great things on the defensive end lately," CU head coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "They have a better understanding of Colorado basketball and what we're trying to do here. ... Alyssa and Spears hit some big shots in the second half."

CU did not shoot a free throw in the second half but the lack of fouls on the Waves cost them in the end as the Buffs ran the clock down and never reached the bonus.

"We had a lot of drives and inside plays. It's not like we were just shooting 3s," McConnell-Miller said. "The resiliency from our players is what I feel most proud about. ... They had the confidence in every huddle that they were going to win."

The Buffs shot 56.3 percent and had 16 assists on their 27 made baskets. The Waves shot 37.5 percent from the field, were 1-for-13 from behind the arc and missed 11 free throws (8-for-19).

"I don't remember the last time I walked into the locker room on the road and felt as good as I felt," McConnell-Miller said. "Pepperdine is a very good team and we had to work to grind that one out. ... It was a great team effort tonight and I'm extremely proud of the way we played."

Despite a sloppy start to the game the Buffs led 26-17 at halftime behind nine points from Fressle. The freshman was 3-for-3 from the field and at the line before the intermission.

Pepperdine grabbed a 12-7 lead after CU committed three of its 10 first-half turnovers in the first four minutes. But the Buffs went on a 7-0 run and took their first lead (14-12) on a basket by Mullaney with 11:00 remaining.

Richards scored on three consecutive possessions during an 8-0 run that gave CU a 24-17 cushion with 5:25 to play.

The Waves shot 25 percent (8-for-32) from the field in the first half, including an 0-for-8 effort from behind the arc, and only made one field goal in the final nine minutes.

CU could have enjoyed a bigger lead had it not turned the ball over 10 times and given up 12 offensive rebounds.

Colorado 63, Pepperdine 55

COLORADO (63)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Spears 37 8-13 0-0 8 1 0 18

Richards 38 8-13 0-2 7 2 3 16

Fressle 35 6-9 3-3 3 7 2 16

Smith 34 2-8 0-0 3 1 4 5

Blythe 23 0-1 0-0 4 1 1 0

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

Seabrook 8 0-0 0-0 1 0 0 0

Mullaney 24 3-4 2-2 1 4 4 8

Totals: 200 27-48 5-7 33 16 15 63

PEPPERDINE (55)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Smith 22 1-9 0-0 5 1 0 2

Ayim 27 7-11 1-2 5 1 3 15

Isabell 28 6-10 1-2 3 7 4 13

Lelo 22 1-2 0-0 2 0 3 2

Ross 18 2-6 0-0 1 0 1 4

Jackson 24 3-11 3-7 2 1 3 10

Bryant 20 2-5 1-2 5 1 4 5

Barnett 18 0-4 2-4 4 0 0 5

Bell 8 1-2 0-2 0 0 0 2

Hurley 7 0-0 0-0 1 1 0 0

Jarrell 6 0-1 0-0 0 0 0 0

Totals: 200 23-61 8-19 34 11 15 55

Score by halves:

Colorado 26 37 -- 63

Pepperdine 17 38 -- 55

3-point field goals -- Colorado (4-9): Spears 2-4, Fressle 1-1, Smith 1-4; Pepperdine (1-13): Smith 0-1, Ayim 0-1, Isabell 0-2, Lelo 0-1, Ross 0-4, Jackson 1-3, Barnett 0-1.

Officials --Fujimoto, Hottendorf, Kahoano.

Technical fouls -- None.

Attendance -- n/a

STEALS

Colorado (2):Spears, Richards.

Pepperdine (12):Smith, Ayim, Isabell 5, Lelo 2, Jackson 2, Jarrell.

BLOCKED SHOTS

Colorado (1):Spears.

Pepperdine (1):Ayim

TURNOVERS

Colorado (20):Spears 5, Richards, Fressle 4, Smith 4, Blythe, Mullaney 3.

Pepperdine (14):Smith, Ayim 2, Isabell, Lelo 3, Jackson 3, Bryant 2, Barnett, Jarrell.



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