



# Bufs' upset bid comes up short vs. BU

## No. 6 Bears pull away down stretch in Big 12 opener

By Chris Shelton  
Saturday, January 10, 2009

The words "moral victory" weren't used, but the sentiment was there for the Colorado women's basketball team Saturday at the Coors Events Center.

The Buffs had their chances to knock off No. 6 Baylor but were stymied by the Bears over the last four minutes and lost 63-50 in the Big 12 opener for both teams that was closer than the score indicated.

"We didn't allow Baylor to come into our house and run over us," Colorado sophomore point guard Britney Blythe said.

Added senior center Kara Richards, "We were not disappointed in our effort, we just wish the score was different."

The Buffs (8-5, 0-1 Big 12) hung with the Bears (13-1, 1-0) by rebounding better than expected, playing tough defense in the second half and getting an unexpected lift from Blythe's four 3-pointers. Blythe, who came into the game having made just one of 12 treys this season and five of 33 in her career, made her first four 3-pointers for 12 points.

Baylor came into the game outrebounding its opponents by 16 -- best in the nation. But with five minutes left in the game, the Buffs were tied with the Bears in rebounds before Baylor pulled away to grab 41 boards to CU's 36.

Richards did her part, pulling in 15 rebounds. She also avoided foul trouble to play nearly all 40 minutes of the game, contributing nine points.

But the Bears had Jessica Marrow, a 6-foot senior wing player with long arms who frustrated CU's leading scorer -- Brittany Spears (6-foot-1).

Coming into the game, Spears was tied for second in the Big 12 in scoring at 18.9 points per game. Marrow held Spears to 14 points on 5-of-14 shooting.

"(Marrow) has long range, long arms," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "If Spears takes a shot at least she's got a kid with longer range contesting her shot."

Baylor also held CU to 22 points in the second half. Junior center Danielle Wilson led the way offensively with 16 points, senior forward Rachel Allison added 15 and Marrow had 14.

The Bears scored often in transition to build a 35-28 lead by halftime. But CU did not allow the Bears to

make a field goal for the first seven minutes of the second half to take a 42-37 lead.

After missing their first 10 shots of the second half, the ball started to drop through the hoop for Baylor and the Bears regained the lead for good at 45-44 with 10:23 to play on a bucket by Marrow.

Spears drained a long-range jumper at the shot clock buzzer with 4:14 to play to cut Baylor's lead to 54-50, but it was CU's lone field goal in the last eight minutes of the game and Baylor pulled away for the win.

"The areas we needed to improve in, we improved in," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "It's got to keep going. We can't take a step back."

## **Baylor 63, Colorado 50**

### **BAYLOR (63)**

**min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp**

Morrow 37 5-11 4-6 5 1 1 14

Allison 37 6-16 3-4 7 1 2 15

Wilson 33 8-17 0-3 6 1 4 16

Player 34 2-7 3-4 8 2 1 7

Griffin 37 1-3 3-4 6 4 3 5

Zachariason 2 0-0 2-2 0 0 1 2

Jones 13 1-1 0-0 2 0 0 2

Field 1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0 0

Medlock 7 1-3 0-0 3 0 0 2

**Totals: 200 24-58 15-23 41 9 12 63**

### **COLORADO (50)**

**min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp**

Spears 40 5-14 3-4 6 1 2 14

Richards 40 3-8 3-4 15 1 4 9

Fressle 38 4-12 0-0 4 2 3 8

Smith 36 3-12 0-0 3 2 3 7

Blythe 26 4-6 0-0 1 0 2 12

Seabrook 4 0-1 0-0 1 0 0 0

Mullaney 16 0-3 0-0 2 1 0 0

Dunn 1 0-0 0-0 0 0 1 0

**Totals: 200 24-58 15-23 41 9 12 63**

**Score by halves:**

Baylor 35 28 -- 63

Colorado 28 22 -- 50

**3-point field goals --** Baylor (0-6): Morrow 0-2, Allison 0-3, Player 0-1; Colorado (6-19): Spears 1-3, Fressle 0-1, Smith 1-9, Blythe 4-6.

**Officials --**Blauch, Jones, Bonner.

**Technical fouls --** None.

**Attendance --** 3,273.

**STEALS**

**Baylor (9):**Morrow, Allison 2, Wilson 3, Jones, Medlock 2.

**Colorado (6):**Spears 2, Richards, Fressle, Smith 2.

**BLOCKED SHOTS**

**Baylor (3):**Wilson 3.

**Colorado (2):**Fressle, Smith.

**TURNOVERS**

**Baylor (15):**Morrow, Allison 4, Wilson 3, Player 4, Griffin, Zachariason, Jones.

**Colorado (20):**Spears 4, Richards 6, Fressle 5, Blythe 3.



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# CU's Richards continues to improve

## Senior center grabs career-high 15 rebounds

By Chris Shelton  
Sunday, January 11, 2009

Colorado center Kara Richards made several strides in Saturday's 63-50 loss to No. 6 Baylor.

The 6-foot-4 senior grabbed more rebounds than anyone else in the Coors Events Center with 15.

And her own personal nemesis — foul trouble — wasn't a factor in CU's biggest game so far this season, which allowed her to play nearly all 40 minutes of the game. She has fouled out three times this season.

Those were the positives. But the negatives seemed to haunt Richards after the game.

The Buffs went inside to Richards more in the second half, but she wasn't able to convert. Richards made just 3 of her 8 shots (.375 shooting) and was held to nine points. She came into the game second in the Big 12 in field-goal percentage at .622.

"I was 3-for-8 shooting," Richards said. "As a post player, that's not very good."

And then she looked further down the statistics sheet and saw six turnovers, most of which came on calls for traveling. Her previous high for a game was three.

"The first time I didn't feel it," Richards said of the first time she was whistled for traveling. "After the second time I felt it. I talked to (the referee) and she said I shuffled my feet. So she made the right call."

Richards was starting to become a big contributor leading up to Saturday's Big 12 opener. She was averaging 14.4 points in the last five games of the nonconference season, and she had made 29 of her last 44 nonconference shots.

Out of time

Baylor forced Colorado to use up much of the shot clock before allowing the Buffs to take a shot.

The Buffs twice were unable to take a shot before time expired.

"I'm not sure Colorado got, what I would consider, open looks," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "We always were around the ball. Our defense was pretty special."

Colorado's 22 points in the second half were a season low for the second half.

“They completely denied (our) guards,” CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. “We became stagnant and didn’t react to what the defense was giving us.”

Baylor represented

A crowd of 3,273 received a boost from a good portion of Baylor fans. In one corner some bare-chested fans had spelled out “Jones” in green paint.

Baylor sophomore guard Melissa Jones went to high school just down the road in Broomfield’s Legacy High School.

She came off the bench to play 13 minutes, but only scored two points. Mulkey said Jones would have played more but she was using Jones as a substitute for Jessica Marrow and Marrow was doing a good job defensively on CU’s leading scorer, Brittany Spears.

But Mulkey fully expects Jones to play a lot more.

“That kid is a big-time player for us,” Mulkey said. “She will be an all-Big 12 player before she leaves here.”

Notable

CU sophomore Britney Blythe’s 12 points were a career-high. ... Richards’ 15 rebounds were a career high. ... Baylor did not make a 3-pointer, missing all six attempts. ... The win was No. 100 for Mulkey in Big 12 games (100-47).



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## CU earns moral victory

*By Patrick Ridgell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — Colorado women's basketball coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said she told her players following Saturday's game against No. 6 Baylor how "extremely proud" she was of them. They were mentally tough. They executed the game plan. They fought.

Of course, they also lost 63-50 after leading by five points with 13 minutes, 42 seconds to play. CU (8-5) snapped its five-game winning streak in losing its Big 12 opener.

Repeating the theme that these days permeates the school's athletic department, McConnell-Miller cites her team's youth and inexperience as mountainous obstacles before it. Being "extremely proud" after a home conference loss may not be what some fans want to hear from the coach. Things could be worse, though.

"We didn't let Baylor walk all over us in our house," point guard Britney Blythe said.

The Buffs had that going for them. They also had chances to pull an upset until right after Brittany Spears' jumper pulled them to within 54-50 with 4:11 to go. They did not score again. Their final seven possessions included three turnovers and five missed 3s.

They also failed to grab a defensive rebound with 50 seconds left when Baylor missed the first of one-and-one free throws. Baylor, meanwhile, grabbed key rebounds and made some shots in the closing moments when it had to.

In some ways it was a surprise the Buffs had a chance. Baylor outscored them 44-14 in the paint, a bad margin even for a perimeter-oriented group like CU. The Buffs committed 20 turnovers, shot 34 percent — 24 percent after halftime — shot eight free throws all day, and center Kara Richards took only eight shots.

And as for the game's end, Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said fatigue hampered both teams in the closing moments, and that her players pushed their offense to find better shots. McConnell-Miller admitted if she could do something different, she would have gone to the bench more. Four CU starters played at least 36 minutes. Two — Richards and Spears — logged 40.

McConnell-Miller said her players were "a little tight" at the end of the game, causing several misses.



Colorado's Alyssa Fressle looks for an open teammate as Baylor's Jhasmin Player tries to get possession of the ball on Saturday at the Coors Event Center in Boulder. **Jill P. Mott/Times-Call**

### No. 6 BAYLOR 63, COLORADO 50

BAYLOR (13-1, 1-0)

Morrow 5-11 4-6 14, Allison 6-16 3-4 15, Wilson 8-17 0-3 16, Player 2-7 3-4 7, Griffin 1-3 3-4 5, Zachariasen 0-0 2-2 2, Jones 1-1 0-0 2, Field 0-0 0-0 0, Medlock 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 24-58 15-23 63.

COLORADO (8-5, 0-1)

Spears 5-14 3-4 14, Richards 3-8 3-4 9, Fressle 4-12 0-0 8, Smith 3-12 0-0 7, Blythe 4-6 0-0 12, Seabrook 0-1 0-0 0, Mullaney 0-3 0-0 0, Dunn 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-56 6-8 50 Totals 19-56 6-8 50.

Halftime—Baylor 35-28. 3-Point Goals—Baylor 0-6 (Allison 0-3, Morrow 0-2, Player 0-1), CU 6-19 (Blythe 4-6, Spears 1-3, Smith 1-9, Fressle 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Baylor 41 (Player 8), CU 36 (Richards 15). Assists—Baylor 9 (Griffin 4), CU 7 (Fressle 2, Smith 2). Total Fouls—Baylor 12, CU 15. Technicals—none. A—3,273.

Still, the coach harped on the positives.

“I thought we matured; I thought we grew today,” she said. “They’re becoming a team that’s a lot more easy to coach, a lot more fun to coach.”

Baylor entered owning the nation’s largest rebounding margin — plus 16 — and CU had the Big 12’s worst, at minus-3.8. Baylor’s 41-36 edge rebounding was not dominant, and a big reason why CU hung around. Richards grabbed a career-best 15.

McConnell-Miller stressed how important it is her team does not take a step back from Saturday’s effort, which will be more difficult to do than it sounds. Its next games are Wednesday at No. 21 Oklahoma State, then next Saturday at No. 8 Texas. The Buffs are home Jan. 21 against No. 4 Oklahoma.

It’ll take more than just good efforts to find a win in those three games.

“I thought we were not disappointed in our effort and our play, we just wish the score was different,” Richards said.

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