



CU women aim for road win at MU

Bufs out to end 4-game Big 12 skid

By Chris Shelton
Saturday, January 24, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — One challenge facing the Colorado women's basketball team heading into today's road game at Missouri is to avoid falling into a slump similar to last year's early Big 12 run.

Last season, the Buffs opened conference play with a win at Missouri and then went on to lose nine of their next 10.

Heading into today's 5:30 p.m. tipoff (KKZN), the Buffs are winless in their first four Big 12 games for the first time in program history. All four games came against top-25 teams.

"This (was) a tough stretch, no doubt," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "A lot of teams, at this point, could have fallen apart, lost their confidence, gone in a lot of different directions. But there wasn't a player on this team that was headed in that direction."

Tonight's game could be a chance for Colorado to finally post a Big 12 win, given that Missouri is just ahead of the last-place Buffs in the league standings.

But Colorado has also struggled on the road. The Buffs average 45 points per road game this season. Since 2005, CU has won just four Big 12 road games.

Then again, two of CU's last four league road wins came against Missouri.

The key may come down to whether the Buffs (8-8, 0-4) can put behind them the memory of losing their last four games.

"We have to keep our heads up and stay positive -- compete in practice and continue to get better," CU junior guard Bianca Smith said. "We need to use all the things we've learned, positive and negative, against our future opponents."

Missouri (10-7, 1-3) is led by its elders.

Senior guard Alyssa Hollins and junior forward Jessra Johnson each average 13.2 points per game, while sophomore forward Shakara Jones chips in with 10.4 points per game. Hollins is Missouri's all-time leader in 3-pointers.



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