



Cyclones whip Buffs

By Ryan Thorburn

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

AMES, Iowa -- Let's start with the good.

It shouldn't take long.

Dwight Thorne was 4-for-8 shooting in the first half to lead Colorado with nine points.

Now the bad.

Craig Brackins had 17 points and nine rebounds by halftime. The Iowa State star didn't even have to break a sweat with six other teammates helping him out on the scoreboard before the break.

The ugly?

Thorne was the only Buff to score in the first 20 minutes. His teammates -- at least the ones brave enough to shoot -- were a combined 0-for-15 from the field.

CU trailed 10-2 after five minutes, 19-6 after 10 minutes, 32-6 after 15 minutes and 37-9 at halftime en route to a demoralizing 70-42 loss to Iowa State on Wednesday at Hilton Coliseum.

The worst part, according to the head coach, is that the Buffs were nonchalant and perhaps overconfident entering this battle to get out of last place in the Big 12 after taking No. 2 Oklahoma to the wire in Norman last Saturday.

"I sensed an air of comfort," said Jeff Bzdelik, who warned his team about coming out with intensity at the hotel on Tuesday night, during the pre-game shoot-around and just before the opening tip. "It was different than what I had sensed in these previous games. I thought in particular at Oklahoma and at Kansas there was a real excitement and desperate kind of effort knowing that we had to play with everything we've got to compete. And we did." Here I thought we had a kind of comfort to us, where on the flip side Iowa State was desperate and ready to fight and battle. We are not good enough, nor is anybody good enough to have that kind of approach to a game."

That baffling attitude -- along with some poor defense and atrocious shooting -- fueled the worst first half for CU since Jan. 23, 1980, when the Buffs trailed Missouri 29-4 at the intermission.

Anthony "Jo Jo" Hunter had the four points for the visitors that forgettable night in Columbia in what turned out to be a 78-45 loss to the Tigers.

"It was kind of a blur, a bad dream, all of the above," Thorne said after finishing with 14 points on 6-for-13 shooting. "It was terrible."

The Buffs (9-14, 1-8) -- who are now all alone in the Big 12 basement -- shot 17.4 percent in the intermission. That included an 0-for-9 effort from behind the arc with seven turnovers and one assist.

Meanwhile, the Cyclones (13-11, 2-8) -- who ended a six-game skid with style -- made their first five shots and never looked back.

"It seemed like they were hitting shots and we couldn't get any to fall," Austin Dufault said after scoring all 10 of his points in the second half. "Part of the reason they were hitting shots is because we were so soft defensively. They were ready to play and we weren't."

Brackins made his first four shots and splashed a 3-pointer to give the home team an 11-point cushion with 13:46 left in the half.

Thorne scored 1:44 into the game to tie the score 2-2, 5:18 later to cut the deficit to 13-4 and again moments later to cut the deficit to seven points.

But by the time CU's junior shooting guard ended a CU scoring drought of 8:39 with his fourth field goal the Buffs were already trailing by 28 points. Thorne had a chance to get his team into double figures but could only go 1-for-2 at the line with 1:44 left.

"Dwight was someone who played with aggressiveness," Bzdelik said. "Fortunately he was out there."

Brackins, who finished with 26 points, scored the first five points of the second half to make it a 33-point margin before Nate Tomlinson made a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 42-12 with 18:32 remaining.

The students section was ready for the moment with a chant of "double digits, double digits, double digits ... "

The Buffs finished with season lows for total points (42), made field goals (13), field-goal percentage (31.0) and assists (3).

"Early in the week, we just talked about not feeling sorry for ourselves," Iowa State coach Greg McDermott said. "About being grateful for the opportunity we have to go practice every day and play this game that we love. Let's just leave it all out there and see what happens."

CU has now lost 26 consecutive Big 12 road games and is 0-7 in true road games this season.

Iowa State 70, CU 42

COLORADO

FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PT

Tomlnsn 31 1-3 0-0 0-4 1 0 3

Higgins 34 2-5 7-8 1-3 1 4 11

Thorne II 39 6-13 1-2 1-5 1 0 14

J-Wilson 9 0-3 0-0 0-0 0 2 0

Dufault 32 3-7 4-4 0-7 0 3 10

Coney 3 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Veal 18 0-4 1-4 2-5 0 2 1

Knutson 15 1-1 1-2 0-0 0 0 3

Crawford 7 0-3 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Eckloff 12 0-3 0-0 0-1 0 1 0

Totals 200 13-42 14-20 6-27 3 13 42

Percentages: FG .310, FT .700.

3-Point Goals: 2-13, .154 (Tomlinson 1-2, Thorne II 1-4, Higgins 0-1, Dufault 0-1, Eckloff 0-2, Crawford 0-3).

Team Rebounds: 2.

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

Turnovers: 13 (Higgins 4, Tomlinson 2, Crawford, Veal, Coney, Thorne II, Jackson-Wilson, Knutson).

Steals: 6 (Thorne II 2, Veal, Tomlinson, Jackson-Wilson, Dufault).

Technical Fouls: None.

IOWA ST.

FG FT Reb

Min M-A M-A O-T A PF PT

Garrett 27 2-5 0-0 0-2 5 2 4

Brackins 22 10-18 4-5 3-10 1 2 26

Petersen 25 2-3 0-0 0-0 5 0 5

Hamilton 23 2-4 0-0 0-2 1 1 4

Staiger 21 2-5 0-0 0-5 1 1 6

Boozer 10 3-4 0-0 2-6 1 1 7

Buckley 9 1-2 2-2 0-3 0 0 5

Eikmeier 3 0-0 0-0 1-1 0 0 0

Thmpsn 15 2-5 0-0 2-3 0 0 4

Vndrbkn 15 2-6 1-2 2-3 0 4 7

Lee 7 0-0 0-0 0-0 1 0 0

Haluska 18 0-3 0-0 0-1 0 2 0

Mann 5 1-3 0-0 1-1 0 2 2

Totals 200 27-58 7-9 11-37 15 15 70

Percentages: FG .466, FT .778.

3-Point Goals: 9-20, .450 (Brackins 2-2, Vanderbeken 2-4, Staiger 2-4, Boozer 1-2, Petersen 1-2, Buckley 1-2, Thompson 0-1, Garrett 0-1, Haluska 0-2).

Team Rebounds: 0.

Blocked Shots: 4 (Hamilton 3, Brackins).

Turnovers: 9 (Brackins 3, Petersen 2, Buckley, Mann, Thompson, Garrett).

Steals: 5 (Brackins 2, Eikmeier, Garrett, Thompson).

Technical Fouls: None.

Colorado 9 33--42

Iowa St. 37 33--70

A -- 10,821.

Officials -- Tom O'Neill, Duke Edsall, Michael Eggers.



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Veal gains valuable playing time

Promising frosh on ISU's court for 18 minutes

By Ryan Thorburn

Thursday, February 12, 2009

AMES, Iowa -- There were nearly 40 minutes of garbage time.

Other than Dwight Thorne, Colorado didn't pack the right attitude to win on this road trip as the visitors trailed 37-9 at halftime on the way to a 70-42 loss to Iowa State on Wednesday night at Hilton Coliseum.

Believe it or not, the game wasn't even that close.

If there was a positive development for Jeff Bzdelik it was the chance to go down to the end of the bench early to tell Toby Veal to pull off the warm-ups.

The promising freshman forward had not seen any action since CU's 55-49 victory over Iowa State on Jan. 27. Veal played only six minutes in that game and a total of 63 minutes all season with eight points and 15 rebound in 13 brief appearances.

Veal logged 18 minutes against Iowa State and finished with five rebounds, two blocks, one steal and one point. He also had a chance to go head-to-head with future NBA draft pick Craig Brackins a little bit on the defensive end.

"It was great to go against Brackins. The whole week in practice the coaches were on us about how to play him and how not to play him," Veal said. "I just went out there and tried to do my best against him."

Brackins finished with 26 points and 10 rebounds but did most of his damage early. Veal also showed off his athleticism but was 0-for-4 from the field.

"I think I did pretty good, but coach was kind of upset because I did a couple things wrong and a couple things right," Veal said. "He'll probably come around on Friday and tell us about the good things I did. I know he's not going to tell us now after the loss we just had."

Veal and Ryan Kelley have become very close friends this season and keep each other's spirits up on the end of the bench.

Kelley, another talented freshman who is making his way back from a knee injury, warmed up but did not play.

"You've just got to get in there and do your best. In warm ups I get ready and make sure my body is

ready," Veal said. "Any day, any time your name can get called."

Historically bad half

CU's nine points before the intermission set a Big 12 record for scoring futility in a half.

So what did Bzdelik say at the intermission?

"It's about moving forward and understanding why this happened and playing basketball the way we are capable of playing," Bzdelik said.

Iowa State had a 21-0 run in the first half and its largest lead was 36 points.

Meanwhile, CU was out-rebounded 37-27 and finished the game with 13 turnovers and three assists

Notable

Iowa State and CU have split every season series since 2001 when the Cyclones swept. ... The Buffs were 2-for-13 from behind the arc but have made at least one 3-pointer in 218 consecutive games. ... CU assistant coach Steve McClain is a native of Orient, Iowa.

By the numbers

0 -- Points scored by CU players other than Dwight Thorne in the first half.

0-7 -- Colorado's record in true road games this season. The Buffs' last victory on an opponent's home court was at Colorado State last season -- a 73-70 triumph at Moby Arena on Dec. 22, 2007.

9 -- Points scored by Thorne in the first half on 4-for-8 shooting as CU trailed 37-9 at the break.

13 -- Number of made field goals, personal fouls and turnovers for CU. And it wasn't even Friday the 13th yet.

17-1 -- Iowa State's record against the Buffs in the last 18 meetings in Ames. The Cyclones have a 33-5 edge all-time at Hilton Coliseum.

26 -- Consecutive Big 12 road losses for CU.



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