



Bufs end drought vs. ranked foe

CU defeats No. 21 Wyoming, snaps streak of losses to Top 25 opponents

By Chris Shelton

Thursday, December 6, 2007

For the past three years Colorado forward Jackie McFarland has shined in trying times, working to rebuild a program in the wake of Ceal Barry's retirement in 2005 and not seeing the program succeed near enough in CU's three consecutive losing seasons.

The list of disappointing losses in that time included three in a row to regional rival Wyoming.

So when the Bufs carried over their momentum from Saturday's win at Colorado State into Wednesday's showdown with No. 21 Wyoming and out-played a more experienced Cowgirls squad for a 69-55 win, McFarland was leading the celebration.

"It's a huge win for us for a lot of reasons," said McFarland, who led all scorers with 21 points. "It's my favorite win of my career. It shows where this program is going. It shows we're moving up."

The Bufs (5-2) dealt Wyoming (6-1) its first loss of the season and beat a ranked team for the first time in nearly three years, snapping a streak of 23 consecutive defeats to ranked opponents.

Colorado's inside-outside offense continued to improve from Saturday's 82-47 win at CSU and the CU's defense kept Wyoming's 3-point shooters in check as the Cowgirls shot 27.3 percent from downtown.

The Bufs certainly didn't want to lose their momentum from Saturday, especially since they face No. 20 Vanderbilt in Tennessee on Sunday.

"It's a pivotal win," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "We could have gone in any direction. The timing of the game was good. Regardless of where they were ranked or if they were ranked, it's a game we needed to have. If I have to tell this team that everyone we play is ranked, I will. I'll make it up."

The Bufs missed 16 of their first 19 shots and fell behind 16-10 to start the game. But Colorado's 3-point shots started falling and the Bufs began to find McFarland open inside to pull ahead, eventually leading 50-38 in the second half.

But the biggest moment came after Wyoming cut the lead to one, 53-52, with 5:11 to play.

Colorado sophomore Bianca Smith responded with consecutive 3-pointers to spark a 12-0 run and seal CU's fourth win in a row. Smith finished with a season-high 16 points.

Freshman Brittany Spears tied a career high with 19 points and added six rebounds. The Buffs won the battle of the boards, 36-25, led by Aija Putnina's 12 rebounds.

Senior point guard Susie Powers played 40 minutes, recording a career-high nine assists (against two turnovers) and grabbing seven rebounds.

Justyna Podziemska led Wyoming with 19 points and Hanna Zavec had 16.

"We had so much fun out there," Powers said. "I had trouble not smiling."

Notable

Former Buff Shelley Sheetz attended the game with her mother Carol, who has brain cancer. Sheetz is on a leave of absence from her coaching duties at Pepperdine so she can be with her mother in the Boulder area. The Buffs host Pepperdine on Jan. 4. ... The Buffs made 33.3 percent of their shots in the first half and 60.9 percent in the second half. ... Colorado limited its turnovers to a season low of 13. ... Powers now has 23 assists and four turnovers in her last three games.

CU 69, Wyoming 55 FG FT Reb

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

Zavec 40 5-11 6-9 2-7 3 2 16

Vandragt 20 1-5 0-2 1-4 2 4 3

Pdzmska 35 7-12 3-4 0-2 0 3 19

JBlrjck 34 1-2 0-2 1-3 3 0 3

Sisk 27 1-4 0-0 0-3 3 1 2

Vandiver 24 3-6 0-0 1-3 0 2 7

McGffy 15 2-4 0-0 0-0 2 5 5

Dissen 1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 1 0

Carlson 4 0-2 0-0 0-1 0 1 0

Totals 200 20-46 9-17 6-25 13 19 55

Percentages: FG .435, FT .529.

3-Point Goals: 6-22, .273 (Podziemska 2-7, J.Bolerjack 1-1, McGuffey 1-2, Vandiver 1-2, Vanderjagt 1-4, Carlson 0-1, Zavec 0-2, Sisk 0-3). Team Rebounds: 2. Blocked Shots: 2 (Vanderjagt, Zavec). Turnovers: 12 (Podziemska 4, J.Bolerjack 3, McGuffey 2, Vanderjagt, Zavec, Vandiver). Steals: 5 (Podziemska 2, Vandiver 2, Sisk). Technical Fouls: None.

FG FT Reb

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

Spears 30 6-10 3-3 2-6 1 4 19

Putnina 28 1-6 3-4 2-12 2 1 5

McFrlnnd 36 8-10 5-10 5-7 5 3 21

Skildum 14 0-2 0-0 2-2 1 2 0

Powers 40 2-10 0-1 2-7 9 3 6

Smith 32 5-9 2-2 0-1 3 3 16

Houston 4 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Dow 12 0-1 0-0 0-0 0 0 0

Richards 4 1-1 0-1 0-1 0 0 2

Totals 200 23-50 13-21 13-36 21 16 69

Percentages: FG .460, FT .619.

3-Point Goals: 10-25, .400 (Smith 4-7, Spears 4-7, Powers 2-8, Putnina 0-1, Houston 0-1, Skildum 0-1). Team Rebounds: 0. Blocked Shots: 1 (Putnina). Turnovers: 13 (Putnina 4, McFarland 3, Spears 2, Powers 2, Dow, Skildum). Steals: 3 (Skildum, Putnina, Dow). Technical Fouls: None. **Wyoming 26 29—55**

Colorado 27 42—69

A—2,309. Officials—Clarke Stevens, Lisa Jones, Barry Roberts.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

area basketball

Late run lifts Buffs

By The Associated Press

Article Last Updated: 12/05/2007 11:54:19 PM MST

BOULDER — Jackie McFarland scored 21 points, Brittany Spears matched her career high with 19 and Colorado upset No. 21 Wyoming 69-55 on Wednesday night.

Colorado (5-2) went on a 12-0 run to pull away late in the second half, and then held on to snap a 23-game losing streak against ranked opponents. Colorado was coming off an 82-47 win Saturday over Colorado State.

"Tonight's game came at a very pivotal time for us," Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said. "I thought we were coming off the strongest performance of the year, and to host a very good nationally ranked Wyoming team with such experience ... I thought the players really, really took advantage of it."

Colorado, then ranked No. 14, last defeated a ranked opponent on Jan. 7, 2004 — a 69-59 win over then-No. 24 Baylor. In ending that streak, the Buffs prevented Wyoming (6-1) from its first 7-0 start in nearly 30 years.

"It's a huge game for us for a lot of

reasons," said McFarland, who scored 15 points after halftime, including eight in the final four minutes. "I think it just shows where this program is going. It's a sign that we're definitely moving up."

Wyoming was off to its best start since going 8-0 to open the 1978-79 season. Colorado also handed the Cowgirls their first loss that season, too, 81-66.

Creighton 68, Denver 64

* Denver got within two points with 15 seconds remaining despite 25 turnovers, but Creighton's Ally Thrall made two of three free throws in the final 20 seconds to give the Bluejays a victory.

Air Force 56, Northern Colorado 53

GREELEY — Alecia Steele led Air Force with 22 points and the Falcons defeated Northern Colorado in UNC's first game without coach Jaime White, who took a medical leave of absence Wednesday.

Advertisement

TARGET COUPON
EXPIRES 3/3/06

FREE

Twenty 4x6" basic prints





Offer available at Target One-hour Photo Labs. Go to Target.com/photo for the location nearest you. One-hour service limited to machine capacity. Limit one item or offer per coupon. Offer not available for prints made on the Kodak Picture Kiosk. Void if copied, transferred, purchased, sold or prohibited by law. No cash value. Maximum retail value \$4.40 for combined free offer.

9856-0113-2647-5849-0376-5806-89

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado
Tuesday, December 18,
2007

DAILY TIMES-CALL

Publish Date: 12/6/2007

Special upset

Bufs upend No. 21 Wyoming

By Brian Howell

Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Since coming to the University of Colorado, Jackie McFarland hadn't been a part of many big wins.

The senior forward is hoping Wednesday can be a turning point in that regard.

McFarland scored 21 points, Brittany Spears tied her career-high with 19 and Bianca Smith had 16 as the Buffaloes upset No. 21 Wyoming, 69-55, on Wednesday night at the Coors Events Center.

"It's a huge game for us for a lot of reasons," said McFarland, who also had seven rebounds and five assists. "Wyoming is just as much of an in-state rivalry as Colorado State is. To have played them for three years and not have gotten a win against them, it's definitely the favorite win of my career. I think it just shows where this program is going. It's a sign that we're definitely moving up."

Colorado (5-2) hadn't defeated a ranked opponent since a 69-59 win over then-No. 24 Baylor on Jan. 7, 2004. The Buffaloes were ranked 14th at the time.

"If I have to tell this team every team we play is ranked, I will. I'll make it up," head coach Kathy McConnell-Miller joked after her team played so well against the Cowgirls (6-1). "I think every win is important. I just think it's a pivotal win. This game, we could have gone in any direction."

Saturday afternoon, the Buffaloes crushed rival Colorado State, 82-47, and McConnell-Miller felt it was huge for the Buffs to back it up with a good performance Wednesday.

"Tonight's game came at a very pivotal time for us," McConnell-Miller said. "I thought we were coming off of the strongest performance of the year (against CSU). To host a very good, nationally ranked Wyoming team with such experience ... I thought the players really, really took advantage of it."

Especially in the second half.

Holding a two-point lead early in the second half, Colorado went on a 10-0 run to get up by 12. Spears had eight points in that run.

"It was very big," said Spears, who made 6-of-10 field goals. "It was huge for us so we could have the confidence to keep playing hard."

Wyoming wasn't done, though. The Cowgirls went on a 14-3 run to cut CU's lead to 53-52 with 5 minutes to play.

"I felt the whole night from the get-go that we were going to win the game," said Buffs point guard Susie Powers, who



Colorado's Whitney Houston goes up for a layup during the first half Wednesday night against Wyoming's Jodi Bolerjack, left, Hillary Carlson at the Coors Events Center. Houston and the Buffs improved to 5-2 with a 69-55 win.

Lewis Geyer / Times-Call

set a career high with nine assists, tied her career high with seven rebounds and scored six points. "We were up comfortably, and even though they did cut it to one, we weren't tensed up. We had it. We just had to come back."

They did, in a hurry. In fact, as soon as Wyoming got within one, the McFarland inbounded the ball to Powers, and Powers told her, "Let's do it, Jackie."

"I knew from that ... this is our game," McFarland said.

Next trip down the floor, Smith banked in a 3-pointer.

"I was pretty nervous about that one," Smith said. "I actually apologized to coach when I was coming back down the court because I did not think that was going to bank in. Fortunately for me it did, and for the team it did."

Smith hit another one on the next trip down to put the Buffaloes up by seven, and then McFarland scored six straight to put the game away.

The Buffaloes have now won four in a row for the first time since the 2004-05 season, and get another crack at a ranked team Sunday at No. 20 Vanderbilt.

TIP-INS: Wyoming was looking for its first 7-0 start since starting 8-0 in 1978-79. Colorado handed the Cowgirls their first loss that year, too, 81-66 in Laramie. ... Powers came into the game ranked first in the country in assist-to-turnover ratio (5.5). She had nine assists and two turnovers Wednesday. ... CU leads the all-time series with the Cowgirls, 33-9. ... CU had a season-low 13 turnovers.



CU women upset Wyoming

By B.G. Brooks

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Picture this: Sophomore guard Bianca Smith is getting back on defense, passes coach Kathy McConnell-Miller in front of the University of Colorado bench and swiftly offers a sheepish apology.

Hard to say what Smith's reaction might have been had her three-pointer not gone in. But it did, falling at probably the most critical point possible in the Buffaloes' 61-52 win Wednesday night against No. 21 Wyoming.

After the Cowgirls had sliced a 12-point Buffs lead to 53-52 with just more than five minutes to play, Smith *banked in* - hence, her apology - the first of consecutive three-pointers to send CU ahead by seven and on its way to a victory against a ranked opponent for the first time in 24 tries.

When her second three-pointer dropped (this one swished), Smith "could see the look in their faces, like, 'This is (the Buffs)' night.' Once we started hitting our shots, it got kind of 'Globetrotter-ish' for us. Is that even a word?"

The Buffs were coming off their strongest performance of the season - an 82-47 rout of Colorado State - and playing an undefeated Top 25 neighbor on their home court.

"Every win is important. . . . Big 12 wins are all significant," McConnell-Miller said. "But this was pivotal; we could have gone in any direction . . . it was a game we needed to have."

Now the owner of a four-game win streak, CU (5-2) committed a season-low 13 turnovers and received a career-high nine assists from senior guard Susie Powers, who has contributed 23 assists in the past three games. Powers also tied a career high with seven rebounds.

In addition to Smith's 16 points (4-of-7 on three-pointers), the Buffs also got double-figure production from freshman Brittany Spears (19) and a game-best 21 - 15 in the second half - from senior post player Jackie McFarland.

The night began very uncomfortably for the Buffs, who survived about as bad a start as any team could have.

They finally found their shooting touches and led 27-26 at the half - a mountainous accomplishment considering they opened with four turnovers in four possessions, made only three of their first 19 shots and trailed by seven points (14-7) during their coldest stretch.

"Starting off with four turnovers in four possessions was bad, but we really hunkered down - as my mother might say," McConnell-Miller said. "We became more focused and realized that this was not the path we are going down. . . .

"Defensively, we were great. . . . (Wyoming) got some easy looks, but for the most part, we played defense really well."

Cowgirls coach Joe Legerski called the Buffs "a very talented team with a great inside presence. (I) told Jackie McFarland she may be one of the best players I've ever coached against in a four-year career (at Wyoming)."

© Rocky Mountain News