



CU women make it back-to-back upset wins

Smith scores 22 to lead CU past No. 20 Vanderbilt

Camera staff report

Monday, December 10, 2007

What looked like a blowout quickly turned into a nail-biter, but the Colorado women's basketball team hung on to claim its second win over a Top 25 team in five days.

Behind Bianca Smith, who finished with a career-best 22 points, the Buffs (6-2) upset No. 20 Vanderbilt in Nashville, 62-51, on Sunday afternoon.

With seven minutes to go, the game looked to be out of reach for Vanderbilt. The Buffs held a 52-32 lead over the defending SEC tournament champion Commodores (8-3), but Vanderbilt strung together a 17-0 run over the next four minutes to pull the game back.

Vanderbilt tried to extend its run and seize the lead by fouling the Buffs for possession, but Colorado was a perfect 10-for-10 in free throws down the stretch.

"I have to praise this team, and I have to thank God for the fact that they came in here today and they were very poised," CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller told KKZN (760 AM) after the game. "I am extremely proud of their performance today. It wasn't 40 minutes of great basketball, but this was a very big win and it was a very nice win for this team." Vanderbilt raced out to a 12-3 lead in the game and held Colorado scoreless through the first six minutes. But Colorado responded to force Vanderbilt into a scoring drought of its own, an 8-minute, 48-second stretch through the first half.

The Buffs rallied and went into halftime holding a 17-14 lead.

Colorado stretched its lead to 20 points in the second half, thanks to a 27-5 CU run led by Jackie McFarland, who scored 12 in the stretch.

McFarland - who finished the night with 16 total points - began playing with some fatigue in the latter minutes of the half, McConnell-Miller said. And Vanderbilt was quick to capitalize. Liz Sherwood, a Highlands Ranch High School graduate, led Vanderbilt's comeback and finished with a team-best 22 points.

"We continuously turned the ball over, and there was just an uneasiness about them out there," McConnell-Miller said. "The adjustment that we made, we had to give Jackie a break. Either she was fatigued or mentally spent."

The Buffs rotated in forward Hannah Skildum, who helped CU stop the bleeding in the 17-0 run and hold on for the upset.

The victory over Vanderbilt marks the first time Colorado upset ranked teams in back-to-back games since 2002. The Buffs beat No. 21 Wyoming 69-55 at home on Wednesday.

Colorado is also now 3-1 on the road this season.

"That's phenomenal for this group," McConnell-Miller said. "Mental toughness has been the battle, and that's what we had today to get this win on the road."

McConnell-Miller said the defense broke the game open for Colorado. The 51 points allowed were the fewest the Buffs allowed since 2004.

"It started on the defensive end," McConnell-Miller said. "And then Bianca just lit it up offensively, and that changed the way they defended us. That changed their whole game plan."

Smith is averaging 14.8 points per game off the bench this season.

"She is just a basketball player," McConnell-Miller said. "She loves to be in the gym and she loves to shoot."

Colorado 62, Vanderbilt 51

COLORADO (62)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Spears 36 3-8 2-2 7 0 2 8

Putnina 23 0-0 4-4 2 1 2 4

McFarland 39 5-11 6-8 5 4 1 16

Skildum 18 0-0 2-2 1 1 0 2

Powers 40 1-3 2-2 3 5 2 5

Smith 21 7-14 4-4 3 1 0 22

Houston 7 0-1 0-0 1 0 1 0

Dunn 8 2-4 0-1 5 9 2 5

Richards 8 0-0 0-0 2 0 1 0

Totals: 200 18-41 20-23 32 12 11 62

VANDERBILT (51)

min fg-fga ft-fta rb ast pf tp

Wirth 39 3-10 0-0 6 3 3 7

Sherwood 32 10-19 2-4 10 2 2 22

Risper 33 4-6 2-2 2 3 4 10

Lueders 30 2-11 0-0 0 2 2 6

Marsh 32 0-6 0-0 2 1 2 0

Tuomi 2 0-0 2-2 1 0 2 2

Mooney 15 2-5 0-0 0 1 2 4

Rhoads 8 0-0 0-0 1 0 0 0

Norton 5 0-1 0-0 1 0 1 0

Silinski 2 0-0 0-0 2 0 1 0

Malo 2 0-0 0-0 1 0 0 0

Totals: 200 21-58 6-8 30 12 19 51

Score by halves:

Colorado 21 41 — 62

Vanderbilt 18 33 — 51

3-point field goals — Colorado (6-19): Spears 0-4, McFarland 0-1, Powers 1-3, Smith 4-8, Houston 0-1, Dunn 1-2; Vanderbilt (3-19): Wirth 1-5, Risper 0-1, Lueders 2-7, Marsh 0-5, Mooney 0-1.

Officials —Kanter, Enterline, Bradley.

Technical fouls — None.

Attendance — 5,053.

STEALS

Colorado (9):Spears 3, Putnina, McFarland, Powers 3, Smith.

Vanderbilt (14):Wirth 2, Risper 2, Lueders 3, Marsh 4, Mooney 2, Silinski.

BLOCKED SHOTS

Colorado (3):Putnina, McFarland, Powers.

Vanderbilt (3):Norton, Malo 2.

TURNOVERS

Colorado (24):Spears 3, Putnina 2, McFarland 9, Powers 3, Smith, Houston 2, Richards 2.

Vanderbilt (19):Wirth 2, Sherwood 2, Risper 4, Lueders 2, Marsh 4, Tuomi, Mooney 3, Norton.



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colorado 62, no. 20 vanderbilt 51

Buffaloes pound out upset of Commodores

Bianca Smith scores 22 as CU earns huge win

Denver Post wire services

Article Last Updated: 12/09/2007 11:49:54 PM MST

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Sophomore guard Bianca Smith scored 22 points to help Colorado stun No. 20 Vanderbilt 62-51 on Sunday.

The Buffaloes led 52-32 with 7:07 to play before the Commodores went on a 17-0 run to cut the lead to 52-49 with 3:01 remaining.

But Colorado (6-2) made 10 consecutive free throws in the final 1:47 to secure the victory.

Jackie McFarland scored 12 points in a 27-5 run in the second half that helped the Buffs build a 20-point lead.

McFarland had 16 points for Colorado. Senior center Liz Sherwood, who played for Douglas County and Highlands Ranch high schools, led Vanderbilt (8-3) with 22 points.

Both teams struggled offensively in the first half, with Vanderbilt shooting 40.9 percent from

the floor and Colorado 38.9.

The Buffaloes committed seven turnovers in the

CU Basketball

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first four minutes, allowing the Commodores to race to a 12-3 lead. Sherwood scored three early baskets.

Later in the half, Vanderbilt went 8:34 without scoring.

CU took advantage, as Smith scored 13 of the team's first 17 points, capped by back-to-back 3-pointers, to give the Buffaloes a 17-14 advantage.

With the win, CU improved to 3-1 on the road this season. Its two-game road winning streak is the first since defeating Pacific and Washington on a road trip in December 2004.

Colorado had won just one road game in each of the past two seasons (2-19).

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COLORADO (6-2) Spears 3-8 2-2 8, Putnina 0-0 4-4 4, McFarland 5-11 6-8 16, Skildum 0-0 2-2 2, Powers 1-3 2-2 5, Smith 7-14 4-4 22, Houston 0-1 0-0 0, Dunn 2-4 0-1 5, Richards 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 18-41 20-23 62.

VANDERBILT (8-3) Wirth 3-10 0-0 7, Sherwood 10-19 2-4 22, Risper 4-6 2-2 10, Lueders 2-11 0-0 6, Marsh 0-6 0-0 0, Tuomi 0-0 2-2 2, Mooney 2-5 0-0 4, Rhoads 0-0 0-0 0, Norton 0-1 0-0 0, Silinski 0-0 0-0 0, Malo 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 21-58 6-8 51.

Halftime — Colorado 21-18. **3-point goals** — Colorado 6-19 (Smith 4-8, Dunn 1-2, Powers 1-3, McFarland 0-1, Houston 0-1, Spears 0-4), Vanderbilt 3-19 (Lueders 2-7, Wirth 1-5, Mooney 0-1, Risper 0-1, Marsh 0-5). **Fouled out** — None. **Rebounds** — Colorado 32 (Spears 7), Vanderbilt 30 (Sherwood 10). **Assists** — Colorado 12 (Powers 5), Vanderbilt 12 (Risper, Wirth 3). **Total fouls** — Colorado 11, Vanderbilt 19. **A** — 5,053.

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women's basketball

Buffs topple another ranked foe, eye own spot in polls

The Denver Post

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It had been awhile since the last Buffalo stampede in a women's basketball game.

But the Colorado Buffaloes left their autograph on No. 20 Vanderbilt on Sunday in a 62-51 signature road victory for coach Kathy McConnell-Miller, now in her third season.

Sophomore guard Bianca Smith, who lists her favorite off-court activity as collecting Superman memorabilia, was the Buffs' superhero, scoring a career- and team- high 22 points. That helped CU (6-2) defeat a ranked team on the road for the first time since beating No. 24 Baylor 69-59 on Jan. 7, 2004 in Waco, Texas.

The 2003-04 Buffs, coached by Ceal Barry, ended that season ranked No. 17. They haven't been in the top 25 since. But with back-to-back victories over ranked teams — CU beat No. 21 Wyoming on Wednesday — the Buffs could make some top-25 noise today.

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Vanderbilt finds out CU's for real

Bufs get second win in a row over ranked opponent

By Rocky Staff And Wire Reports

Monday, December 10, 2007

After dropping 23 consecutive games to ranked opponents, the University of Colorado women's basketball team apparently likes life on the other side.

The Buffaloes made Vanderbilt their second ranked victim in a row Sunday, holding off the No. 20 Commodores for a 62-51 win at Memorial Gymnasium, where the home team had won 21-of-22 (10 straight, including six this season).

Only five days earlier, CU defeated No. 21 Wyoming 69-55 at the Coors Events Center. The Buffs defeated the Commodores for the first time in five meetings and now have a two-game winning streak against ranked foes for the first time since 2003-04.

Sophomore Bianca Smith led the way for the Buffs with a career-high 22 points and is averaging 14.8 points a game off the bench the past four games.

"We talked about the dynamics of this floor and this game," Buffs coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said on her postgame radio show on KKZN. "We were extremely poised. . . . It wasn't 40 minutes of beautiful basketball, but there were some great moments out there. Our girls are extremely proud."

Improving to 6-2 and winning their fifth consecutive game, the Buffs held a 20-point lead (52-32) with just more than seven minutes to play thanks to a 27-5 second-half run led by Jackie McFarland, who scored 12 of her 16 points during the spurt.

But the Commodores, whose most recent home loss was last season to defending national champion Tennessee, roared back with a 17-0 run and pulled to within three at 52-49.

CU, though, held on despite not hitting a field goal for the rest of the game. The Buffs went 10-for-10 from the free-throw line to preserve their third road win this season.

McConnell-Miller called it "a solid effort . . . Mental toughness is our battle; we needed to accomplish this on the road."

Former Highlands Ranch athlete Liz Sherwood led Vanderbilt with 22 points.

CU opens a five-game homestand on Friday against Texas Southern (7 p.m.).

Colorado 62, No. 20 Vanderbilt 51

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VANDERBILT (8-3) - Wirth 3-10 0-0 7, Sherwood 10-19 2-4 22, Risper 4-6 2-2 10, Lueders 2-11 0-0 6, Marsh 0-6 0-0 0, Tuomi 0-0 2-2 2, Mooney 2-5 0-0 4, Rhoads 0-0 0-0 0, Norton 0-1 0-0 0, Silinski 0-0 0-0 0, Malo 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 21-58 6-8 51.

Halftime - Colorado 21-18. **Three-point attempts** - Colorado 6-19 (Smith 4-8, Dunn 1-2, Powers 1-3, McFarland 0-1, Houston 0-1, Spears 0-4), Vanderbilt 3-19 (Lueders 2-7, Wirth 1-5, Mooney 0-1, Risper 0-1, Marsh 0-5). **Fouled out** - None. **Rebounds** - Colorado 32 (Spears 7), Vanderbilt 30 (Sherwood 10). **Assists** - Colorado 12 (Powers 5), Vanderbilt 12 (Risper, Wirth 3). **Total fouls** - Colorado 11, Vanderbilt 19. **A** - 5,053.

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