



# Bufs post 35-point win at CSU

By Chris Shelton

Sunday, December 2, 2007

FORT COLLINS — On the bus ride up here Saturday, Colorado senior Susie Powers was explaining to coach Kathy McConnell-Miller's 7-year-old son, Brice, how she was supposed to shut down Colorado State's best player, Sara Hunter.

So when Brice later came up to Powers during a timeout late in the first half to tell her that Hunter had zero points, it made Powers' day.

It also made CU's day.

The Buffs blew out the Rams by 35 points, winning 82-47 in Moby Arena for CU's largest margin of victory over CSU since 1979.

"I have been so mentally focused for this game," Powers said of holding Hunter to one basket on her watch. "It feels like for the last 48 hours I was thinking, 'Sara Hunter. Sara Hunter. CSU Rams.' Someone might have asked me what I ate for breakfast and I would have said, 'Sara Hunter,' instead of Cheerios I was so in tune and focused."

Hunter, who came into the game averaging 16 shots per game, was held to 10 field goal attempts, and many of those came after Powers was pulled from the game with CU leading by 30. Hunter was kept to eight points, down from her team-leading average of 13.7 points per game.

Powers shut down Hunter by fighting through screens to get to Hunter before teammates could pass her the ball.

"I did get knocked around on a few screens," Powers said. "But it was all worth it because we put it together to win by 35."

Colorado took advantage of CSU's inability to put the ball in the basket. The Rams shot 20 percent in the first half and 24.3 percent for the game.

All three of CU's starting forwards, meanwhile, notched double-doubles and the Buffs made half of their 28 attempts from 3-point territory.

Senior Jackie McFarland led the way with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while freshman Brittany Spears had 16 points and 11 rebounds and sophomore Aija Putnina added 11 points and 10 rebounds. The Rams (1-7) were led by Lauren Young's 10 points off the bench.

The Buffs (4-2) worked the ball inside to the forwards and if they were double-teamed, CU kicked it out to their outside shooters in running the offense the best it's looked all year against the zone defense.

"We figure we're going to face a lot of zone defense this year as they try to take away our inside game," McFarland said. "But we have a lot of shooters and ... we're getting a lot more comfortable in our zone offense."

### **Notable**

Colorado tied last season's number of road wins with two. ... McFarland has 40 career double-doubles. ... Powers had six assists and one turnover to give her 14 assists and two turnovers over her last two games. ... CU's 58 rebounds were the most since grabbing 59 against Bowling Green on Nov. 23, 2001. ... The 35-point margin of victory was CU's largest on the road since beating Kansas 70-35 on Jan. 16, 2002.



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## Buffs rough up Rams

*By Brian Howell*

*Longmont Times-Call*

FORT COLLINS — The ride back to Boulder was sure to put the mind of Susie Powers at ease Saturday night.

“For the past 48 hours, I’ve been completely focused on (Colorado State guard) Sara Hunter,” said Powers, the point guard for the University of Colorado.

After holding Hunter to eight points in Colorado’s 82-47 rout of CSU on Saturday at Moby Arena, Powers could relax.

A stellar defensive effort by Powers, and double-doubles by Jackie McFarland, Aija Putnina and Brittany Spears were more than enough to lead Colorado (4-2) to a dominating performance against the in-state rival Rams (1-7).

Hunter came into the game averaging a CSU-best 13.7 points, and Powers’ job is to shut down the opposition’s leading scorer. Wednesday against Northern Colorado, Powers was disappointed in allowing 21 points against the Bears’ Whitley Cox. She made sure she wouldn’t be burned again.

“If someone might have asked me what I ate for breakfast, I was so focused on this game for the last 48 hours that I might have said, ‘Sara Hunter,’ and then been like, ‘Oh, I’m sorry; I mean, Cheerios.’ I was really, really prepared to guard Sara Hunter,” Powers said.

Powers may not have had Hunter for breakfast, but she ate her up during the game. Hunter missed seven of 10 shots, and scored only five points with Powers on the floor. Hunter was scoreless through the first 22 minutes, 17 seconds of the game.

If Powers needed any reassurance as to how well she was playing, she got it from a 7-year-old during a second-half timeout.

As CU rode the bus en route to Fort Collins, Powers sat with Brice Miller, the son of head coach Kathy McConnell-Miller. She showed Brice a picture of Hunter and said to him, “This is No. 4 and I have to shut her down tonight.”

“During a timeout (in the second half), he tapped me on the shoulder and whispered, ‘No. 4 has no points,’” said Powers, who also had nine points, six assists and five rebounds. “I was so excited.”

All-around, it was a great game by the Buffaloes. McFarland had 17 points and 10 rebounds, Spears had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Putnina had 11 points and 10 rebounds. It was CU’s best performance since a 66-48 win at San Francisco in the season opener on Nov. 16.

“Tonight was solid, and for us to come on the road, I thought we played better tonight than we have our last four games,” McConnell-Miller said. “I thought we were as efficient at San Francisco, but since then I don’t think we have been.”

CU worked through the Rams’ zone defense early to establish a double-digit lead midway through the first half, and



Colorado State’s Lauren Young, left, and Sarah Hunter, right, fight Colorado’s Aija Putnina for the ball during Saturday’s game in Fort Collins. **Rich Abrahamson/AP**

then pulled away in the first eight minutes of the second half. McFarland scored 10 of her points in a 27-8 surge to start the second half.

"We've been focusing on this game for a while," McFarland said. "We need to focus on getting up from the beginning and then putting them away. It gives us a lot more confidence that we can play the game how we want to play and not let other teams dictate how we play."

By the end, the Buffaloes were able to give reserves such as RyAnne Ridge, Chelsea Dale, Courtney Dunn and Britney Blythe some valuable playing time.

"It was really fun because everybody got to play, so we all were cheering each other on," Spears said. "This is an in-state rivalry, so everyone took that and played harder. We were playing together and playing hard."

**NOTES:** Colorado State missed 18 of its first 21 shots, and finished 17-for-70 (24.3 percent). ... Colorado was 14-for-28 from 3-point range. ... CU is 2-1 outside of Boulder this year. Prior to this year, it was a combined 4-24 outside Boulder the past two seasons. ... CU is 29-10 all-time against CSU. ... The Buffs had 58 rebounds, their highest total since pulling down 59 boards against Bowling Green on Nov. 23, 2001. ... It was CU's largest margin of victory on the road since a 70-35 win at Kansas on Jan. 16, 2002. .... It was also CU's largest margin of victory against the Rams since a 122-48 win on Nov. 16, 1979. ... Lauren Young led CSU with 10 points.

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area women's basketball

## McFarland leads Buffs in rout of CSU

Post staff & wire services

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- Visit Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports

FORT COLLINS — Jackie McFarland led three Colorado players in double figures as the Buffaloes routed Colorado State 82-47 at Moby Arena on Saturday.

It was Colorado's largest margin of victory over Colorado State in 28 years.

McFarland's game-high 17 points and 10 rebounds paced the Buffs (4-2), who won a

second game this season on the road. CU combined for just two road wins in its previous two seasons.

Brittany Spears' 16 points and 11 rebounds led Colorado and Aija Putnina added 11 points and 10 rebounds. Freshman Lauren Young scored 10 points to lead Colorado State (1-7).

**Utah Val. 78, Air Force 68** AIR FORCE ACADEMY - Utah Valley got a game-high 24 points from Sandy Marvin to win the Air

### CSU Basketball

- Visit the CSU Stats Page for men's boxscores, MWC standings, team leaders and more
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Force Classic at Clune Arena over Air Force (3-4).

**Regis 102, Hawaii-Hilo 65** PUEBLO - Courtney Ault's 18 points led Regis (1-4) over Hawaii-Hilo.

**MSU-Billings 67, Colo. Mines 55** GOLDEN - Montana State surged in the second half, turning a halftime tie into a win at Lockridge Arena.

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