

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The Colorado Buffaloes (21-10, 11-7 Big 12) defeated the Kansas Jayhawks (19-13, 8-10 Big 12), 55-48, in the second round of the Big 12 Tournament at T-Mobile Center on Thursday, Mar. 5.

Despite an early lead from Kansas in the first quarter, the Buffaloes outscored the Jayhawks in the first three quarters to give them a 9-point lead going into the fourth quarter. Colorado was able to maintain the lead through the end of the fourth to secure a place in the quarterfinals.

"I'm really proud of our team for how we competed tonight. It was definitely a battle. I thought it was a very physical game, and I thought our execution was really good, but just great team effort," head coach JR Payne said.

Colorado had more bench points (24-16), points off turnovers (16-14) and assists (11-8) than Kansas. The Buffaloes defense continued to dominate with more rebounds (39-25) and blocks (6-3) than the Jayhawks and held them to only 15% from the three-point line.

How it Happened

Kansas opened scoring in the first quarter with a three-pointer (3-0, KU). Jr. G Zyanna Walker scored first for the Buffs with a jumper and Kansas answered with one of their own (5-2, KU). A shooting foul sent Sr. F Jade Masogayo to the foul line, where she made two free throws (5-4, KU). Jr. G Desiree Wooten assisted Fr. F Logyn Greer on a fast break layup to give Colorado their first lead of the game (6-5, CU). Kansas answered with a pull up jump shot in the paint to send the game into its first media timeout (7-5, KU). The Jayhawks scored a layup, but Jr. G Maeve McErlane and Wooten each had a three-pointer, giving the Buffaloes its biggest lead of the game (12-9, CU). KU got to the free throw line and made both to end the quarter, 12-11 (CU).

Sr. G Anaelle Dutant scored a free throw to open the second quarter for Colorado (13-11, CU). Fr. G Erianna Gooden extended the lead with a jumper, assisted by So. F Tabitha Betson (15-11, CU). After a layup and a free throw for Kansas, CU went on a 7-0 run led by two Dutant layups and a three-point jumper by Betson (22-14, CU). Fr. C Jade Crook put Colorado ahead by 10 with a layup assisted by Wooten (24-14, CU). The Jayhawks were scoreless for six minutes until they made a jumper (24-16, CU). Colorado and Kansas traded free throws to end the quarter 26-18 (CU).

Kansas picked up four points coming out of the half, making a jumper and two free throws (26-22, CU). Masogayo answered with 4 points of her own for the Buffaloes including two free throws and a jumper assisted by Wooten (31-22, CU). The Jayhawks put up four more of their own, but Colorado remained persistent as Greer made a second chance jumper and a three-pointer to force Kansas into a timeout (36-26, CU). Wooten continued to extend Colorado's lead with a layup, but Kansas got three more points with a free throw and layup to end the third quarter 38-29 (CU).

Greer opened the final quarter with a three-point jumper for the Buffaloes (41-29, CU). Kansas made a jumper, but Dutant answered with a layup (43-33, CU). A free throw by McErlane was quickly answered by a pull-up jumper from Kansas (44-35, CU). Betson assisted a Wooten three-pointer from the top of the key (47-35, CU). A layup from the Jayhawks sent the game into its final media timeout (47-37, CU). Walker scored a driving layup for the Buffaloes, but Kansas answered with a three-pointer forcing Colorado to take a timeout (49-40, CU). Colorado and Kansas traded layups, with Wooten scoring for the Buffaloes (51-42, CU). Fouls sent both CU and KU to the line, where each team made one, including one from Masogayo (52-43, CU). Kansas made a layup, but a free throw by McErlane kept the Buffaloes ahead by eight (53-45, CU). Kansas scored three points, but Walker scored two free throws to end the game, 55-48 (CU).

Up Next

- Colorado will stay in Missouri to take on No. 3 Baylor (24-7, 13-5 Big 12) in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Tournament. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. MT on Friday, Mar. 6 and will be streaming on ESPN+ and fans can follow along via live stats links on CUBuffs.com.