

## College Basketball

## AIR FORCE: Cowboys own 41-18 edge in rebounding

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bounds (18)," Falcons coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "Obviously if you can't culminate your defensive possession with a defensive rebound, it's not good."

Though rebounding has been a sore spot for Air Force for 2½ years, the Falcons seemed to be making strides until Wednesday, when Wyoming (9-7, 2-1) scored 12 of its 55 points on second-chance attempts.

The most critical came with 43.1 seconds remaining. Wyoming freshman Brandon Ewing made a pair of free throws to break a 50-50 tie that came after Air Force didn't control a miss inside by Justin Williams (11 points, 13 rebounds).

"We play great defense but we have to block out," forward Jacob Burttschi said. "They weren't shooting well, but they were getting putbacks and that's what killed us."

For all of Air Force's problems on the boards, it had plenty of chances to win the game. After trailing by nine points early, Air Force clawed back to a 44-41 lead with 8:33 remaining and twice had the ball with a chance to extend it.

But the Falcons frittered away two offensive possessions, a theme they repeated as they scored two points in the final 4:30.

After Wyoming's Steve Leven made it 50-50 on a 3-pointer with 2:20 left, Air Force had the ball twice. But the Falcons didn't get off a good shot either time, including a poorly selected 3-pointer by Burttschi with 1:20 left.

With Air Force down 52-50 the Falcons turned the ball over in the final minute.

Air Force made 5 of 19 attempts from 3-point range, its worst output of the season, and had an uncharacteristically low eight assists on 20 baskets.

"You can't win a game when you don't rebound the basketball and you have defensive breakdowns and you have bad turnovers," Bzdelik said. "We had some bad offensive possessions."

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**WYOMING 55, AIR FORCE 50**  
AIR FORCE: Burttschi 4-8 3-5 12, Nwaelele 5-12 0-0 11, Frye 3-6 0-1 6, McCraw 2-8 0-0 6, An Hood 6-9 0-0 13, Anderson 0-3 2-2 2, Holm 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 20-46 5-8 50.  
WYOMING: Williams 5-8 1-3 11, Leven 4-12 2-2 12, Wabblington 3-5 1-4 7, Jones 0-5 0-0 0, Ewing 3-9 4-4 11, Lewis 2-6 1-2 5, Ebert 0-1 2-2 2, Anderson 3-3 1-1 7. Totals 20-49 12-18 55.  
Halftime — Wyoming 28-25, 3-Point Goals — Air Force 5-19 (McCraw 2-7, An Hood 1-2, Burttschi 1-3, Nwaelele 1-4, Anderson 0-1, Frye 0-2), Wyoming 3-17 (Leven 2-7, Ewing 1-5, Lewis 0-1, Jones 0-4). Fouled Out — Frye. Rebounds — Air Force 18 (An Hood 6), Wyoming 41 (Williams 13). Assists — Air Force 8 (Frye, McCraw 3), Wyoming 8 (Jones 3). Total Fouls — Air Force 14, Wyoming 11. A — 5,923.

## Road wins a must in chase for crown

By DAN WOLKEN  
THE GAZETTE

LARAMIE, Wyo. • If history has any bearing on this year's Mountain West Conference championship chase, the formula likely will be running the table at home and splitting on the road.

During the first week of conference play, only two road teams collected wins — UNLV won at Wyoming before the Cowboys rebounded with a victory at TCU.

Though Wyoming coach Steve McClain's team dropped its conference home opener, he said getting a road win right away could make a huge difference in the standings.

"It is going to be hard to win on the road, and I think any time you get one, you just feel like you have one that maybe nobody else will get or just a few teams will get," McClain said. "You go back to the years we won the league, if you're going to win it that's what you have to do. At least we've got one in the bank."

The Falcons' championship aspirations likely will be clear after a stretch beginning on Jan. 21 where they play four of five games on the road at New Mexico, UNLV, BYU and San Diego State.

**AIR FORCE NOTES**

Center John Frye came into the game 11 for 18 from 3-point range this season, but he missed his first two attempts Wednesday, including an airball. ... Wyoming collected 11 offensive rebounds in the first half. ... McClain ripped off both his jacket and his tie three minutes into the game when sophomore Brad Jones airballed a 15-foot jumper as the shot clock was running down. McClain was upset that no foul was called on Antoine Hood, who held his position while Jones leaned into him. ... The Cowboys have no players from Wyoming on their roster. Their starting five includes two players from Chicago, one each from Arkansas, Arizona and Australia.

UCCS 74, Colorado College 60



Colorado College's Jarrell Sweet passed the ball while being pressured by UCCS' Bly McGuire, left, and Leo Thomas on Wednesday night at Reid Gym. The Mountain Lions won 74-60.

DAVID BITTON, THE GAZETTE

## AD collects 300th win

### Kirkham steps in to coach Mountain Lions

By NICK WALTER  
THE GAZETTE

Wednesday usually means poker night for Stephen Kirkham. He certainly didn't want to coach.

Yet there he was at Colorado College, firing instructions frenetically in his black suit and pushing Colorado-Colorado Springs past the Tigers 74-60 behind Patrick Hannanway's 25 points at Reid Gym.

UCCS (2-12) released Lance Hammond from his head coaching duties on Tuesday and named Doug Schakel the interim coach. Because Schakel won't take over until Monday, Kirkham was on the bench for the first time in two years.

Kirkham, the Mountain Lions' athletic director, coached the Mesa State women for 16 years.

With the win over CC (3-11), Kirkham collected his 300th collegiate win.

He didn't want it. "I really didn't want to coach," Kirkham said. "When I retired,

there was a certain magic and energy that wasn't there."

Those intangibles seemed to be present against CC. His coaching instincts seemed to be intact.

After CC sunk 6 of 7 3-pointers by halftime, when the game was tied at 36, Kirkham ordered his players to hold the ball on offense. They were to be patient, swing the ball about, and make the CC defenders' tongues drag.

"When they have to play 'D' for 25 seconds," Kirkham said, "they're not going to have the legs to shoot at the other end."

And CC began to misfire on 3s. The Tigers were 1 for 7 from behind the arc in the second half.

"I was really worn out," said CC guard Lincoln Deffenbaugh, who nailed three 3s and scored 11 points. "They started trapping us after the first pass and we didn't make good decisions."

Hannanway did. The 6-foot-4 Doherty standout took two charges in a two-minute span of the second

half. With five minutes left, he grabbed a steal and coasted down court for a two-handed slam that gave the Mountain Lions a 61-53 lead.

Call it a fresh start for UCCS, which lost to CC the previous four meetings.

"I wish coach Hammond the best; he's a real good guy," Hannanway said. "We were getting bogged down with losses and not having fun. At the end (Wednesday) we walked away with a smile."

Indeed, UCCS continued to make inspired plays after Hannanway's dunk. P.J. Forrest, a 6-0 guard, came from behind 6-4 Michael Nash to swat away an open layup attempt. Forrest got the ball back in transition and hit a 3 that capped a 7-0 UCCS run and gave the Mountain Lions a 64-53 edge.

Kirkham, who consulted assistant coach Kevin Conboy often, will have one more game Saturday at Nebraska-Kearney. There will be no thought of a coaching comeback. "No way," Kirkham said.

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## Gators' school-record run hits 15

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taurean Green scored 20 points, including two 3-pointers with the shot clock winding down in the closing minutes, and No. 2 Florida remained unbeaten with a 75-60 victory over Mississippi State on Wednesday in Gainesville, Fla.

The Gators (15-0, 2-0 SEC) broke the school record for consecutive wins and extended the best start in school history.

They surpassed the previous mark of 14 straight wins set in 2001-02 and tied the next season.

Green picked up the slack with Corey Brewer and Lee Humphrey in foul trouble and Al Horford and David Huertas slowed by strep throat. Green had five assists, three steals and hit two key 3-pointers with the shot clock winding down in the closing minutes.

"He created and made some things happen," Donovan said. "He made some very timely 3-point shots when they were trying to make a run."

Green made 6 of 18 field-goal attempts, including 5 of 11 from 3-point range.

**Kansas 75, Colorado 63**  
At Boulder: Freshmen Mario Chalmers and Brandon Rush took over in the second half to help the Jayhawks win their seventh straight.

Chris Copeland scored 22 points to lead the Buffaloes (10-3, 0-2), who've lost 33 of 34 to the Jayhawks.

Kansas (10-4, 1-0) won its conference opener for the 15th consecutive season, a streak that dates to when the Jayhawks were in the Big 8 and the Big 12 didn't exist.

"Winning in someone else's building is really gratifying," coach Bill Self said.

**No. 1 Duke 76, No. 23 Maryland 52**  
At Durham, N.C.: Sheldon Williams got his first career triple-double and J.J. Redick scored 27 points, helping the Blue Devils (15-0, 3-0 ACC) snap a three-game losing streak to the Terrapins.

Williams had 19 points, 11 rebounds and a career-high 10 blocks for Duke.

"To me, I feel like I could have done a lot better," Williams said. "I didn't feel I dominated as much as I should have."

**No. 3 Villanova 84, Rutgers 78**  
At Piscataway, N.J.: Kyle Lowry scored a career-high 28 points and Randy Foye added 24 as the Wildcats (11-1, 2-1 Big East) rebounded from their only loss of the season with an overtime victory over the Scarlet Knights (11-4, 1-1).

**No. 5 Memphis 77, East Carolina 67**  
At Greenville, N.C.: Rodney Carney hit six 3-pointers and scored 27 points to lead the Tigers (14-2) over the Pirates (6-8) in the Conference USA opener for both teams.

**No. 14 Michigan State 87, No. 9 Indiana 73**  
At East Lansing, Mich.: Maurice Ager scored 28 points and Paul

Davis had 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Spartans (13-4, 1-2 Big Ten), who had lost the past two games by double digits. Indiana (10-3, 2-1) had won six straight.

**No. 16 West Virginia 68, Georgetown 61**  
At Morgantown, W. Va.: Kevin Pittsnogle scored 23 points for the Mountaineers, who are off to their best Big East start (3-0). The Mountaineers (11-3, 3-0) trailed by 11 points in the first half against the Hoyas (10-3, 2-1).

**No. 17 George Washington 69, Saint Louis 64**  
At Washington: Danilo Pinnoch scored seven of his 19 points in overtime and had 12 rebounds as the Colonials (11-1, 2-0 Atlantic 10) survived a wild game against the Billikens (7-7, 1-1).

The Colonials rallied from a nine-point second-half deficit, then blew an eight-point lead before they forced overtime on Omar Williams' layup with 22 seconds left.

**No. 19 Ohio State 80, Purdue 64**  
At West Lafayette, Ind.: J.J. Sullinger scored 17 points and Je'Kel Foster tied his career high with six steals for the Buckeyes (12-1, 2-1 Big Ten), who led by 25 in the second half.

**Denver 79, Northern Colorado 73**  
At Greeley: Yemi Nicholson had his fifth straight double-double with 33 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Pioneers to their first road win of the season.

## Blue Devils challenged, but survive Georgia Tech

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wanisha Smith scored 13 points and No. 2 Duke survived its closest game of the season, defeating Georgia Tech 67-59 Wednesday night in Atlanta.

The Blue Devils (15-0, 4-0 ACC) went ahead for good on Abby Waner's 3-pointer less than three minutes into the second half. But they struggled to put

**WOMEN** Georgia Tech away, scoring their final field goal with 6:27 remaining.

Duke wrapped up the victory at the foul line, hitting nine of its last 11 attempts.

**No. 5 Baylor 57, Oklahoma State 26**  
At Waco, Texas: Jessica Morrow scored 11 points and Sophia Young added 10 to lead Baylor.

The Lady Bears (12-1, 2-1 Big 12) opened the second half with an 11-2 run to extend their lead to 36-16 with 14 minutes left.

Oklahoma State's 26 points represented the lowest offensive output for a Baylor opponent in school history.

**No. 10 Rutgers 66, South Florida 65**  
At Tampa, Fla.: Cappie Pondexter scored a career-high 40 points and Rutgers (11-2, 3-0 Big East) rallied to get the road win.

Rutgers has won 11 straight conference games dating to Feb. 6, 2005.

**TCU 76, No. 18 New Mexico 67**  
At Fort Worth, Texas: Adrienne Ross scored a career-high 24 points to help TCU over New Mexico (12-4, 2-1 MWC).

Ross went 10 for 19 from the field and also had five assists and four steals.

**George Washington 58, No. 19 Temple 41**  
At Washington: Freshman Jazmine Adair scored 11 points and set career-highs with 11 rebounds and three blocks as George Washington won its fourth straight game and upset Temple (10-4, 2-1 Atlantic 10).

**No. 24 Missouri 64, Nebraska 58**  
At Lincoln, Neb.: Carlynn Savant scored 14 of her 16 points in the second half and Missouri (13-2, 3-0 Big 12) won its 12th straight game.

LaToya Bond led Missouri with 21 points.

## Baylor rusty in season-opening loss to Texas Tech

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jarrius Jackson scored 22 points and Texas Tech and some opening-game jitters spoiled Baylor's season debut, 79-61 on Wednesday night in Lubbock, Texas.

Baylor was prohibited from playing any nonconference games this season as part of NCAA penalties for numerous violations under former coach Dave Bliss. The violations were discovered after former player Patrick Dennehy was murdered by a teammate in the summer of 2003.

The Bears' rough edges — even after an NCAA-record 89 days of preseason practice — were apparent in their 15th straight loss.

**NOTES** A judge denied former Baylor player Carlton Dotson's request to appeal his murder conviction. State District Judge Ralph Strother issued the decision in a letter to Dotson, who is serving a 35-year prison term for the shooting death of Dennehy. ... Arizona swingman Jawann McClellan was reinstated to the team after regaining his academic eligibility. ... College of Charleston coach Tom Herrion was reprimanded by the Southern Conference for complaining about the officiating.