

**March 9, 2006**



An Interview With:

**COLORADO BUFFALOES**

**COACH RICARDO PATTON  
RICHARD ROBY  
MARCUS HALL  
CHRIS COPELAND**

THE MODERATOR: We're joined now by the **Colorado** Buffaloes following their victory over Baylor. We'll go to Coach **Ricardo** Patton for his thoughts on today's victory.

COACH RICARDO PATTON: I thought it was a great game. Hopefully all the fans got their money's worth.

We knew Baylor was a different basketball team than the one we faced early in conference play, and they played extremely well. So hats off to them.

But I thought our guys did a nice job of sticking with our game plan and coming through in the end. Certainly, making free throws down the stretch paid big dividends for us.

**Q. Rich, you didn't get your first field goal until late in the second half there. What was happening with you today?**

RICHARD ROBY: I just couldn't get in rhythm. I didn't really want to force anything. I was trying to have the game come to me. But at the end I had to find a way to put the ball in the basket because I knew my team needed me to score.

**Q. Did you feel okay? Because I know you had a cold you were struggling a bit?**

RICHARD ROBY: No, I am fine. You have got play through sickness, that's what I am going to do.

COACH RICARDO PATTON: I thought the cold affected his defense more than his offense (laughter).

RICHARD ROBY: Not funny. (Laughter).

**Q. Talk about the importance of tomorrow's game against A&M?**

MARCUS HALL: We understand that we need to win as many games as we can win in this tournament to try to control our own destiny, which is get into the **NCAA** tournament. We'll take it just as we need to. We knew we had to win today. Tomorrow's game is the next game which is the most important game.

**Q. You guys get the victory but can you talk about the effort that Baylor put forth as the 12 seed?**

COACH RICARDO PATTON: We knew coming into the game that Baylor was going to put forth a great effort. They are well coached. They have really solid players, young players, Baylor is going to be a team to be reckoned with in the future in this league.

**Q. Talk about the drought you went through there to open the second half.**

RICHARD ROBY: I thought getting good looks at the basket. Shots wasn't falling, we had to depend on our defense. We tried to translate our defense into offense and tried to get easy buckets. They were making shots and that's hard to do, but that's where the defense has to come in and grind your way through it.

**Q. Do you feel like pressing a little bit -- did you feel like you started pressing a little bit during that time?**

MARCUS HALL: No, I mean, we have -- obviously we have shown ability to come back from slow starts or given up runs, this is not the first time we have been through a 10-0 run or 15-0 run. I think that's where the maturity of our team comes in, kept our cool, kept our heads and just fought it out.

**Q. Is it safe to say you guys kind of have a feeling of relief right now getting through this game?**

CHRIS COPELAND: Yeah, I guess you can say. That Baylor came out, played us really hard. And any time you get a victory against a team that plays that hard, it's always a good feeling when you get the win.

**Q. When *Chris* fouled out I think it might have been the first time he fouled out this year, what was going through your minds, you lose one of your scoring options?**

RICHARD ROBY: I didn't even know he fouled up. I just found out right now.

MARCUS HALL: I kind of took it as a little more incentive to look to score. We had guys out there the whole game just hitting key shots and big buckets. Me and Rich couldn't get into a good groove.

I think the most important thing is we won the game without shooting the ball well, so, I mean, that's what -- that's a good feeling for us.

**Q. How do you feel like you guys match up with A&M? The guy down there ended a lot of weird stuff toward the end of that game. What do you guys remember from that game?**

RICHARD ROBY: I think we played well. We started off slow. What was it, 14-to-0 throughout the game? We can't do that again. We have got to start the game well. I think we match up well with them. I think we did a great job guarding **Joseph Jones** up there. We know they are going to come out and play defense. That's the mindset of their team.

**Q. Isn't it true, though, that that game is kind of stuck with you guys? I mean you guys were upset about the way it ended, is that not true?**

RICHARD ROBY: I would say it is. We definitely wanted a second shot at them. We felt we should have won that game. Some stuff happened at the end, but we still had a chance to win the ballgame and we didn't. That's one of the road games we felt we should have won. We're looking forward to playing them again

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, guys.

**Q. *Ricardo*, what were you thinking during that 0-for-12 drought that you guys started the second half?**

COACH RICARDO PATTON: My assistant has a great term for that. It's like fishing, you know, just throw your line in over here and see if you get a bite. Then you throw it in over there see if someone is biting. We have enough guys I think that we can throw guys in and hopefully get a spark. I thought **Eddy** was one of those guys today. I thought **Glean Eddy** did some nice things made some free throws when he had to. But this team has always, I think all season long showed

the ability to come back and have a run when we have been down.

**Q. How important is tomorrow's game going to be for your team's tournament chances?**

COACH RICARDO PATTON: I am not sure. I think -- I would be shocked we weren't already getting serious consideration for the **NCAA** tournament. This is a very tough conference. I think this team has done a nice job so far. That's out of our control at this point. So we're just going to focus in on -- just do the best that we can do and focus on A&M. I think that this team has shown that it is worth thief an **NCAA** bid. That's just my personal opinion.

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**An Interview With:**

**BAYLOR BEARS**

**COACH SCOTT DREW  
TOMMY SWANSON  
CURTIS JERRELLS  
AARON BRUCE**

COACH SCOTT DREW: From our coaching staff point of view, so pleased with what this team has been able to accomplish. There's nobody ever been put in a situation we were put in and just very proud of how our team handled it, how they have been able to overcome adversity. It's something that will happen the rest of their life.

Obviously we wish we would have won the game and want to thank everyone in Dallas, the hospitality has been great, and I wish we were here to enjoy with you a little bit longer.

**Q. Curtis, defensive job on Richard Roby obviously very good job today. What did you see about his techniques or what did you try to concentrate on as far as taking away his shot?**

CURTIS JERRELLS: He's incredible player, as everybody knows. I just tried my best to limit his touches, just tried not to let him touch the ball because if he doesn't have it he can't do anything with it. I tried my best all night and he did a great job, knocked down a big shot at a crucial time.

**Q. What are your thoughts about the season coming to a close? Is it bittersweet? Are you happy? Is it upsetting?**

AARON BRUCE: We're happy with that fight. It's always tough to say that you are happy when you lose a game especially in a tournament, but we have shown a lot of progress and we can see that by us being in position to win games. Once again tonight we had a good lead. As part of growing in this league, learn how to hold off teams,

extend leads and really kill teams when we have the opportunity.

**Q. Talk about how difficult it was not having the guys who fouled out in there at the end?**

AARON BRUCE: They fouled out because our fighting so hard all night. They did a great job. It definitely hurt us, made us a lot smaller, so that's sort of when *Colorado* started to capitalize on the boards a little bit more.

**Q. I guess the next to last possession down by 3. What were you all trying to set up? Anything in particular? I believe it was 62-59?**

AARON BRUCE: We had the ball at the side. We have a little landing, ran a little duck in trying get a quick 3. They ended up switching, which they hadn't done the whole game. We ended up getting the ball and trying to -- I think Tim got a good look, doubled again on me and Tim got a good look.

**Q. Is it sad to see your career come to a close to -- I know you hoped you could play four games.**

TOMMY SWANSON: Kind of disappointing to lose in this tournament. But I mean to me the way we played and fought to the end, I can't ask for anything else from myself and my teammates. Especially the time I had with them and the team has much promise.

**Q. Talk about the progress this program has made all season long and maybe today's game, chance to show that next year the --**

CURTIS JERRELLS: We just spend a lot of time at the gym. We know that coming in here we were the underdogs, probably by 20, 30 points. We just got a lot of negative talk about us and we all got together and we stay in the gym a lot, even after the practice hours. And we had a ton of practices before our season even started. So we motivate each other. We go out and compete against each other in practice. We don't want to cheat each other.

**Q. If you had to kind of maybe predict,**

**what do you think this team would do next year with a full season?**

AARON BRUCE: That's hard to predict too far into the future because we're going to have a lot of new great recruits coming, we have a lot of outstanding players, outstanding freshman coming in, so just have to work hard individually in the off-season and then come practice time next time this year -- next year, reevaluate ourselves and start the whole process again, gel together as a team.

**Q. A lot of people mention you when they talk about your team. How excited does that have you for next season? What are your prospects for next year?**

COACH SCOTT DREW: Hard to think about next year when you just lose, but I know that our team has improved tremendously from the beginning of the year, you look at **Texas Tech** we lose by 18 then we beat them by double digits, play **Oklahoma State**, lose home by 18 then have a chance to win that game on the road. Lose by 33 at **Colorado** have a chance to win today. I think we have made tremendous progress. The big thing when you are building a program you have got to be competitive. We have reached that point you have got win your home games of the I think we did that at the end of year. Now next step is just to be more consistent.

**Q. Talk about the defensive job Jerrells did today and those of us who didn't see the game -- did you all attack Roby differently today?**

COACH SCOTT DREW: We weren't the same team as we were up there, just I mean that should have been our first game -- completely different team. Curtis, one thing that everyone knows, he can score, but he's our best perimeter defender, and that's the great value that **Curtis** Jerrells, he helps you on both ends, and it takes a team effort to slow down **Roby**, you don't ever stop him. He hit the big three, contested three. In games like this it comes down to who makes the big shot. He hit a big shot. We hit a couple of big shots to get us there down the stretch, but it didn't.

**Q. I know the season is just over but perhaps you have thought about this before, what did you learn from this season that you think will carry over that you can use in coming seasons?**

COACH SCOTT DREW: I hope no one has to endure a season like we had to endure because it's a lot tougher than people would ever

realize. You are so excited to play and then you find out you are not close to being ready. Hopefully it is a deterrent from keeping people in our situation.

Second, I think our team learned how to win, how to be competitive. I think that bodes well, just like **Colorado** last year I believe they won 4 games in their conference and now they are top 25 as of what, two weeks ago? So hopefully we can now take that a step forward.

**Q. How much do you think Colorado has come back down the stretch?**

COACH SCOTT DREW: You can't replace experience. 10 seniors, in a situation they don't want it to be their last game and play for an **NCAA** tournament berth. The good thing is we will have that experience in a couple of years.

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