Arizona Daily Star

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WILDCATS BASKETBALL: NO. 1 ARIZONA 69, COLORADO 57



Arizona freshman Aaron Gordon, left, claws with Xavier Johnson after stripping the Colorado forward of the ball in the second half. Gordon recovered the ball and finished with a thunderous dunk for the No. 1-ranked Wildcats, who improved to 19-0. Gordon finished with 12 points and four rebounds.

Quick-starting Cats stuff Buffs

Despite rebounding dip, UA tops Colorado to raise record to 19-0

By Bruce Pascoe ARIZONA DAILY STAR

On yet another bright Arizona Wildcats evening, when Sean Miller found it "awesome" to tie

UP NEXT

• What: Utah at

No. 1 Arizona

• When: 6 p.m.

• Radio: 1290-AM,

107.5-FM, 990-

AM (Spanish)

Sunday

• TV: FS1

ignore Thursday night. By the time Arizona's dazzling, defensive-oriented 18-4 start turned into a 69-57 win over Colorado at McKale Center, tying UA's school record for consecutive wins over college teams at 19, some of the stats had evened out, including a hot-button one that is particularly close to Miller's heart.

That is, Arizona and Colorado each had 32 rebounds, and the Buffs managed 10 offensive rebounds, just one fewer than the No. 1 Wildcats' total.

past three games that the Wildcats, so dominant on the boards how to play without all-around for most of the season, had tied their opponent in rebounding.

Arizona, which also tied USC 30-30 on the boards in Los Angeles on Jan. 12, entered Thursday's game out-rebounding opponents Bruce Pascoe's blog at azstarnet. by an average of 10.6 per game.

"If you ever want to get scared as an Arizona fan, when you see us not out-rebound our opponent, that's the sign of a lot of bad things that are coming our way," Miller said. "Some of it was Colorado is a very good offensive rebounding team, but we have to do a better job of rebounding."

On the surface, you could argue another school record, there was a it wasn't a big deal. After all, when dark side the coach still could not a team goes up 18-4, maybe it's human nature to relax a bit.

But, as good as the Wildcats have been during their school-record 19-0 start, they sometimes need rebounding to compensate for weaker areas.

On Thursday, UA made only 3 of 15 three-pointers, and hit just 57.1 percent of its free throws, needing the early scoring of Brandon Ashley, a game-high

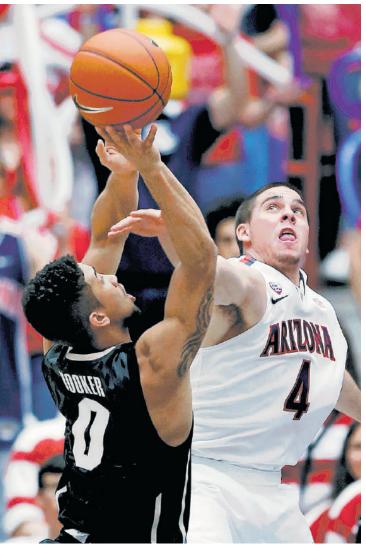
another dunk-a-thon from Aaron Gordon (12 points) to get it done. It was good, it was a record, but it wasn't quite what the Wildcats It was the second time in the were hoping for against a team

18 points from Nick Johnson and

that appears to still be learning

See WILDCATS, B4

On StarNet: Keep up with the Wildcats' basketball team on



T.J. McConnell gets a hand in the face of Colorado's Askia Booker in the second half. The Buffaloes didn't get many easy buckets, shooting just 38.5 percent in UA's 69-57 victory.



Celebrity growing; Cats just play, win

verybody wants a piece of No. 1, not just Colorado and Utah, not just Herb Sendek No. 1, not just Colorado and and Mike Montgomery, but everybody with a pen, pencil and internet connection.

Sports Illustrated and ESPN produced a pair of hosannas to the Arizona Wildcats this week. Yahoo did a blowout on the furnishings in Nick Johnson's apartment, The Arizona Republic printed not one but two you-guys-arethe-greatest decrees, and every conceivable obscure website (sportsonearth.com, for example)

See HANSEN, B5