

COLORADO BASKETBALL HISTORY

The University of Colorado continues to build toward a successful future hiring Colorado native **Tad Boyle** as the school's 18th head coach on April 19, 2010.

Boyle, 47, joined the Colorado staff from the University of Northern Colorado, where he led the Bears to a 56-66 record (.459 winning percentage) over the previous four seasons. The 2009-10 season was a breakout season for Boyle's Bears as they finished second in the Big Sky Conference with a 25-8 record (.758 winning percentage) and Boyle was named as the NABC Division I All-District Coach of the Year along with the Big Sky Coach of the Year. Boyle brings 15 years of coaching experience to Boulder.

"This is it (my dream job), there's no doubt," Boyle said. "I remember talking with (Texas A&M head coach) Mark Turgeon once when he asked me where I wanted to be in 10 years, and I said the head coach at the University of Colorado. This is a destination job. I'm humbled and honored."

Over the last three years, former head coach **Jeff Bzdelik**, who came from the United States Air Force Academy, led the Buffaloes to a 36-58 (.383) record. His best season was his last in Boulder, a 15-16 mark and 6-10 in the Big 12 in 2009-10. The victories in the season and in conference play were the most CU won since 2005-06. Over his three seasons with the Buffs, Bzdelik experienced a series of near-misses, losing 27 single-digit games, 18 of those in the Big 12. The 27 losses were an average of 4.6 points.

Entering the 2010-2011 season, Boyle inherits a Buffalo program just barely over a winning record 1,127-1091 (.508) in 109 years of existence and 107 of actual playing (1942-44 not played due to WWII).

A program first known as the Silver and Gold, won its first game back on Jan. 10, 1902 defeating State Prep School, 34-10. That game marked the beginning of what was to become an outstanding tradition of basketball at CU.

Although there have been many changes over the years from that first victory, the Silver and Gold became known as the Buffaloes in 1934, after CU students rented a buffalo calf for the final football game that year. Colorado has been a member of five conferences, joining the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1909, and then the Mountain States in 1937. The Buffs became a member of the Big Seven Conference in 1947, which became the Big Eight in 1958, and now are a member of the Big 12 Conference as teams from the Big Eight and Southwest Conferences merged in the 1996-97 season.

Another major change in Colorado basketball came in 1979, when the team moved into the Colorado Events/Conference Center with its spacious seating capacity of 11,076. The facility was renamed the Coors Events/Conference Center in 1990, in honor of a donation made by Coors to the campus. Many names and faces have helped make Colorado basketball special. There have been those, however, whose contributions stand out.

A total of 17 coaches have guided the Buffs to victory, but none more so than past leaders

Forrest B. "Frosty" Cox, H.B. Lee, Russell "Sox" Walseth, and Ricardo Patton. The first coach to make a solid presence on the coaching sideline was Cox, who spent 13 years roaming the Balch Fieldhouse from 1936-50. Cox collected a 147- 89 (.623) record with his 1937-38 team reaching the championship game of the National Invitation Tournament before falling to Temple. While at the helm, Cox's teams won four Mountain States Conference (MSC) titles and he concluded his CU career with the best won-lost percentage (.623) of any CU coach of more than one season.

Some of CU basketball's finest moments were orchestrated by Lee from 1951-56.

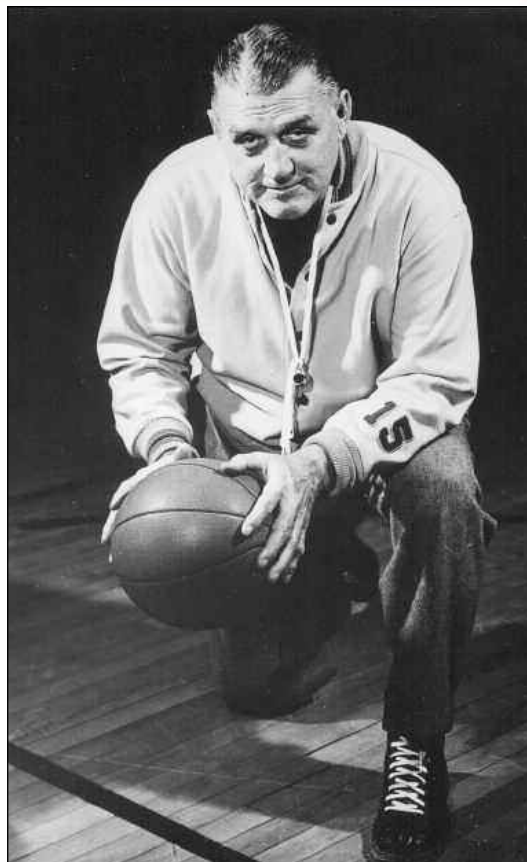
Lee took control of the CU squad in 1950, and in four short seasons he guided the Buffs to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in eight years (1953-54). During that season, the Buffaloes established themselves as a contender defeating NCAA runner-up Kansas on Feb. 2 (70-62).

The following year (1954-55), CU performed a feat not familiar in present day basketball, sweeping the Jayhawks in the season series, a feat only accomplished four other times (1948-49, 1958-59, 1961-62, 1962-63). Colorado made its only trip to the Final Four falling to San Francisco in the semifinals, however redeeming themselves in the third place game, defeating Iowa. That season saw Lee's squad win a then-school-best 19 games and secure a pair of Big 7 titles (one shared). From 1957-76, basketball was under the direction of Walseth. His 261 wins are the most by any coach in school basketball history. Walseth led the Buffs to back-to-back Big Eight Conference titles in 1961-62 and 1962-63, and both teams reached the NCAA second round before being eliminated by Cincinnati.

Walseth also engineered six Big 8 placings were his teams finished third or better in the conference, including three first place tallies (one shared). During the 1968-69 season, Walseth's team won a then-school best 21 games and during his tenure won 14 or more games in a season, 11 times. His teams also had 13 winning seasons. Today, CU now plays on the "Sox Walseth Floor" in the Coors Events/Conference Center, a tribute to Walseth's success as a Buff.

Coaches are not solely responsible for the success of each season, and the Buffs have had a wealth of outstanding talent on the hardwood in its proud past. Outstanding Buff performers range from **Jack Harvey**, CU's first All-American; to **Burdette Haldorson**, who led CU to consecutive Big Seven titles in 1953-54 and 1954-55; **Cliff Meely**; **Scott Wedman**; **Jay Humphries** to **Chauncey Billups**, CU's highest NBA Draftee (drafted third overall in the first round of the 1997 NBA Draft by the Boston Celtics).

The "Big Burd," as Haldorson was called, won the league scoring race in both championship seasons, netting 21.3 and 23.9 points per game, respectively. After Colorado finished third in the 1955 NCAA Tournament, Haldorson was selected to the AAU All-America team. His 13.8 rebounds per game that year is still a CU single sea-



Frosty Cox



Sox Walseth



Chauncey Billups

son record. He also owns the record for most rebounds in a game, pulling down 31 in a 1952 effort against Oklahoma.

Meely became another familiar name to CU fans and opponents from 1968 to 1971. The sensational center-forward is CU's second all-time rebounder (971 boards, 12.1 avg.). In addition, Meely held a number of Big Eight scoring marks when his collegiate career ended in 1971. He was named an All-American for his performance during his senior campaign in which he pumped in an average of 28.0 points and hauled in 11.9 rebounds per game. A seven-point, 25+ rebound outing against Oklahoma was one highlight of that milestone season. That 1971 season capped a highly successful college career for Meely, as he led the Buffs to the conference title in 1968-69.

The next Buff to make an impact was Wedman, a sharp-shooting forward from 1971-74. Wedman came to CU from Denver's Mullen High School and led the team in scoring and rebounding for two years, field goal percentage three years, and free throw percentage one year. Before leaving Colorado, Wedman was firmly established in the school record books.

His numbers placed him seventh in career scoring, sixth in rebounding, and he was the eighth leading field goal shooter in CU history at that time. After enjoying a successful 12-year stint

in the NBA, Wedman concluded his professional career in 1987 with the Boston Celtics.

Arguably the best and most exciting Buff of the 1980s was guard Jay Humphries (1981-84). While running the offense, Humphries became the school's all-time assist leader (562) and the then-eighth leading scorer (1,306 points, 11.7 avg.).

CU closed out the 1980s and began a new decade of Buffalo basketball with two greats, **Shaun Vandiver** and **Stevie Wise**. Both Vandiver and Wise were instrumental in the school's run through the 1991 National Invitation Tournament, CU's first postseason appearance since making the NCAA Tourney in 1969. And before it was over, the Buffaloes had played to a standing room only crowd in the Coors Events Center, cut down the nets there after defeating Arkansas State to advance to the NIT's Final Four in New York City, and eventually finished third in the tournament.

Vandiver, a 6-10 center, a transfer to CU in 1988 after leading Hutchinson CC to the junior college national championship, worked his way up the Buff charts with an excellent shooting touch and a desire to hit the boards. He finished his three-year career in Boulder as the Buffs' all-time leader in field goal percentage (.574, 750-of-1307), as well as their No. 2 all-time scorer (1,876 points) and rebounder (962 boards). He currently stands third on the field goal percentage and rebounding list, and fourth in scoring.

Wise too, left his mark in the CU record books. Coming to Boulder as a guard in 1987, he managed to suit up for 119 games in a Colorado uniform, the fifth-most. Like Vandiver, he too loved to shoot, and is one of the Buffs' all-time three-point specialists, holding several of CU's three-point shooting marks. Wise also finished his career as the No. 3 scorer (1,727 points) and sits in fifth today. Wise ranks among the top nine in career minutes (3rd), steals (3rd), assists (7th), and free throws made (9th).

Donnie Boyce marked the onset of the 1990s, as the Maywood, Ill., product took CU and the Big Eight by storm. After four incredible seasons in Boulder, Boyce walked away as the then-all-time leading scorer (1,995 points) in school history and led the Buffs to an NIT bid at the end of his senior season, 1994-95. He became the first Buff (and second overall) to lead the team in scoring all four years.

Boyce, however, never enjoyed postseason play, as he suffered a broken leg that ended his collegiate career during CU's game with Oklahoma in the opening round of the 1995 Big

Eight Tournament. Nonetheless, Boyce was drafted by the Atlanta Hawks with the 42nd pick in the second round of the 1995 NBA Draft. With numerous school records in tow, Boyce is remembered as one of the best players in CU history.

Billups continued CU's tradition of great players as he made his mark early in his career. In only his fourth game as a freshman, Billups posted the first triple-double in CU history. His 24-point, 11-assist, 11-rebound game against George Mason was a harbinger of great things to come for the 6-3 product from George Washington High School in Denver.

As a sophomore, Billups would lead Colorado to its first NCAA appearance (1996-97) in 28 years and earn many post-season accolades, including first-team All-Big 12 honors and first-team All-America kudos from *Basketball Weekly*. In two years, Billups scored over 1,000 points, becoming only the 20th player in CU history to accomplish that feat.

The next great point-guard, **Jaquay Walls**, guided CU toward back-to-back 18 win seasons, both of which brought NIT invitations. A college transfer who made his impact immediately, Walls was named honorable mention All-Big 12 and to the All-Newcomer team in his junior season. As a senior, he was twice named Big 12 Player of the Week and had a 42-point performance against Iowa State, which became the Big 12 season high, all-time conference record, as well as the top scoring performance by a Buff at the Coors Events Center. His 15 overtime points in that game was also an NCAA record. That spring, he was selected by the Indiana Pacers in the NBA Draft.



Stevie Wise

BUFF BITS

Colorado is just one of just 12 schools to have ever qualified for the NCAA Tournament and the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) in the same year, as the Buffaloes made dual appearances in 1940, becoming the first school to ever do that. That year, CU won the NIT and finished fourth in the NCAA West Region. The other schools that have matches this feat are: Arizona (1951), Bradley (1950), Brigham Young (1951), City College of New York (which won both tournaments in 1950), Dayton (1952), Duquesne (1952), Kentucky (1949), North Carolina State (1951), St. John's (1951 and 1952), St. Louis University (1952), and Utah (1944).

Continuing the powerful scoring tradition, **Jamahl Mosley** ended a four-year CU career as the 13th highest scorer ever for the Buffs finishing with 1,171 points. He brought many accolades to himself and the Colorado program including Academic All-Big 12 as a freshman, All-Big 12 and named to the AP's All-Improved team as a junior, and as a senior, received numerous accolades as the Buffs' veteran leader. CU saw another dominant player emerge on the Boulder campus.

Seven-footer **David Harrison** made his presence felt during the 2001-02 season being named to the Big 12 All-Freshman team and leading the Buffaloes in scoring (13.9

ppg.). The only one other player in CU history to stand over seven feet was Frank Wilcox in 1955-56. Harrison also rewrote the CU record book in field goal percentage finishing the season with a stellar 63.8 percentage from the field and third nationally, in addition to making his name synonymous with the CU blocked shot record lists.

With a record 106 swats for the 2002-03 season and shattering the previous mark of 73, Harrison became the first player in school history and in the Big 12 Conference to record a pair of triple-doubles (31 points, 17 rebounds and blocked 10 shots against Stetson; and against Nebraska, 20 points, 11 blocks and 10 rebounds).

Also during this span, **Stephane Pelle** emerged as another dominant player in CU basketball. Pelle, a four-year standout, was the first CU player in 11 years to average a double-double during the 2001-02 campaign. With a 12.8 points and 10.8 rebounds per game average, Pelle was named to the Big 12 All-Underrated team.

In 2002-03, CU enjoyed one its finest seasons to date, capping it with a NCAA Tournament berth for the first time since 1996-97. With 20 victories on the season, another feat only accomplished twice before by Patton in 1996-97 (22-10) and Sox Walseth in 1968-69 (21-7), the Buffaloes also upset four nationally ranked teams — all at home for the first-time ever.

Individually, the Buffaloes received four All-Big 12 honors with **Michel Morandais** (second team) along with Pelle earning conference third-team. Morandais and Harrison also were named to the Big 12's specialty teams as two of the conference's most-improved players. Pelle capped his four-year career with 1,367 points and 1,054 rebounds becoming the first CU men's basketball player to secure both 1,000 plateaus. He also became CU's all-time rebounding leader and seventh overall scorer (today he's ninth).

During the 2003-04 campaign, CU won 18 games for the fifth time under Patton and earning its third NIT berth in eight years. More impressively, the Buffaloes won 10 conference games, the most since recording 11 back in 1996-97 and earned the number four seed at the Big 12 Tournament in Dallas. Harrison also broke the school record for blocks in a career (225) and would on go to rewrite the blocked shot record book despite playing only three years and opting for the NBA (29th overall, first round, Indiana Pacers, 2004 NBA Draft).

Other outstanding performances came from **Blair Wilson** breaking the CU career record for 3-pointers made (257). Earlier in the season, Wilson played "in the zone" draining six treys against Iowa State. In that game, Wilson set or tied four school records against the Cyclones making his first six 3-pointers without a miss (CU Record); tying a half record (6), tying for 3s made in a conference half, and tying consecutive 3-pointers made.

Morandais became the 21st player in CU history to score over 1,000 points in his career. He finished seventh overall with 1,428 (today he's eighth). Wilson reached the 1,000-point plateau and finished with 1,253 points and 14th overall. Harrison rounded out the 1,000-point scorers finishing with 1,317 and 11th place overall.

A near upset at the Big 12 Tournament highlighted a not-so-popular 14-16 record in 2004-05. After upsetting No. 6 seed

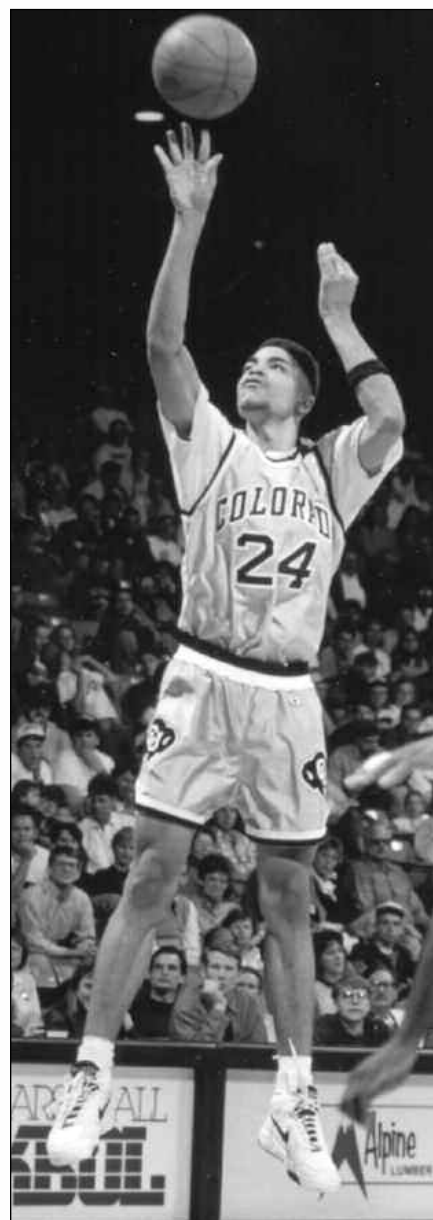
Texas, 81-69 in the first round of the conference tournament, the No. 11 seed Buffaloes became the first school in the nine-year history of the Big 12 to pull off the improbable upset. CU again played beyond its expectations narrowly upsetting eventual conference champion Oklahoma State, 87-85 in the quarterfinals.

The Buffaloes also saw the arrival of freshman **Richard Roby** in 2004-05 as he became the first freshman since Billups (1995-96) to lead CU in scoring with 16 points per game and net over double-digits 26 times in 30 games. He also recorded a pair of Phillips 66/Big 12 Rookie of the Week honors and became only the fourth CU player ever to make seven 3-pointers in a game, twice.

The 2005-06 Buffaloes won 20 games for the 11th time in their history en route to the National Invitational Tournament, with 14 of those coming at the Events Center tying the 2002-03 season for most-ever. The Buffs also re-wrote the school's 3-point record for made (240) and attempts (701), and Roby



David Harrison



Donnie Boyce

became the first CU player since 2003-04 and only the fourth player since 1996-97 to be named All-Big 12 first team. CU also reached the national stage by being ranked in back-to-back ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Polls, a school first since the 1996-97 campaign.

The 2006-07 season would not be one of its best seasons to reflect on, a 7-20 record and a 3-13 mark in the Big 12, school lows since the 1993-94 campaign. Entering his final year of his contract, coach Patton closed out his 11th full year of coaching with a school-record eight freshmen, the most on a team at one time, since 1993-94. However, it did see some positive headlines on the court.

Roby led the team in scoring for the third-straight year (17.3 ppg.), while senior guard **Dominique Coleman** became the first guard since Donnie Boyce in 1994-95 to lead CU in rebounding. Coleman grabbed 185 boards and averaged 6.9 cars a game. One of the team highlights was the upset victory over No. 12/14 Oklahoma State. It marked the fifth straight season a CU team defeated a nationally ranked opponent at home.

In 2007-08, **Richard Roby** set the school scoring record becoming the first male player to eclipse the 2,000-point barrier netting 2,001 points. He would go on to set numerous school records over his outstanding four-year career. The Buffaloes became the first team in Big 12 history as the No. 12 seed in

its post-season tournament to beat a No. 5 seed (Baylor).

Roby also became the second Buff in its history to lead the team in scoring all four years (Boyce was the other).

During the 2008-09, CU saw sophomore guard **Cory Higgins** become one of only 13 players nationally to lead or finish second on his team in five major statistical categories (points, rebounds, assists, steals, blocked shots). He also ranked nationally in a trio of categories (steals, FT%, scoring).

In 2009-10, the Buffs provided a duel offensive punch with Higgins and super freshman **Alec Burks**. Higgins, garnered his second straight All-Big 12 third team honor, while Burks performed a CU first in the Buffs Big 12 history becoming the first Boulder athlete to earn conference freshman of the year honors.

Higgins and Burks each scored 587 and 512 points, respectively becoming the first tandem to net over 500 points in the same season since the 1990-91 campaign. Burks would also lead the team in rebounding, only the second freshman since **Matt Bullard** (6.4, 1985-86). Burks was also named to a number of post-season teams including the Big 12 All-Rookie Team, CollegeInsider.com All-America Freshman Team, 2009-10 Basketball Times' All-Freshman first team, CU Sports Performers of the Year (CUSPY) Male Freshman of the Year, *Sporting News Magazine* All-Freshman second team.

Burks also became the first CU freshman to surpass 500 points in a single-season (512). He ranked fourth nationally of all freshmen in points per game (17.1) and field goal percentage (53.8).

Higgins moved up on the school's all-time scoring list (ninth overall) with 1,391 career points. He led the Big 12-only in steals for the second straight year (2.1).

As a team, CU ranked third nationally in FT% (76.6) and for the first time led the Big 12 from the charity stripe. CU also ranked 21st nationally in 3-point percentage, 26th in FG percentage, 30th in steals. The 47.3 field goal percentage tied for 10th in school history, was also the highest from any CU team since 1989-90 (47.9) and the 409 turnovers committed, was a team low over 30 games played in a season since the stat first kept in 1977-78.

Attendance also improved as the eight Big 12 games became the highest ever at the Events Center (65,607) with an average of 8,201 ranked second.



Stephane Pelle



Blair Wilson

National Polls

1952-53

No. 18 Dec. 23

1954-55

No. 15 Final

1960-61

No. 15 Dec. 20

1961-62

No. 9 Feb. 20

No. 9 Feb. 27

No. 9 Final

1962-63

No. 8 Dec. 11

No. 6 Dec. 18

No. 8 Jan. 29

No. 7 Feb. 5

No. 7 Feb. 12

No. 10 Final

1968-69

No. 20 Jan. 14

No. 17 Jan. 21

No. 17 Jan. 28

No. 20 Feb. 4

No. 14 Feb. 11

No. 18 Feb. 18

No. 18 Final

1969-70

No. 10 Preseason

No. 17 Dec. 9

No. 16 Dec. 16

No. 20 Dec. 30

1996-97

No. 18 Jan. 21

No. 18 Jan. 28

No. 15 Feb. 4

No. 15 Feb. 11

No. 21 Feb. 18

No. 19 Feb. 25

No. 18 Mar. 4

No. 24 Final

United Press International

1954-55 #11

1961-62 #8

1962-63 #9

1968-69 #14 (tied)

USA Today/Coaches Poll

Jan. 30-Feb. 5, 2006 No. 25

Feb. 6-12, 2006 No. 25