



Bzdelik's Buffs open Maui Invitational vs. Gonzaga

Camera staff, wire report
Wednesday, August 5, 2009

LAHAINA, Hawaii -- The University of Colorado men's basketball team will open the Maui Invitational against a team that has been to the NCAA Tournament every year for the past decade.

The Buffs will play Gonzaga in the first game of the prestigious tournament Nov. 23 at 1 p.m. MT (ESPN2). The Bulldogs won the West Coast Conference tournament last season to earn their 10th consecutive NCAA Tournament berth.

The three other first-day match-ups include Wisconsin against Arizona, Cincinnati versus Vanderbilt and Maryland against Division II host Chaminade.

If the Buffs beat Gonzaga in the opening game, they will meet the winner of the Arizona-Wisconsin game in the tournament semifinals on Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. (ESPN). The losers will play at 2 p.m. (ESPN2).

The championship game is Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. on ESPN.

Vanderbilt (1986) and Arizona (2000) are the only former Maui champions in the field.



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CU gets tough draw for Maui Invitational

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The 2009 Maui Invitational unveiled its brackets Tuesday, and the Colorado men's basketball team drew a tough assignment.

The Buffs will play Gonzaga on Monday, Nov. 23, at 1 p.m. on ESPN2 on Nov. 23 in the Maui Invitational's opening game. If they beat Gonzaga, which has been a perennial NCAA power under coach Mark Few, the Buffs will face the winner of Arizona-Wisconsin on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

A loss to Gonzaga will pit the Buffs against the Arizona-Wisconsin loser, also on Tuesday.

The rest of the Maui field includes Cincinnati, Maryland, Vanderbilt and tournament-host Chaminade University of Honolulu. CU will play three games in the tournament. It concludes Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Times-Call staff report