

# CU women's basketball team look to feast on home cooking

## Seven of next eight games at home for CU

Camera staff report  
Boulder Daily Camera

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The Colorado women's basketball team won't leave the state for more than a month.

In that time span the Buffs hope to take advantage of the home-court advantage and build upon what is already their best start since the 2003-04 season.

After two victories last week in the Omni Classic, Colorado (4-1) looks to add another notch in the win column tonight with the University of Denver (1-3) in town (7 p.m., FSN).

It will be CU's first meeting with DU since Nov. 19, 1999 and fifth overall with the Sun Belt Conference team.

Denver's lone win this season was a 68-55 home triumph over Colorado State.

It will be a bit of a homecoming for Shelley Sheetz, a CU Hall of Famer who is in her second year as an assistant coach at DU.

Sheetz was the 1995 Big Eight player of the year and is CU's all-time leader in 3-pointers with 252. Sheetz has coached against her former team before. When she coached at Pepperdine, her Waves came to Boulder nearly two years ago.

If the Buffs can take advantage of the favorable schedule and win the rest of their nonconference games, they would carry a 12-1 record into the Big 12 portion of their schedule. The Buffs began the 2003-04 season 12-1 and finished 22-8 overall, capped by a trip to Santa Barbara for the NCAA tournament.

After facing the Pioneers tonight, CU's schedule is as follows:

vs. Seton Hall on Sunday

at Colorado State on Dec. 11

vs. Southern Utah on Dec. 19

vs. San Jose State on Dec. 22

vs. Grambling State on Dec. 30

vs. Virginia on Jan. 2

vs. Yale on Jan. 4.

Plus, Colorado opens Big 12 play at home against Missouri on Jan. 9.

Colorado is riding a mix of veteran scoring threats and youthful energy during this fast start.

The team's leading scorer is junior Brittany Spears (19.0 ppg and 10.4 rpg), followed by senior Bianca Smith (12.6 ppg), who is providing a valuable scoring threat off the bench.

Freshmen Chucky Jeffery and Meagan Malcolm-Peck have been a big boost so far, too.

Malcolm-Peck's first four games as a Buff have been memorable, including these highlights:

leading the team in blocks with nine

11 rebounds in her college debut against UC Irvine, which was third-best in program history for a freshman debut

12 points against Georgia Southern to help the Buffs in their Omni Classic win last week

Jefferey, meanwhile, made the Omni Classic all tournament team after averaging 12.5 points, 5.5 rebounds and 3 assists over the two games.

She converted the game-winning layup in CU's 67-65 win over Harvard in the tournament championship game, too.

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## CU women's preview: vs. Denver

Camera staff  
Boulder Daily Camera

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**TONIGHT:** Colorado (4-1) hosts Denver (1-3) at 7 p.m. in the Coors Events Center.

**BROADCAST:** Television on FSN with Tom Helmer (play-by-play), Ceal Barry (color) and Alanna Rizzo (courtside); Radio on KKZN (760 AM) with Mike Rice (play-by-play) and Carol Callan (color).

**STORYLINES:** The two programs are only separated by about 30 miles, but they have only met four times, and there are plenty of local connections. Former CU standout Shelley Sheetz is in her second season as a DU assistant coach. CU director of operations Tracy Tripp, also a former CU player, was an assistant coach at DU for 13 years (1995-08) before joining the CU staff. CU assistant athletic trainer Nicole Makris was DU's athletic trainer from 2000-04.

**KEY STATS:** The Pioneers average 19.3 turnovers per game and have lost two in a row. ... The Buffs are shooting 57.6 percent from the field.

**COACHES:** Kathy McConnell-Miller is 55-72 in her fifth year at CU and 146-160 overall. Erik Johnson is 17-18 in his second season at DU, and overall.

### PROBABLE STARTERS

**Colorado** -- G Chucky Jeffery, 5-10, Fr., 7.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg; G Alyssa Fressle, 5-10, So., 2.8 ppg, 2.4 rpg; G/F Brittany Spears, 6-1, Jr., 19 ppg, 10.4 rpg; F Meagan Malcolm-Peck, 6-2, Fr., 6.6 ppg, 5.8 rpg; F/C Courtney Dunn, 6-4, Sr., 3.2 ppg, 3.6 rpg.

**Denver** -- G Emiko Smith, 5-5, Fr., 3.5 ppg, 3.5 rpg; G Britteni Rice, 5-9, Jr., 15.8 ppg, 2 rpg; F Ashly Robinson, 6-1, Sr., 8.3 ppg, 6.3 rpg; F Kaetlyn Murdoch, 5-11, So., 13.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg; F Brianna Culberson, 5-11, Jr., 11.5 ppg, 7 rpg.

**SERIES:** Colorado leads the series 3-1, with CU's lone loss coming the last time these two teams met on Nov. 19, 1999.

**UP NEXT:** Colorado hosts Seton Hall at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

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