

CU Buffs women play host to Grambling State

Buff guard Jeffery listed questionable

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Alyssa Fressle and her coach paused when each was asked what the sophomore guard's role is on this year's team.

Obviously, Fressle is much too talented to be considered a "role player."

But through 10 games it seems as if Fressle is still feeling her way into Colorado's 2009-10 campaign.

"I don't think we necessarily look at things like, 'That's your role' or whatever," Fressle said. "But we do need people to step up in certain situations, and I think we have the players who can do that."

With starting point guard Chucky Jeffery questionable for tonight's game against Grambling State, expect to see Fressle guarding the ball as the Buffs look to create havoc with their full-court press for the third consecutive game at the Coors Events Center (7 p.m., no television).

CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller said Fressle -- who is averaging 5.2 points, 2.6 rebounds, 2.4 assists this season -- typically defends the opponent's best offensive player but would be asked to put pressure on the opposing point guard in Jeffery's absence.

"I think some people see me as a good defender and a good passer. I can fit into a lot of different roles," Fressle said. "I think I'm a scorer and can do a lot of different things if I put my mind to it."

Brittany Spears is third in the Big 12 in scoring at 20.2 points per game, and Bianca Smith (14.6 ppg) has proven to be a lethal weapon off the bench.

Fressle believes she can be another double-digit scorer when necessary. Over the last five games she has averaged 7.6 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.0 points.

"I think Alyssa has the ability to put up some points," McConnell-Miller said. "I don't think her comfort level is standing and shooting 3-pointers. She's a driver and she's versatile and she can get to the free throw line. ... From 10 to 15 feet is where I think her strength is. Regardless if our shooters are having a bad night or not, we look to her to be that mid-range game player."

Last year Fressle -- a legend at Highlands Ranch High School, where she led the program to three consecutive 5A state titles at the Coors Events Center -- made a relatively smooth transition to the college game. She led all Big 12 freshmen in assists (3.4 apg), steals (1.8 spg) and minutes (30.9 mpg) while ranking third scoring (7.7 ppg).

But Fressle's sophomore season got off to a slow start and her points and assists are still down from last season.

"It's in the works right now," Fressle said of her game. "I just need to keep playing hard. I'm not going to force anything, but I need to get a little more aggressive and attack the hoop more."

The Buffs (8-2) are 7-0 at home and jumped out to halftime leads of 46-13 and 53-11 in the last two wins over San Jose State (86-50) and Southern Utah (88-36).

Jeffery, who sprained an ankle on Sunday, is a game-time decision. If she can't go, junior Whitney Houston will start at point guard.

And Fressle will set the tone defensively as CU tunes up for Saturday's showdown against No. 23 Virginia at the Coors Events Center.

"We have to get this next win for sure," Fressle said. "We got blown out at Virginia last year and that's going to be a big test for us. We're really looking forward to that game. I think that's going to be a good test for us because that's kind of the same talent we're going to be seeing in the Big 12."

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CU Buffs women's basketball preview: Grambling State

Camera staff
Boulder Daily Camera

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TONIGHT: Colorado plays Grambling State at 7 p.m. at the Coors Events Center.

BROADCAST: Television: none; Radio: KKZN (760 AM) with Mike Rice (play-by-play) and Carol Callan (color).

STORYLINES: The Buffs (8-2) improved to 7-0 at home with an 86-50 victory over San Jose State eight days ago. ... CU also started 8-2 two years ago and finished the season in the WNIT semifinals. ... The Tigers (3-5) haven't played since a 93-62 loss at Northwestern (La.) State on Dec. 16. ... Junior forward Secrett Anderson averages 8.9 points and 8.0 rebounds for Grambling State.

KEY STAT: The Buffaloes have scored 80-plus points in their last four home games and have shot a combined 48 percent (127-of-262) in those four wins. It's the first time CU has scored 80-plus in four consecutive games at home since the 2001-02 season.

COACHES: Kathy McConnell-Miller is 60-73 in her fifth year at CU. Donnita Rogers is 3-5 in her first season at Grambling State.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Colorado -- G Whitney Houston, 5-8, junior, 5.0 ppg, 1.5 rpg, G Alyssa Fressle, 5-10, sophomore, 5.2 ppg, 2.6 rpg, G/F Brittany Spears, 6-1, junior, 20.2 ppg, 9.2 rpg, F Meagan Malcom-Peck, 6-2, freshman, 7.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg, F/C Courtney Dunn, 6-4, senior, 5.2 ppg, 3.8 rpg.

Grambling State -- G Kiara Marshall, 5-1, freshman, 8.0 ppg, 1.8 rpg, G Kristen Harper, 5-8, junior, 5.4 ppg, 1.1 rpg, G Alexis Watson, 5-6, freshman, 7.6 ppg, 1.3 rpg, G/F Whitney Brown, 5-9, junior, 5.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg, F Secrett Anderson, 5-11, junior, 8.9 ppg, 8.0 rpg.

SERIES: First meeting. The Buffs are 4-0 all-time vs. teams from the SWAC.

UP NEXT: The Buffs host No. 23 Virginia on Saturday at the Coors Events Center (3:30 p.m., FSN).

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DECEMBER 29, 2009, 4:03 PM

Kensler's CU women's hoops all-decade team

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

Although the Colorado women's basketball program hasn't made any noise in the Big 12 Conference standings since going 11-5 in four straight seasons from 2001-2004 under Ceal Barry, the Buffaloes have produced their share of talented players.

My CU women's hoops all-decade team includes the program's No. 2 all-time leading scorer (Jackie McFarland, 1,858 points) and the No. 3 all-time scorer (Tera Bjorklund, 1,775).

Their ranking behind leader Lisa Van Goor (2,067) could be in jeopardy because current junior forward Brittany Spears already has 1,204 points.

Colorado coach Kathy McConnell-Miller believes current freshman guard Janeesa "Chucky" Jeffery has the potential to become one of the school's best-ever. Jeffery is averaging 8.9 points as a college rookie.

Feel free to leave a comment if you believe other players are more deserving.

CU All-Decade Team

F Brittany Spears (2007-present)

F Jackie McFarland (2004-2008)

C Tera Bjorklund (2000-2004)

G Mandy Nightingale (1998-2002)

G Jenny Roulier (1998-2002)

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