



Thorne is a great teammate because he is always willing to answer questions after a loss when some teammates would rather just slip out a side door and get on the bus. And he is a great teammate because it doesn't bother him when those same players bask in the glory after a big win.

Last season, Thorne was CU's second-leading scorer and top 3-point threat, averaging 12.0 points per game while shooting 48.1 percent from the field as a starter. Despite his status as a senior captain, Thorne found himself coming off the bench this season.

Instead of pouting or getting upset, Thorne became a mentor to the wonder kid who was gobbling up most of his old minutes and shots.

"Dwight helped me out a lot," said Alec Burks, who is on pace to become the most prolific freshman scorer in CU history. "There were some things I needed to learn quick because I was playing, and he took me aside and told me what I needed to do and learn in every practice."

Thorne, who was one of four CU student-athletes nominated in the spring 2009 to represent CU at the NCAA Student-Athlete Development Conference, is going to graduate in May with a degree in business.

"That's what I sat out to do when I came here was get my degree in four years," Thorne said. "I think I'm one of the first players in like eight years to do that. It means a lot to me because it allows me to have opportunities beyond basketball."

Walk-on Trent Beckley is still around but hasn't played the past two seasons due to injuries and medical problems. Kal Bay, Xavier Silas, Jeremy Williams and the rest of the class of 2006 all left CU for various reasons.

Thorne will remain a Buff for life.

"Dwight has epitomized what we want out of a Colorado basketball player," Bzdelik said. "He's a young man that defines class. You can expect a great effort from him every day you step on the court with him. You sleep well at night because of his citizenship. He has been a great mentor with Alec Burks. His senior leadership has really been exemplary."

"I'm really proud of him and he should be really proud of his career and what he has meant to the University of Colorado."

#### **Where are they now?**

Dwight Thorne is the only member of Ricardo Patton's final recruiting class still on the Colorado roster. He will be honored on Senior Day at the Coors Events Center this Saturday as the Buffs wrap up the regular season. Here is a look at where the other six members of the 2006 class ended up:

#### **Kal Bay**

The 6-1 point guard from Tempe, Ariz., averaged 6.1 points as a freshman at CU but left the program soon after Jeff Bzdelik was hired to replace Patton. Bay played one season at a junior college before moving on to Idaho State. He averaged 6.4 points and 1.4 assists during his junior season but left the Ben's of the Big Sky with one year of eligibility remaining, reportedly to walk on at Arizona State. He is not listed on the Sun Devils' current roster.

#### **James Inge**

The 6-3 guard from Camden, N.J., left CU after averaging just 0.7 points in 15 appearances during his freshman season. Inge, whose twin brother Semaj (James spelled backwards) played at Temple, transferred to Maryland-Eastern Shore. James Inge is not on the Hawks' current roster.

#### **Sean Kowal**

The 6-10 center from St. Louis followed Patton to Northern Illinois after his freshman season at CU. Kowal is averaging 10.1 points and a team-high 6.2 rebounds for the struggling Huskies (9-19 overall, 5-10 MAC).

**Xavier Silas**

The talented 6-5 guard from Austin, Texas, played for Bzdelik as a sophomore but was suspended by the new coach during the 2007-08 season. He also moved on to Northern Illinois and sat out last season per NCAA transfer rules. Silas currently leads the Huskies in scoring (19.5 ppg) but is shooting 37.3 per cent from the field.

**Marc Van Burck**

The 6-11 center from Star City, Saskatchewan, also left CU soon after the coaching change and spent a season at a junior college before transferring to Cornell, where he averaged no points and 2.8 minutes last season in just six appearances. Van Burck is no longer listed on Cornell's roster.

**Jeremy Williams**

The 6-7 forward from Memphis, Tenn., averaged 7.7 points and 4.6 rebounds as a freshman and then sat out due to academic issues his second year at CU before transferring to a junior college. Williams — one of the Patton recruits Bzdelik really wanted to remain with the Buffs — transferred to UTEP before the 2009-10 season. He is averaging 10.5 points and 5.0 rebounds for the 24th-ranked Miners, who wrapped up the Conference USA regular season title on Tuesday and will be included in the NCAA Tournament field.

**Academic honors**

A program record number of Buffs were named to the Academic All-Big 12 team on Wednesday.

Junior Levi Knutson and sophomore Trey Eckloff were named to the first team (GPA of 3.20 or better), while junior Casey Crawford was named to the second team (3.00 to 3.19 GPA).

Colorado has never placed as many as three players on the academic team in the 14-year history of the Big 12.

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

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MARCH 3, 2010, 1:23 PM

## NIT for Colorado men?

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

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It could happen.

If the Buffaloes (14-15, 5-10 Big 12) hold serve on Saturday and bag a victory in the 2 p.m. home game against Texas Tech, Colorado would need to win at least its opening-round game at next week's [Big 12 Tournament](#) <sup>[1]</sup> to finish with a .500 record.

A win over Texas Tech would give Colorado the No. 8 seed in Kansas City, where it would be matched against the No. 9 seed (Texas Tech or Oklahoma) in the 10:30 a.m. MST opener on Wednesday.

If Colorado fails to finish with a winning record or gets passed over by the [NIT](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, the less-prestigious College Basketball Invitational ([CBI](#) <sup>[3]</sup>) would be a possibility. The [CBI](#) <sup>[3]</sup> has selected teams with losing records.

Fields for the [NIT](#) <sup>[2]</sup> and [CBI](#) <sup>[3]</sup> will be announced on Selection Sunday, March 14.

Colorado has not participated in post-season play since playing in the 2006 [NIT](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, where the Buffs were bounced 79-61 by Old Dominion in the opening round.

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## All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

MARCH 3, 2010, 9:21 AM

## Suddenly, CU men eye No. 8 seed at Big 12

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Forget about all the previous talk about Colorado hoping to avoid the cellar in the [Big 12 Conference](#) <sup>[1]</sup> men's basketball standings.

Don't look now, but CU would secure the No. 8 seed for next week's [Big 12 Tournament](#) <sup>[2]</sup> in Kansas City if the Buffaloes (14-15, 5-10 Big 12) can wrap up the regular season Saturday with a home victory over Texas Tech (16-13, 4-11).

Tipoff in the Coors Events Center is 2 p.m. Guard Dwight Thorne will be honored during "Senior Day" activities.

In addition to Colorado snapping a 36-game road losing streak against Big 12 foes, here are some other notes following the Buffaloes' 81-68 victory Tuesday night at Nebraska, compliments of the CU sports info staff:

Colorado won in Lincoln for only the third time in 14 meetings since the Big 12 was formed. It marked the Buffs' first win in the Devaney Center since Jan. 14, 2004 (68-60).

Before this year, that 2003-04 season had been the last time Colorado swept the two-game, regular-season series with Nebraska. Earlier this season, CU defeated the Huskers 72-60 on Jan. 27.

Colorado has won two straight Big 12 games (along with Saturday's home win over Iowa State) for the first time since the 2005-06.

CU's 12 3-pointers against Nebraska are a season-best.

With 19 points Tuesday night, junior guard [Cory Higgins](#) <sup>[3]</sup> moved to within 23 points of 10th place on CU's career scoring list.

Colorado reached season-bests in field goal shooting (.619) and 3-point shooting (.706). The Buffs improved to 8-1 this season when hitting at least 50 percent in both halves.

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