

## Bzdelik holding out for junior college players

### Bufs waiting to fill two scholarships until spring signing day

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The future of Colorado men's basketball is already on campus. Jeff Bzdelik does not plan to sign any recruits today -- the first day members of the class of 2010-11 can fax in letters of intent -- and said his coaching staff will focus on filling the two scholarships it has to give during the spring signing period.

"We're looking more towards junior college kind of players who have some maturity behind them," Bzdelik said after Tuesday's practice. "We've got enough youth. Historically, those kind of players sign late."

A year ago the Buffs signed four high school seniors -- point guard Shannon Sharpe, shooting guard Alec Burks, forward Keegan Hornbuckle and center Shane Harris-Tunks -- who are all currently CU freshmen. The Buffs also added junior college transfer Marcus Relphorde to the class during the spring period.

"Right now we're being selective," Bzdelik said. "The kind of player that we need is a player who can help us with an inside presence and defensively on the glass."

The fall signing period runs through Nov. 18. The spring signing period begins April 14 and runs through May 19.

### Sharpe recovering

The four healthy members of Bzdelik's newcomers are expected to have an impact on the program this season. Sharpe -- an above-the-rim talent most fans were anxious to see -- won't make his debut for a year after suffering a season-ending knee injury last month.

Sharpe, who would have pushed Nate Tomlinson for the starting spot, had microfracture surgery on his left knee and has been making his way in and out of the Coors Events Center on crutches to support his teammates.

"The surgery is not complicated or long, it's the healing process that is long," Bzdelik said. "If the rehab is done right, he'll be back bigger and stronger than ever. That will be a welcome addition."

### Scrimmage lessons

The Buffs had some mixed results during closed-door scrimmages at Utah on Oct. 31 and at home against Northern Colorado last Saturday. Players said the Buffs did not defend their home court with enough passion against the visitors from Greeley.

That will have to change by Friday when CU opens the season against Arkansas-Pine Bluff at 7 p.m.

"We didn't have as great a scrimmage as we could of on Saturday, and I think a lot of the guys want to get that out of their system and to come back strong on Friday," sophomore forward Austin Dufault said. "It was definitely a good thing to gauge ourselves on, especially with how hard we played. We have to realize that Arkansas-Pine Bluff is a really good team coming in with a lot of upper classmen. We have to show up and play extremely hard, otherwise they'll embarrass us. They have a nice team."

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