

Bufs' Sharpe to miss entire basketball season

Promising freshman to undergo knee surgery

Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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There was a kickoff luncheon on Wednesday at the Coors Events Center put together to get fans excited for the 2009-10 basketball seasons.

But Jeff Bzdelik didn't have much of an appetite after getting kicked in the stomach with some ominous preseason news.

CU's third-year coach announced that promising freshman Shannon Sharpe will miss the entire season due to a knee injury sustained during a recent workout.

"Shannon's injury has been difficult for all of us to deal with because our strong feelings for him as a terrific young man and for what he would have meant to our effectiveness as a team for this season," Bzdelik said. "However, he will come back even stronger for next season and that bodes well for our future.

"It is now up to others to contribute more, and I strongly believe in my players to rise to the occasion."

Bzdelik was planning on splitting the minutes at point guard between sophomore Nate Tomlinson and the more athletic Sharpe, a 6-1, 200-pound prospect from Corona, Calif., who spent last year at a prep school.

"We were 8-8, a .500 team despite how young we were, last year when Nate had more assists than turnovers," Bzdelik said earlier this month when asked about the point guard position. "There's no way to get experience; you can't snap your fingers, you just have to go through with it. We'll still be a young team with only one senior, but we're not using that as an excuse. We have to grow up fast.

"But again, I go back to Shannon and the fact that he's one year removed from high school, so hopefully that's helped him."

Tomlinson started 28 games last season and averaged 7.4 points with 83 assists and 77 turnovers. The Buffs will still have a guard-oriented lineup with Dwight Thorne, Cory Higgins and Marcus Relphorde all capable of handling the basketball.

Sharpe will undergo a microfracture procedure next week on his left knee. The time frame for recovery will not be determined until the size and location of the repair are determined after surgery.

The Buffs — coming off three consecutive 20-loss seasons and picked by the coaches to finish last in the Big 12 again this season — open the regular season on Nov. 13 against Arkansas-Pine Bluff at the Coors Events Center.

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Sharpe out for season

Freshman point guard has season-ending knee surgery

By David Starcer on October 29, 2009

A team full of promising young players has already taken its first hit before the season has tipped off.

Colorado Buffaloes freshman point guard Shannon Sharpe, who is expected to compete for playing time with incumbent starter Nate Tomlinson, will undergo microfracture surgery next week on his left knee and will miss the 2009-10 men's basketball season, according to a news release.

Sharpe, 19, sustained the injury during preseason workouts and the time frame for recovery can't be determined until the size and location of the repair are determined after surgery.

"Shannon's injury has been difficult for all of us to deal with because our strong feelings for him as a terrific young man and for what he would have meant to our effectiveness as a team for this season," head basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik said in a news release. "However, he will come back even stronger for next season and that bodes well for our future. It is now up to others to contribute more, and I strongly believe in my players to rise to the occasion."

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound Sharpe was one of four true freshmen on the roster and was expected to be one of the many new faces to contribute this season.

CU will open their season on Friday, Nov. 13 when they host Arkansas-Pine Bluff at 7 p.m. in the Coors Events Center.

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THE DENVER POST

CU hoops loses Shannon Sharpe for season

By The Denver Post

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Incoming freshman guard Shannon Sharpe will have microfracture surgery and will miss the entire season, Colorado men's basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik announced today.

Sharpe injured his left knee during preseason workouts and will undergo the procedure next week. The time frame for recovery will not be determined until after surgery.

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound guard from Corona, Calif., is one of four true freshmen on the 2009-10 roster.

"Shannon's injury has been difficult for all of us to deal with because our strong feelings for him as a terrific young man and for what he would have meant to our effectiveness as a team for this season," Bzdelik said in the statement.

"However, he will come back even stronger for next season and that bodes well for our future."

Sharpe, who did not play high school basketball last season, spent a prep year at Laurinburg Institute in North Carolina. At Centennial (Calif.) High School he averaged 17.9 points, 7.9 rebounds, 7.7 assists and 3.2 steals per game in 2007-08 season.

The CU men open the season Nov. 13 at home against Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

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Buffs' Sharpe out for season

By Patrick Ridgell

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BOULDER — The Colorado men's basketball program announced Wednesday freshman guard Shannon Sharpe will undergo microfracture left-knee surgery next week and will not play in 2009-10.

Sharpe injured his left knee during pre-season workouts. His recovery time will not be known until surgery determines the size and location of the repair.

CU hoped Sharpe could provide depth and athleticism at point guard in 2009-10. Sophomore Nate Tomlinson is the returning starter.

"Shannon's injury has been difficult for all of us to deal with because our strong feelings for him as a terrific young man and for what he would have meant to our effectiveness as a team for this season," coach Jeff Bzdelik said in a statement.

"However, he will come back even stronger for next season, and that bodes well for our future. It is now up to others to contribute more, and I strongly believe in my players to rise to the occasion."

Sharpe did not play high school basketball last season while attending Laurinburg Institute in North Carolina.

Previously, he was a standout at Centennial High School in California, where he averaged 17.9 points, 7.9 rebounds, 7.7 assists and 3.2 steals per game in 2007-08, helping Centennial to a 27-5 record during his senior season.