

## Lappe can add another to rotation

### Dale becomes eligible for today`s game at USC

**By Joshua Lindenstone** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

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Chucky Jeffery was candid, even if light-hearted, 10 days ago after the Colorado women`s basketball team headed into a final exams break with a win over rival Colorado State.

No one likes practicing nine days in a row without playing a game, the sophomore guard said.

The Buffaloes put a week and a half of tests and practices behind them today when they take on Southern Cal at the Women of Troy Tournament in Los Angeles. And it`s unlikely that any player is happier to see finals week in the rear view than Chelsea Dale.

For the 6-foot-1 senior wing from Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., it`s been an entire semester of practicing without playing as she worked hard in the classroom to regain academic eligibility. And it`s been a semester of watching the 7-2 Buffs` first nine games from the sidelines, knowing she could be on the floor contributing for a young squad with only eight players in uniform so far.

Dale got official confirmation on Friday that she`d passed all of her fall classes and will be eligible to play at 5:30 p.m. today against the host Trojans (5-3).

"I`m so excited," Dale said this week. "It was a tough situation. But I had a lot of support from my coaches and my teammates, and that helped me get through it. I couldn`t have done it if I didn`t have coaches who believed in me every step of the way."

Perhaps the most frustrating part for Dale about the whole ordeal is the fact that she`s not exactly a slacker in the classroom scraping to get by academically. A double-major in humanities and education with emphases in English and communications, Dale is co-president of CU`s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She is on pace to graduate in May in four years.

But while her overall grade-point average was in good shape, one failed class last spring kept her from earning enough credits to meet NCAA requirements.

The slip-up wasn`t the first impression that someone excited about a new coaching staff was hoping to make.

"I didn`t want them to think I was a bad student, because this was the first time I`ve ever had anything happen," Dale said. "I just had to make a positive out of what would come of it."

Coach Linda Lappe was honest with Dale, and let the player know that she`d have some tough days where she`d be getting beat up on in practice and the light at the end of the tunnel seemed dim. The coach also told Dale she`d have to focus on getting better and learning the new staff`s system while playing mostly on the scout team so the Buffs could work on their rotations with the players who would be suiting up.

Lappe said it was a difficult lesson for Dale to have to learn but commended the player on the way she`s handled herself.

"She`s had a great attitude through this whole thing," said Lappe, who has gotten Dale into the rotation in practice more recently in anticipation of her return. "I know it was tough for her to sit and watch. But she`s done a great job of keeping her head up and improving. We`re excited that she`s going to be back with us shortly."

Lappe said Dale could provide a nice lift offensively with her ability to shoot from the outside and her physical play.

Dale has played sparingly her first three seasons in Boulder. Despite playing in a career-high 23 games as a junior, she

averaged just 5.2 minutes and 1.3 points per outing.

"This is my time to finally show everybody what I have, and I'm really excited," Dale said. "I'm so proud of what my teammates have been doing. I hope that when I get in there I can help out to keep furthering our progress."

Dale and Lappe said they discussed the possibility of Dale redshirting this season so she could play a full slate next year. But the team's numbers this season and Dale's own desires quickly squashed that talk.

While she's missed nine games, Dale will return for the meat of CU's schedule as the Buffs try to get back to the postseason for the first time in three years.

"I love this team now," Dale said. "I want to be a part of it now. So it's OK if I miss a couple of games. It was my fault that it happened. So I'm going to take that and go play with these guys."

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## CU women vs. USC

Camera staff  
Boulder Daily Camera

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**TODAY:** The Colorado Buffaloes (7-2) face Southern Cal (5-3) in a 5:30 p.m. semifinal matchup of the Trojans` Women of Troy Tournament in Los Angeles. Dayton (5-4) plays San Diego State (3-4) at 8 p.m. in the other semifinal.

**BROADCAST:** No television. Radio on KKZN (760 AM) with Carol Callan (play-by-play).

**STORYLINES:** Colorado hasn't played since closing out a 6-1 home stand with a 73-49 rout of Colorado State on Dec. 8. ... Senior guard Chelsea Dale is set to return after being academically ineligible during the fall semester. ... USC is coached by former NBA star and Denver Nuggets assistant Michael Cooper. ... Dayton and San Diego State were both NCAA tournament teams last season. ... Dayton coach Jim Jabir was an assistant at CU during Linda Lappe's senior season of 2002-03. SDSU coach Beth Burns was an assistant at CU from 1983-88 and recruited current CU director of operations Tracy Tripp to play for the Buffs.

**KEY STAT:** USC averages 6.5 3-pointers per game, hitting 34 percent from deep. CU allows just 21.6-percent shooting from beyond the arc, sixth-best in the country.

**COACHES:** Linda Lappe is 7-2 in her first season at CU and 57-38 overall. Michael Cooper is 24-15 in his second season at USC and overall. Jim Jabir is 120-106 in his eighth season at Dayton and 340-329 overall. Beth Burns is 234-159 in her 14th season at SDSU and 315-224 overall.

### PROBABLE STARTERS

**Colorado:** G Britney Blythe, 5-9, Sr., 5.0 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 1.5 apg; G Chucky Jeffery, 5-10, So., 17.1 ppg, 9.6 rpg, 5.1 apg; F Brittany Spears, 6-1, Sr., 17.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.8 spg; F Meagan Malcolm-Peck, 6-2, So., 8.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 0.8 bpg; F Julie Seabrook 6-3, Jr., 8.3 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 0.8 apg.

**Southern Cal:** G Briana Gilbreath, 6-1, Jr., 14.8 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 2.3 spg; G Ashley Corral, 5-9, Jr., 13.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.8 apg; G Jacki Gemelos, 6-0, Sr., 11.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 2.5 apg; F Cassie Harberts, 6-2, Fr., 8.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.8 apg; C Kari LaPlante, 6-5, Sr., 5.0 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 0.5 spg.

**Dayton:** G Patrice Lalor, 5-6, Jr., 8.8 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 3.3 apg; F Justine Raterman, 6-1, Jr., 16.4 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 1.2 apg; G Kristin Daugherty, 6-0, Sr., 14.8 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.7 apg; F Brittany Wilson, 5-11, So., 8.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg; G Kari Daugherty, 6-1, So., 6.7 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 1.8 apg.

**San Diego State:** F Jessica Bradley, 6-3, Sr., 8.1 ppg, 7.9 rpg; G Coco Davis, 5-9, Sr., 7.9 ppg, 3.4 rpg; G Sajoyia Griffin, 5-5, Jr., 4.3 ppg, 2.0 rpg; Paris Johnson, 6-4, Sr., 17.7 ppg, 9.7 rpg; G Courtney Clements, 6-0, So., 13.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg.

**SERIES:** CU and USC are tied 2-2.

**UP NEXT:** The Buffs face either Dayton or San Diego State Sunday in the consolation finals (4 p.m.) or championship (6:30 p.m.)

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