

MoHi`s Bolyard joins Hempen`s in-state crowd

3 players commit to play for CU women`s soccer

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How will joining the Pac-12 change the Colorado soccer program?

Not dramatically on the recruiting trail.

The Buffs will still build the core of the team with in-state players because the Centennial State produces plenty of great Division-I prospects.

On Wednesday, CU head coach Bill Hempen announced his 2011 class. Three of the members are from Colorado -- Carly Bolyard (Monarch), Darcy Jerman (Cheyenne Mountain) and Bianca Jones (Smoky Hill).

"I've always wanted to go to CU," Bolyard said. "I've always watched the CU team."

Like a lot of young players, one of Bolyard's favorite Buffs was Mead's own Nikki Marshall. Now she will play alongside Shaye Marshall (Nikki's sister) and joins the program just as senior defender Kelly Ross, another former Monarch standout, is graduating.

"I believe that the state of Colorado just has really good soccer players," Bolyard when asked about joining a roster that has a lot of familiar faces on it from her youth and club soccer days.

There are already 13 veteran in-state players returning from last season, including potential Pac-12 stars like Kate Russell (Silver Creek), Amy Barczuk (Arapahoe) and Anne Stuller (Fairview).

Bolyard would have signed at CU even if it still meant road trips to Lincoln and Manhattan and Waco. But she says the program can elevate itself by going west.

"I'm so excited we're going to the Pac-12 because there's going to be much more competition," she said. "It's going to be fun."

CU had a disappointing 2010 season. But Hempen's young team, which featured freshmen in key positions -- keeper Annie Brunner, defender Lizzy Herzl, midfielder Hayley Hughes and forward Stuller -- did upset UCLA and also beat Washington State during non-conference play.

Bolyard (midfielder/forward), Jerman (midfielder), Jones (midfielder/defender) and Eagle River, Alaska, product Rebecca Boggs (midfielder/forward) will bolster a talented lineup.

"All these young ladies are expected to have an immediate impact on next fall's team," Hempen said.

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