

CU Buffs' new digs nearly ready

New CU volleyball, basketball practice facility to be open July 1

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Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/01/2011 06:28:14 PM MDT

If you build a practice facility, the recruits will come.

Actually, some of them are already here.

Colorado transfer Jeremy Adams, a 6-5 guard who committed to the Buffs in part because of the ongoing upgrades at the Coors Events Center, has arrived on campus.

Freshmen-to-be Askia Booker, Damiene Cain and Spencer Dinwiddie will be in Boulder soon to get comfortable with their new home and teammates.

And the doors on the fancy new digs will open in about a month.

CU athletic director Mike Bohn said construction on the \$10.8 million basketball/volleyball practice facility, which began in June of 2010, should be completed by July 1 when the volleyball coaching staff is scheduled to move into their new offices.

The practice facility is expected to be available for select dates of the CU volleyball camps and for some workouts in July.

"The student-athletes should have full access by August," Bohn said.

Megan Rose, a CU communications specialist on facilities management issues, said the project will be completed on time and on budget. The practice facility is also tracking as a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certified building.

The facility will include two NCAA regulation size (50 feet by 94 feet) basketball practice courts and new locker rooms for the women's basketball and volleyball programs, which are modeled after the refurbished men's locker room in the Coors Events Center.

CU head coach Tad Boyle and his staff -- who happily put up with the grating sounds of construction echoing through their offices throughout the season -- will be on the road recruiting for the 2012 class throughout July.

"No. 1, now from a recruiting standpoint we can walk our guys through it," Boyle said when asked about the immediate benefits of the facility. "They can see it rather than looking at pictures or drawings. So it's going to be impactful from that standpoint."

The coaches from the basketball and volleyball programs won't have to spend weeks planning how each team is going to divide up court time in the fall.

"A lot of people don't realize maybe the things that have inhibited this program in the past," Boyle said. "We've got one court to work out on and we have to share it with women's basketball and volleyball. And also high school graduations, finals, tests, concerts, fundraisers ...

"There's going to be so many logistical nightmares that are going to be alleviated. Our guys will have a place to go and get better. Now there are no excuses."

As part of the project, the steps leading up to the Coors Events Center will have 30 percent less grade than the old steps.

"It will be extremely user-friendly to our fans as they enter and egress from the building," Bohn said.

The only negative for the basketball programs is not having the facility available to use during camp season. CU's Elite Camp for rising ninth-to-12th grade boys begins on Friday, while Linda Lappe's Elite Camp for girls begins June 18.

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