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college basketball

## CU's Burks is unanimous all-Big 12

chosen the league's player of the year. Other honors included Texas senior Dogus Balbay as defensive player of the year, Missouri junior Ricardo Ratliffe as newcomer (transfer) of the year and Texas' Tristan Thompson as freshman of the year.

*Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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Colorado sophomore guard Alec Burks joined Kansas State senior guard Jacob Pullen as the only unanimous selections on the all-Big 12 Conference first team, in voting by Big 12 men's basketball coaches, announced Sunday from the league offices in Irving, Texas.

CU senior guard Levi Knutson shared the Big 12's sixth- man award with Baylor junior forward Quincy Acy.

Joining Burks (averaging 19.5 points) and Pullen (19.6) on the six-man all-Big 12 first team are Baylor senior guard LaceDarius Dunn, Kansas junior forward Marcus Morris, Missouri junior guard Marcus Denmon and Texas sophomore forward Jordan Hamilton.

For the third consecutive year, CU senior guard Cory Higgins was selected to the all-Big 12 third team.

Bill Self of Kansas was voted Big 12 coach of the year by his peers. The Jayhawks' Morris was

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**All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post**

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**CU's Boyle on bubble talk: "We have to win."**By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Speaking Monday on the Big 12 coaches teleconference, Colorado men's basketball coach Tad Boyle said his team needs to win in regard to its bubble status for an NCAA Tournament bid.

Colorado (19-12, 8-8 Big 12) secured the No. 5 seed for the Big 12 Tournament and will open Wednesday with a 1 p.m. game against No. 12 seeded Iowa State (16-15, 3-13). The winner will face fourth-seeded Kansas State on Thursday.

As it stands today, ESPN's Joe Lunardi has the Buffaloes as one of the "last teams in" for the 68-team field of the NCAA Tournament.

"I think we have to win," Boyle said, "(but) I'm not saying we have to win the whole thing (Big 12 Tournament)."

Boyle said he prefers not to try to politic for his team. He said Colorado's season and its accomplishments speak for themselves.

"I like to coach; I don't like to be a politician," Boyle said. "We have shown we're capable of beating good teams. That's what you want in an NCAA Tournament — teams that can play good teams tough."

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[2] CU men's game Saturday vs. Texas a sellout: [http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/02/21/cu-mens-game-saturday-vs-texas-a-sellout/16005/?source=ARK\\_sports](http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/02/21/cu-mens-game-saturday-vs-texas-a-sellout/16005/?source=ARK_sports)