

## Lappe brings Watson back as CU Buffaloes basketball assistant

**Former Barry aide spent last three seasons at American U.**

Camera staff report  
Boulder Daily Camera

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Colorado women's basketball coach Linda Lappe announced the hiring of a familiar face on Monday.

LaTonya Watson -- a Colorado assistant under Ceal Barry from 1996-2005 -- is joining Lappe's coaching staff after three years (2008-11) as an assistant at American University and three years teaching and coaching in the prep ranks in Georgia.

Watson replaces Johnna Pointer, who resigned after the coaching staff's first season in Boulder to return to Amarillo, Texas where she runs a club basketball program.

Watson will now be working under one of her former pupils. Lappe played for CU from 1998-2003, including 2002 when the pair helped take the Buffaloes to the NCAA tournament Elite Eight.

"I've kept my eyes on her career," Watson said in a release. "Her trademark is working extremely hard and being an overachiever in every facet of her life. A lot of the same attributes Linda possesses, I mimic those as well. It's an easy choice when a coach such as Linda shares the same values. I'm excited to be part of her career."

The Buffs went 152-92 with five NCAA tourney berths during the nine seasons Watson was on the bench -- Barry's final nine as head coach of the program before her resignation and the hiring of Kathy McConnell-Miller.

Watson will help usher the Buffs into the Pac-12 Conference next season just as she did in 1996 when the Big 12 formed.

"LaTonya brings a lot of experience to the University of Colorado and we are thrilled to have her on our staff," Lappe said.

During Watson's three years at American, the Eagles went 63-31 with back-to-back Patriot League regular season titles in 2010 and 2011. They played in the WNIT in 2009 and 2010.

Before that, she was head coach for two years at Chamblee (Ga.) Charter High School for two seasons after one year as an assistant at Meadowcreek High in Norcross, Ga. Watson's teams at Chamblee went a combined 34-18, increasing its number of wins over the two years prior to her arrival by 17.

Like she did at American and at CU her first time around, the 1992 Eastern Michigan grad and former player will coach the Buffs' guards -- a group that includes returning point guards Chucky Jeffery and Brittany Wilson along with incoming freshman scoring threat Lexy Kresl from Arizona.

"(Watson) is a great Buff and knows the passion it takes for a program to be successful," Lappe said.

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## LaTonya Watson joins Colorado women's basketball staff

**By The Denver Post**

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LaTonya Watson is coming back to Boulder.

She has been named an assistant women's basketball coach at Colorado, head coach Linda Lappe announced today.

Watson, a Colorado assistant under Ceal Barry from 1996-2005, returns to Boulder after serving three years as an assistant coach at American University (2008-11) and three years coaching and teaching in the high school ranks in Georgia.

"LaTonya brings a lot of experience to the University of Colorado and we are thrilled to have her on our staff," Lappe said. "She is a great Buff and knows the passion it takes for a program to be successful. A teacher by nature, she will do a great job mentoring and developing our guards just as she has in the past both at CU and American University."

Watson's first season at Colorado coincided with the formation of the Big 12 Conference in 1996 and she rejoins the Buffaloes as they enter the Pacific-12 Conference for the 2011-12 season.

"I want to be a part of making Colorado one of the premier teams in the Pac-12," Watson said. "I feel invested into the program and (the chance) to help a former player that I had the honor of helping to be successful, makes me

excited to be coming back."

At American, Watson assisted the Eagles to a three-year record of 63-31 (.670), back-to-back Patriot League regular season titles (2010, '11), consecutive appearances in the league tournament championship game (2010, '11) and repeat appearances in the Postseason WNIT (2009, '10).

Watson's first stint with Colorado spanned nine seasons, resulting in a record of 152-92 and five NCAA Tournament appearances, including the 2002 Elite Eight. She was the academic liaison on Barry's staff, working closely with the Herbst Academic Center in monitoring and mentoring the academic needs of the program. Watson helped the team achieve a top-25 ranking on the 1999 WBCA team honor roll. During her coaching tenure 92 percent (22 of 24) of all players graduated.



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