

CU women's golf team has shot at history

Bufs eye second tournament win of fall season

By Gary Baines For the Camera
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ERIE -- This is becoming a pleasant habit for the University of Colorado women's golf team.

Being in contention for team titles has been the norm rather than the exception so far this season for the Buffs, who are 3-for-3 in posting top-three finishes so far, including a victory in Fort Collins.

And CU is a good bet to add to that total today and make a little history in the process. Never before have the Buffs won two team titles in a single season, and they're in good shape to do just that.

After playing two rounds Friday in its own Heather Farr Memorial Invitational, Colorado leads by five strokes in the 11-team event at Colorado National Golf Club.

"Preseason rankings-wise, nobody was expecting us to do much," said junior Jessica Wallace, a promising transfer from Pepperdine. "I think this team has a lot of potential to surprise people. We've been having top-three finishes across the board so far this semester."

The Buffs carded rounds of 290 and 300 on Friday to stand at 14-over-par 590 for two rounds. The only team within a dozen shots of CU going into today's final round is Colorado State (291-304).

Even with their top two players not in peak form, the Buffs have five golfers in the top 10 individually. Sophomore Taylor Doyle shares third place at 2-over-par 146 (71-75), while freshman Kristin Coleman (72-75--147) is fifth, Wallace (73-75--148) eighth and junior Emily Talley (75-75--150) 10th. Junior Meaghan Kari (73-77--150), competing only as an individual, also shares 10th place.

Louisa Lies of Fresno State holds the individual lead after rounds of 72-69 left her at 3-under-par 141. Emily Roering of Colorado State (71-73--144) is second.

With its strong start to the season, CU has certainly started to register on the national radar. Depending on the poll, the Buffs are ranked between 15th and 21st in the country. And Talley and Wallace are both considered among the top 50 individuals in the nation.

Coach Anne Kelly calls this CU team her best, "no question."

Asked about the quickly changing expectations, Kelly said, "Especially as a coach, it's a lot of fun. We have two freshmen in the top five (sisters Kristin and Jennifer Coleman) and they have to get used to that. With the returnees, it's a big change from the last couple of years. It's neat to see the transformation, the changes in attitude, the expectations. That's what coaching is supposed to be all about.

"It's a lot more fun to win and be in contention than to be in the middle of the pack."

Talley and Wallace have been the two players leading the way in the Buffs' ascendance so far this season. Both came into this weekend's event averaging below 72 strokes per round, and Talley has recorded three top-10 finishes while Wallace has been in the top five twice. Talley was recently named the Big 12 Women's Golfer of the Month for September.

Wallace placed 21st individually for Pepperdine in the 2010 NCAA Championships. But she didn't feel like she was getting the coaching she needed with her game, so she transferred to CU. Here, Kelly and assistant coach Brent Franklin have given Wallace the guidance she wants.

"When I came here, the original plan was to be able to get help with my swing and my overall game and not just be thrown

out onto the course and like (told to) 'go play. We're not here to help you. Go play.' I really have learned a lot since I've gotten here. My swing has gotten better, my short game has gotten better. There have been a lot of steps in the right direction since I've gotten here.

"I just didn't think Pepperdine was making me a better player individually. We were ranked really well but golf is an individual sport. In order for me to feel like I was prepared to go pro after school, I just needed a change. It was the best decision I could have possibly made. My game just feels a lot better."

On Friday, Wallace ended up in eighth place despite playing her last five holes in 4 over par after the second of two lightning delays.

The tournament will conclude with one round today, beginning with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

CU Heather Farr Memorial

Invitational

At Par-72 Colorado National GC in Erie

Team scores

1. Colorado 290-300--590
2. Colorado State 291-304--595
3. Fresno State 306-297--603
4. Nevada 294-317--611
5. Northern Iowa 300-312--612
6. (tie) Wyoming 311-303--614
- Portland State 308-306--614
8. Eastern Michigan 303-316--619
9. Montana State 312-311--623
10. Weber State 313-329--642
11. Northern Colorado 322-329--651.

Top individuals

1. Louisa Lies, Fresno State, 72-69--141
2. Emily Roering, CSU, 71-73--144
3. (tie) Taylor Doyle, CU, 71-75--146
- Darby Peters, E. Michigan, 70-76--146
5. (tie) Kristin Coleman, CU, 72-75--147
- Brianna Espinoza, CSU, 71-76--147

Katie Tabbert, N. Iowa, 73-74--147

8. (tie) Jessica Wallace, CU, 73-75--148

Joyce Chong, Nevada 74-74--148

10. (tie) Emily Talley, CU, 75-75--150

Meaghan Kari, CU, 73-77--150

Robyn Scott, E. Michigan, 77-73--150.

CU individuals

3. Taylor Doyle 71-75--146

5. Kristin Coleman 72-75--147

8. Jessica Wallace 73-75--148

10. Emily Talley 75-75--150

18. Jennifer Coleman 74-80--154

Competing only as individuals: 10. Meaghan Kari 73-77--150

18. Tessa The 79-75--154

45. Jamie Befort 78-82--160

58. Devin Dougherty 82-87--169.

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