

CU women's basketball

Perfect? Not even close, Linda Lappe's CU Buffs say

6-0 Colorado women's team trying to get better as Idaho comes to town Sunday

By **Brian Howell** Buffzone.com
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:12/03/2011 05:43:04 PM MST

BOULDER -- It's been 18 years since the last time the Colorado women's basketball team was undefeated this deep into the season.

Sitting at 6-0, the Buffaloes are receiving a lot of praise around town.

"I'm hearing how great we are from a lot of different people, so I know (the players) are hearing how great they are from a lot of different people," CU head coach Linda Lappe.

The Buffs appreciate it, but they're trying to block it out. With 23 games still to play in the regular season, the Buffs are hardly where they want to be.

"We want to be playing our best basketball in February and March, and this is kind of an added bonus," Lappe said. "Quite frankly, when we sat down as a staff and as a team, that was our goal. We had a goal by the end of November of be 6-0."

They did that, and now start the six-game December schedule Sunday when Idaho (2-5) visits Coors Events Center.

Of course, the Buffs have taken time to appreciate what they've done.

"We're really excited," junior Meagan Malcolm-Peck said. "The best part of working so hard is getting the benefits out of it. People are finally starting to see what hard work will bring. It's a great feeling."

Yet, in the midst of enjoying what they're doing well -- including improvement in rebounding and excellent balance on offense -- the Buffs are focused on what they aren't doing well. Against San Francisco on Wednesday, CU won by 18, but didn't play well on defense. The offense needs work, too.

Just in case the players forget those weaknesses, they've received reminders every day from coaches.

"Every day in practice it's 'Get on the line! This isn't good enough!' " Malcolm-Peck said. "We understand that and we know what we have to get better at."

From experience, the Buffs know that a sizzling start doesn't mean much. They started 6-1 last year, then followed that up with a 6-12 stretch through the middle of the season. In 2009-10, they also started 6-1 and sat at 10-3 after non-conference play. They went 3-14 the rest of the season.

"The thing about 6-0 is that it should give us confidence and not cockiness," Lappe said. "We have to make sure we still show up and we're ready to practice every day, and we have to make sure we still have a chip on our shoulder."

That chip comes in the form of knowing where they want to be at season's end and that, even at 6-0, they aren't close to their goal.

"We're setting our sights bigger," senior Julie Seabrook said. "We know we still have a lot more games to play and a lot more competition that's going to push us and hopefully get us better later on."

CU has been dominating so far, outscoring the competition by an average of 18.7 points per game. All six wins have come by at least 10 points -- the first time in four years they've won six in a row by double digits.

Then again, the Buffs haven't even touched the tough part of their schedule yet.

"It's really exciting, but we also have to keep our heads and realize who we've played and who we have yet to play," Malcolm-Peck said.

For now, however, life is good, and as long as the outside praise keeps coming, the Buffs know they're doing something right. The trick is keeping it going.

"We just have to keep our focus and keep our enthusiasm," Malcolm-Peck said.

CU women's preview

SUNDAY: The Colorado Buffaloes (6-0) host the Idaho Vandals (2-5) at noon at the Coors Events Center.

BROADCAST: Television on Root Sports, with Tom Helmer (play-by-play), Ceal Barry (color commentary) and Alanna Rizzo (sidelines). Radio on KKZN 760 AM, with Chris Lewis (play-by-play).

STORYLINES: The Buffs are 6-0 for the first time since a 7-0 start in 1993-94. ... They are riding their longest win streak since an 11-game streak in 2007-08. ... CU is out-rebounding opponents by an average of 11.5 boards per game; Idaho has been out-rebounded by an average of 4.1 per game. ... CU ranks third in the Pac-12 Conference in scoring defense, allowing just 52.8 points per game. ... CU and Oregon State (5-0) are the only unbeaten teams in the Pac-12. ... CU's bench has accounted for 36 percent of the team's scoring. ... CU senior Julie Seabrook has made 63 percent of her field-goal attempts. ... Buffs freshman Lexy Kresl leads the Pac-12 in free-throw percentage (.941, 16-of-17). ... Freshman Stacey Barr has started just one game for Idaho, but leads the team in scoring (12.0 points per game) and 3-pointers (17). ... The Vandals are second in the Western Athletic Conference in 3-point attempts (20.1 per game). ... Idaho is 2-0 when scoring 70-plus points and 0-5 when held under 70.

KEY STAT: Since coach Linda Lappe took over last season, the Buffs are 16-1 when holding opponents under 60 points. The only loss was a 58-49 setback at Oklahoma State on Jan. 18.

COACHES: Lappe is 24-16 in her second season at CU and 68-52 overall. Jon Newlee is 41-56 in his fourth season at Idaho and 169-169 overall.

PROBABLE STARTERS: **Colorado** -- G Chucky Jeffery, 5-10, Jr., 16.3 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 4.5 apg; G Brittany Wilson, 5-7, So., 11.5 ppg, 1.7 spg; G Lexy Kresl, 5-11, Fr., 13.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg; F Julie Seabrook, 6-3, Sr., 6.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg; C Rachel Hargis, 6-4, So., 6.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg. **Idaho** -- G Krissy Karr, 5-6, Fr., 6.2 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 4.0 apg; G Keri Arendse, 5-8, Sr., 7.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.6 spg; G Ganeaya Rogers, 5-8, Sr., 10.7 ppg, 2.5 rpg; F Jessica Graham, 6-1, Jr., 6.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.6 apg; F Alyssa Charlston, 6-1, So., 9.4 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 1.3 spg.

SERIES: CU won the only previous meeting, 77-66 in Boulder on Nov. 27, 1998.

UP NEXT: Colorado hosts Denver on Wednesday night in the fifth game of a six-game home stand.

- [Have a question for our reporters about any of the CU athletic teams, ask it here in our weekly mailbag.](#)

Close Window

Send To Printer