

Lappe's CU Buffs headed to Texas

New schedule includes three games in Lone Star state

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One thing Colorado women's basketball coach Linda Lappe and her staff are making clear early in their time in Boulder is that they're going to recruit the state of Texas hard.

Three of the five players Lappe has recruited to the program so far, one in last year's freshman class and two this year, hail from the Lone Star State.

Part of the pitch when the coaching staff goes into prospects' homes is that the Buffaloes will continue to play games in Texas even though they're no longer in the Big 12 Conference. So it's no coincidence that the first schedule Lappe had a hand in crafting includes three games in the state.

The program released its 2011-12 slate on Wednesday, and it includes a mid-November game at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and a trip to Texas-San Antonio's tournament Dec. 20-21. Not necessarily flashy foes, but locales that will make the moms of Rachel Hargis, Arielle Roberson and Jasmine Sborov happy.

Hargis, a 6-foot-4 center from Robinson, played for the Buffs last year and was the first player recruited to campus by Lappe and staff. Roberson (San Antonio) and Sborov (Round Rock) will be freshmen this year.

"I'd like to be able to play down there every year if possible," Lappe told the Camera.

Of course, the Texans aren't the only players who will get some home cooking this season. Each of the eight out-of-state players will get to play close to home at some point in the 2011-12 season.

Senior Julie Seabrook (North Vancouver, B.C.) will benefit from the Buffs playing new Pac-12 foes Washington and Washington State on the road. Freshman Lexy Kresl, a Phoenix product, will get to play twice in her home state, as will classmate Jen Reese of Clackamas, Ore. And while the Buffs don't play at USC or UCLA this season, sophomore twins Ashley and Brittany Wilson from Long Beach, Calif., will get to play in Los Angeles for the Pac-12 Tournament.

"It's going to be really exciting to get so many of our players back home," Lappe said. "I don't think Julie Seabrook has ever played in the Northwest."

The Buffs' 29-game regular-season schedule includes 16 home games, two fewer than each of the last two seasons.

Part of the reason for that is that the 18-game Pac-12 slate gives the Buffs a ninth conference road game instead of the eight they played in the Big 12. But Lappe also wanted her team to get accustomed to playing on the road earlier in the season, especially since they open conference play with three straight road games.

The schedule Lappe inherited from the former coaching staff last year featured just three non-conference games away from home. The Buffs didn't leave the state of Colorado to play until Dec. 18, and they didn't win on the road until their second-to-last regular-season road game at Missouri.

The game in Corpus Christi is the second of the season.

"The beginning of the Pac-12 will be super tough," Lappe said. "That's one of the reasons we want to get some road experience before then."

CU's home slate will feature plenty of highlights for fans if for no other reason than all of the new conference foes they'll be hosting. Chief among them will be the Jan. 14 game against perennial power Stanford.

CU plays all but four Pac-12 foes both home and away. The Buffs will only host USC and UCLA, while they'll only see Washington and Washington State on the road this season. That arrangement will flip-flop in 2012-13 before the Buffs see those four schools home and away in following years as the league scheduling formula rotates.

After an exhibition game against Regis on Nov. 6, the Buffs' 2011-12 season officially opens on Friday, Nov. 11 at home against Northern Arizona. After the trip to Corpus Christi, CU plays at Colorado State on Nov. 20.

CU will then host six home games in a row before the San Antonio tournament. Those home foes will include San Francisco, Idaho, Denver, Weber State, Valparaiso and either Montana State or Wisconsin.

Other notes from CU's schedule:

CU will play seven games against teams that reached the NCAA tournament last year and potentially eight against WNIT teams from a year ago.

Valparaiso, Wisconsin and Montana State round out CU's Omni Hotels Classic field. Texas-San Antonio, Creighton and Texas-Pan American will be the potential matchups for the Buffs at UTSA's tourney.

Boulder County prep fans will be able to see plenty of local products play at Coors Events Center, including Longmont's Jamie Katuna (San Francisco), Fairview's Carlee Lough (Weber State), Longmont's Megan Carpenter (Oregon) and possibly Monarch's Eliza Normen (Arizona State) -- if she is healed from a knee injury.

New Weber State coach Bethann Ord is a former CU assistant.

The Pac-12 tournament is scheduled for March 7-10 in Los Angeles.

CU women's 2011-12 schedule

Note: All times TBA. Home games upper case.

Sun., Nov. 6 -- REGIS (exhibition)

Fri., Nov. 11 -- NORTHERN ARIZONA

Wed., Nov. 16 -- at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Sun., Nov. 20 -- at Colorado State

Fri., Nov. 25 -- VALPARAISO, Omni Hotels Classic

Sat., Nov. 26 -- WISCONSIN/MONTANA STATE, Omni Hotels Classic

Wed., Nov. 30 -- SAN FRANCISCO

Sun. Dec. 4 -- IDAHO

Thu., Dec. 8 -- DENVER

Sat., Dec. 17 -- WEBER STATE

Tue., Dec. 20 -- tba, Texas-San Antonio tournament

Wed., Dec. 21 -- tba, Texas-San Antonio tournament

Sat., Dec. 31 -- at Utah

Thu., Jan. 5 -- at Washington

Sat., Jan. 7 -- at Washington State

Thu., Jan. 12 -- CALIFORNIA

Sat., Jan. 14 -- STANFORD

Thu., Jan. 19 -- at Arizona State

Sat., Jan. 21 -- at Arizona

Thu., Jan. 26 -- USC

Sat., Jan. 28 -- UCLA

Thu., Feb. 2 -- at Oregon State

Sat., Feb. 4 -- at Oregon

Thu., Feb. 9 -- ARIZONA

Sat., Feb. 11 -- ARIZONA STATE

Sat., Feb. 18 -- UTAH

Thu., Feb. 23 -- at Stanford

Sat., Feb. 25 -- at California

Thu., Mar. 1 -- OREGON

Sat., Mar. 3 -- OREGON STATE

March 7-10 -- Pac-12 Tournament

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