



**Senior Emily Talley and CU coach Anne Kelly embrace after Talley shot a 68 Saturday.**  
 Photo Courtesy: Chip Bromfield, ProMotion Ltd.



## Brooks: Feverish Finish Sends Buffs To NCAA Nationals

Release: 05/12/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**ERIE** - At dinner Friday night, Anne Kelly saw a little something extra in her players' eyes, and it was nothing that might have been brought on by five-alarm salsa on their burritos. Kelly and her Colorado women's golf team were dining at a local Mexican eatery after another pedestrian round - actually it was a round that could have stomped their season tortilla flat - in the NCAA Women's West Regional.

Shooting a 301 Friday at the Colorado National Golf Club - four shots worse than their first-day score - the Buffaloes had spiraled into a tie with Illinois for ninth. They had 18 holes remaining on Saturday to try and pull themselves out of their home-course funk and solidify a top eight finish, which would send them (and their coach) to the NCAA National Championships for the first time.

Kelly looked at her top five golfers and "just had a feeling that they weren't happy and they were very determined. They

### BUFFALO EXTRAS



**Watch:**  
 Kristin Coleman  
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**Watch:**  
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 Jessica Wallace  
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**Watch:**  
 Alex Stewart

weren't down in the dumps and they weren't feeling sorry for themselves. They were a little ticked off and you could tell that we were going to go give it our all."

On a Saturday morning that had as much of a Scottish as a Colorado feel to it, the Buffs gave it their all and pushed it a little further. After submitting only one subpar round over the previous two days, Kelly's Buffs - it's OK now to call them Kelly's Heroes - submitted a mind-numbing *five* on Saturday.

Under the circumstances, it was arguably the finest collective round ever in CU women's golf. NCAA rules allow for the highest of the five players' rounds to be thrown out. Until Saturday, a par round had been thrown out only once at CU - and that came earlier this year in what has been the Buffs' finest season. For the first time in the program's 18-year history, CU wound up tossing a subpar round - a one-under-71 shot by either sophomores Alex Stewart or Kristin Coleman, or maybe by senior Jess Wallace.

Whose was it? Didn't really matter. Discarding a 71 is like tossing a sirloin for a filet. Win-win. The counted pair of 71s, coupled with senior Emily Talley's four-under-par 68 and sophomore Jenny Coleman's three-under-69, gave CU a final-round total of 279 and a fourth-place West Regional finish.

Can you say NCAA Nationals? The Buffs could and did, repeatedly. They're headed for Franklin, Tenn., on May 22-25, joining the eight top finishers from the East and Central Regions.

"We just knew what we had to do," said Wallace, whose second-round finish - a double bogey Friday on No. 18 - left her fuming and helped fuel her final day charge. "Throughout the course of a three-day tournament, there's a bunch of things that happen. With only 18 holes left we put our nerves aside and got the job done. You don't get many situations where you're under this much pressure.

"Honestly, I didn't think (discarding a subpar round) would happen. That was the greatest surprise. It's not a surprise that individually people shot what they shot because everyone on this team is an exceptional player. But the fact that we put it all together at once, that doesn't happen very often."

The Buffs' top finisher was Jenny Coleman with a three-day total of 218 that included an eagle Saturday on No. 15. "Personally it was great, everything was working (Saturday)," she said. "I was setting myself up well on the greens with my approach shots and making a lot of good putts. As a team, that's just awesome; we all played well."

Talley and Kristin Coleman each had three-day totals of 220, while Wallace was at 221. Stewart completed only two rounds.

A contingent of CU fans and school officials that included Athletic Director Mike Bohn congratulated Kelly and the Buffs as they finished an exquisite final round that saw them climb as many spots as they dropped on the last day of the Pac-12 Conference tournament. (They slipped from second to sixth.)

An emotional Kelly called the scene and her team's accomplishment "very exciting . . . I can't really express how happy and proud I am of these girls. They've worked so hard. It's been such a long process but it's really great to see it come together finally."

Until Saturday, watching it take shape hadn't been so appealing. For two days, the Buffs labored on a course that shouldn't have tortured them as it did. Weather conditions changed it dramatically from Thursday to Friday, but the Buffs admitted they should have adjusted quicker and better.

It took them two rounds - pushing it right to the wire - before they got a handle on the course that Stewart said she and her teammates knew like the backs of their hands. "We know this course," Wallace added. "We had to play it at some point."

05/12/2012



**Photo Gallery**



**West Region Home**



**Final Results**



**Clutch Buffs Advance**

The best advice they might have received entering the last round could have come from assistant coach Brent Franklin, who according to Talley, told them to play the course as if they were strangers to it.

"(He) said something earlier about playing this course like we don't know it . . . like a regular course, a regular tournament, and we'd play it better," Talley recalled. "We came in the first two rounds saying we know this course too well. We weren't doing smart things. I think by stepping back and having a little more respect for the golf course and saying it was the last chance, it was a good combo."

The knowledge that it was indeed a final chance registered with Talley on her third hole. "I think I was thinking . . . this could possibly be my last round of college golf," she said. "I was like, 'That's not going to happen. I don't want that to happen.' This is my last chance to go to nationals, my only chance. This is a big deal. You would think that would have had a negative effect on me, and in the past when someone puts pressure on me I kind of crumble. But (Saturday) I made my putts. I was having fun."

From Kelly down, the Buffs admitted the pressure of hosting, of entering the regional seeded No. 4, of playing on their home course, and dealing with various expectations that were heaped upon them created more pressure here than they might encounter in the National Championships.

"I think so, because with the pressure of hosting and the fact that we were expected to make it and we expected that from ourselves, it does add a bit more pressure," Wallace said. "Whereas, nationals are going to be a bit further away from home and I think a lot of the country underestimates us. I feel like we expect a lot out of ourselves here, but when we go out and play tournaments elsewhere they don't really think too much of us still. So, I think we'll be able to play more freely than we did here when we get to nationals."

But on Saturday, the Buffs played free, easy and oh-so-efficiently. Jenny Coleman knocked in a sand wedge for her eagle on No. 15, Talley chipped in for a birdie on No. 17. CNGC's four par fives tormented Talley and her teammates in Rounds 1-2, but payback was theirs on Saturday.

In the first two rounds, CU shot a collective plus-14 on the four par fives. On Saturday, the Buffs were a minus-10 on those holes, with Talley birdying three of the four and collecting a par on the fourth. On the previous day she bogeyed all of them, and a member of the CU men's golf team had snippishly asked Talley if she "did anything but bogeys on the par fives," she recalled.

Challenge offered, challenge accepted.

Said Talley: "A six on the scorecard is ugly, whether you get it on a par three, four or five - it's just ugly. I think the fact that I came out and birdied three of them (Saturday), it was awesome. The one par was a good par, so I'll take that one. It was great. I turned around a lot of places in my game."

So did each of her teammates. Stewart rallied gamely from a sinus infection and dehydration that caused her withdrawal from play after 15 holes on Friday. "I hated to withdraw because it made me feel like I was letting my teammates down," she said. "I was probably in tears for a long time."

But once back on the course, her tears dried quickly. After "about two gallons" of intravenous fluids and getting medical clearance, she was off like a rocket Saturday morning. "I just wanted to help out the team as much as I could," she said. "I felt way better than (Friday) and was pretty sure I could play. I was going to try my best, even if I wasn't feeling well."

Before the final round, the Buffs needed no one to remind them about the gravity of the day and what was at stake. And Kelly isn't given to impassioned pleas. Said Stewart: "Our coach gave her usual 10-second speech." It consisted mainly of Kelly telling the Buffs that a few butterflies were OK, but don't let them morph into anything more terrifying.

"I'm not a real pep talker," offered Kelly. "Golf's sort of a funny sport. Every once in a while you feel like you ought to say something, so . . . I said it's OK to be nervous, but you can't be scared. Play with confidence - and

they did."

The confidence oozed. Talley hit "a perfect shot" on her eighth hole, chipping in for one of her birdies "that kind of got it jump started," she said. "Because from that point on I went birdie, par, birdie, par, birdie . . . just a whole bunch of birdies in a row. It got me in a good stretch of holes.

"My sister (Caroline) came up to me at one point and said, 'Everyone is playing lights out.' I was thinking I don't want to be the one that's shooting the highest score . . . it was awesome. We all played well."

CU and Pepperdine, which finished third behind co-winners UCLA and LSU, tied at 279 for the regional's lowest round, with both recorded Saturday. Wallace termed the Buffs' final round "the best collective effort I've ever seen out of a team, especially with the pressure that we were under. I mean, just knowing everyone was capable of doing this, but that we all came up and did it together when it mattered most shows what we're really, really made of."

Among their five players, the Buffs made 20 birdies and one eagle against 12 bogeys Saturday. Talley bogeyed her final hole, but it couldn't come close to ruining her day. After she hit her tee shot into a trap to the left of the green, she said getting "that bunker shot out that close (to the pin), I was very happy with that. That last putt - I pretty much knew it wasn't going in. I was shaking too much."

After she two-putted from about six feet, she went straight to Kelly, hugged her long and hard, shared a few tears, and said she told her coach, "Sorry I bogeyed the last hole, but I did my best . . . I don't feel like I left a shot out there."

None of the Buffs left much of anything on the course. Instead of ending their season with two disappointing rounds, they extended it with one they'll never forget - and Kelly was humbled by their resolve, their final-day mindsets and the way they wrapped it all up.

"They played smart shots," she said. "They'll have a bad hole or make a mistake, but it's usually not a mental mistake or a bad decision. The last couple of days we made a couple of bad decisions - and that's not typical. So (Saturday) they played more like themselves, making smart decisions. Sure, you're going to miss a shot, but they played smart.

"I just don't want this season to end yet because they're just such a great bunch to be around. I wanted it so badly for them to be able to experience the National Championships. And I'm happy, too."

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SHOW MENU



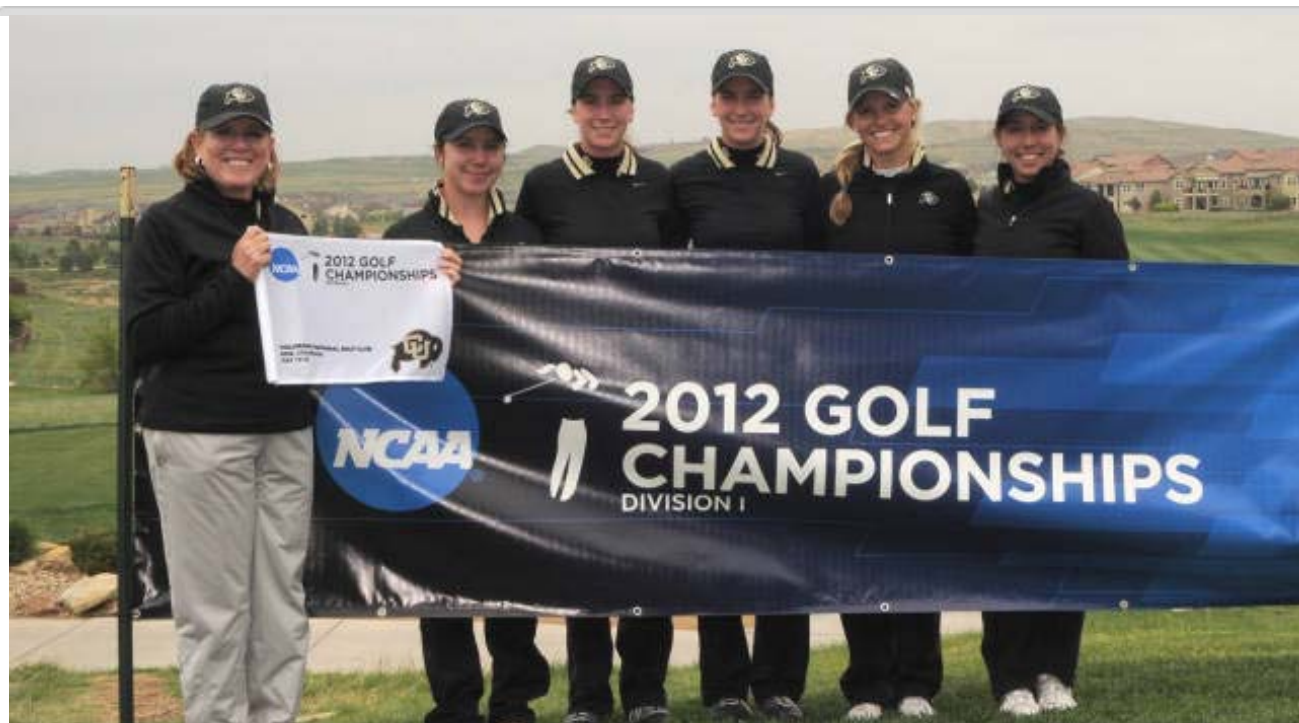


Photo Courtesy: Chip Bromfield, ProMotion Ltd.



## Bufs Turn In Clutch Performance to Advance

Release: 05/12/2012 Courtesy: Curtis Snyder, Associate SID

ERIE, Colo.—The No. 10 University of Colorado women's golf team turned in the best performance in school history, recording a 9-under par 279 to move from a tie for ninth to finish fourth here at the 2012 NCAA West Regional, qualifying for the NCAA Championships for the first time.

CU hosted the regional at Colorado National Golf Club and the Buffs performance was key given the fact that only eight teams advance to the NCAA Championships, which will be held May 22-25, at The Legends Course in Franklin, Tenn., meaning the Buffs began the day below the cut.

The Buffaloes 9-under par 279 performance is tied for the second best team round in school history and all five CU players were under par for the first time in school history. It's a new postseason team record by five strokes, topping a 4-under par 284 this same team shot at the Pac-12 Championships on April 28, and it's 19 strokes better than CU's postseason record headed into this season.

### BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Emily Talley  
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Jessica Wallace  
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**Watch:**

Jenny Coleman  
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**Watch:**

Anne Kelly  
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**Watch:**

Alex Stewart

Top-ranked and seeded UCLA and No. 2 seed and No. 7 ranked LSU were deemed co-champions with 9-over par totals of 873, but this is the only tournament each year where being eighth is just as good as being first, and that is the only place a tiebreaker to determine top seeding for the NCAA Championships. UCLA won the tiebreaker based on their top regional seed.

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-  [Brooks: Historic Round](#)

No. 7 seed and No. 19 ranked Pepperdine matched CU's best team score of 9-under par 279 to finish at 11-over par 875 and in third place, two strokes ahead of the Buffs total of 13-over par 877. No. 6 seed and 17th-ranked Baylor and No. 14 seed and 40th-ranked Stanford tied for fifth, both tied at 15-over par 879. Stanford was the leader after both the first and second round. No. 3 seed and sixth-ranked North Carolina finished seventh at 16-over par 880 and No. 9 seed and 26th ranked Oklahoma took the final seed, finishing at 26-over par 890.

It became evident after the conclusion of the morning wave that the top seven teams were fairly safe to advance. Oklahoma was in the afternoon wave and prevailed from a group of four or five that began the day looking to stay below 29-over par, which is where both Texas Tech and California finished after the morning wave. The Sooners shot a 1-over par 289, the best score of the afternoon wave and fifth-best score of the round, to advance.

Senior Emily Talley led the way for the Buffaloes with a 4-under par 68, the best postseason round in CU history, bettering her 69 she shot in the second round of the Pac-12 Championships. Sophomore Jenny Coleman matched that 69 in the final round, marking just the third time in CU history two players recorded rounds in the 60s, with the other two such instances happening at the Clover Cup in March.

Talley finished her round with six birdies and two bogeys in her round to hit 4-under. She had a stretch making the turn where she had four birdies in six holes to go to 5-under. Kristin Coleman had three birdies and a pair of bogeys for her 1-under round.

Talley's 68 is the fourth-best of her career and her third round in the 60s this season and seventh of her career. Her three rounds in the 60s this season matches a CU record she already shared. Talley finished at 4-over par 220 and was tied for 16th individually. She matched sophomore Kristin Coleman at 4-over 220, who became the 10th CU player to have two subpar rounds in a tournament. Kristin Coleman shot a 1-under par 71 in both the first and third rounds.

Jenny Coleman's 69 matched her career best round and is her second round in the 60s this season. She finished at 3-over par 219 and tied for 10th place, giving her the fifth top 10 performance of the season. She finished her round with an eagle, five birdies and four bogeys. She eagled the 615-yard, Par 5 No. 15, turning in one of six eagles by the field in the tournament but the only one on No. 15.

Senior Jess Wallace shot 1-under par 71 and tied for 26th with a three round total of 5-over par 221. She recorded her 14th career subpar round, moving her into sole possession of second place in the CU record book. Book Alex Stewart rebounded from having to with drawl in the second round to post a 1-under par she had three birdies and two bogeys in her round.

SHOW MENU



## Women's golf: CU Buffs earn trip to nationals

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

Posted:

Buffzone.com

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ERIE -- Seconds after walking off the 18th green on Saturday afternoon at Colorado National Golf Club, Colorado senior Emily Talley found head coach Anne Kelly and gave her a hug.

The embrace lasted several seconds and a few tears flowed.

"If anything, I did that for her," Talley said after a 4-under par 68 during the final round of the NCAA West Regional golf tournament. "I don't feel like I left a lot of shots out there."

Neither did her teammates. Talley and the Buffs put together one of the finest rounds in program history and earned a trip to the NCAA finals for the first time.

This is CU's 18th season as a program, its 15th with Kelly.

"I love this job and to me it's very exciting," Kelly said of her first trip to the finals. "You can't really express how happy and proud I am of these girls. They've worked so hard.

"I just don't want this season to end yet because they're just such a great bunch to be around and I wanted so badly for them to be able to experience a national championship, and I'm happy too."

Colorado finished the three-day event in fourth place with a 13-over-par 877. UCLA and LSU were co-champions at 9-over par, while Pepperdine was third at 11-over. The top eight teams qualified for the finals, to be held May 22-25 in Franklin, Tenn.

North Carolina's Catherine O'Donnell won the individual title with a 7-under 209.

The Buffs needed a spirited effort under intense pressure on Saturday to get to the finals, and they got it. They finished the round with a nine-under 279, tying for the second-best single-round score in school history.

"We just knew what we had to do today," senior Jess Wallace said after a 1-under 71.

Coming into the weekend, CU was seeded fourth and ranked 10th nationally in the coaches' poll. Playing on their home course, the Buffs knew their chances of moving on were great. Back-to-back rough days, however, left the Buffs in ninth place after Friday's second round.

During breakfast on Saturday, Kelly came up with what sophomore Alex Stewart called "her usual 10-second speech." Not much to it, really, but the message was simple.

"You can be nervous, but don't play scared," Talley said of Kelly's advice. "Nervous is healthy, but don't play scared and we didn't. We obviously didn't."

Talley's 68 led the way, while Jenny Coleman matched her best score of the year with a 3-under 69. Wallace, Stewart and sophomore Kristin Coleman all carded 1-under 71s.

It was the first time in school history that all five players broke par in the same round. Per NCAA rules, only the top four count for the team score, so this was the first time the Buffs had ever thrown out an under-par score. In fact, only once before had CU ever thrown out an even-par score.

"It was the best collective effort I've ever seen out of a team, especially under the situation, with the pressure we were under," Wallace said.

CU got off to a blistering start, playing the first six holes at 10-under par. From that point, they played steady golf, matching every bogey with a birdie and, for the first time all weekend, avoiding double-bogeys.

By the time Jenny Coleman finished her round, completing CU's day, the Buffs knew their ticket to Tennessee had been punched.

"With only 18 holes to go and one day, it was kind of do or die today," Wallace said. "We all came out, put our nerves aside and got the job done."

For the tournament, Jenny Coleman led CU with a 2-over 218 to finish in a tie for 10th. Coleman's score was the best-ever for a CU player in regional play. Talley and Kristin Coleman finished in a tie for 16th and Wallace in a tie for 26th. In CU's two previous regional appearances, its highest individual finish was 52nd.

## NCAA West Regional

At Colorado National Golf Club, par 72

### Final results

Team scores (top 8 qualify for national finals) -- UCLA 290-296-287--873, LSU 291-290-292--873, Pepperdine 297-299-279--875, Colorado 297-301-279--877, Baylor 300-293-286--879, Stanford 287-293-299--879, North Carolina 288-298-294--880, Oklahoma 305-296-289--890, Texas Tech 300-294-299--893, California 296-301-296--893, UNLV 302-301-293--896, UC Davis 305-295-297--897, Tulsa 297-303-299--899, Illinois 296-302-302--900, TCU 302-304-294--900, Iowa State 302-302-296--900, San Jose State 302-298-303--903, New Mexico 303-307-313--913, Denver 304-311-300--915, Kennesaw State 309-311-304--924, Missouri State 314-307-307--928, Oregon State 313-318-305--936, Northern Colorado 311-324-304--939, Jackson State 348-355-327--1030.

Top 5 individuals -- 1. Catherine O'Donnell, North Carolina, 70-69-70--209; 2. Austin Ernst, LSU, 71-69-70--210; 3. Hayley Davis, Baylor, 69-74-69--212; 4. Sally Watson, Stanford, 71-71-71--213; 5. Chirapat Jao-Javanil, Oklahoma, 72-73-70--215.

Colorado individuals -- 10(tie). Jenny Coleman 77-72-69--218; 16(tie). Kristin Coleman 71-78-71--220; 16(tie). Emily Talley 76-76-68--220; 26(tie). Jess Wallace 75-75-71--221; Also, Alex Stewart

75-W-71--146.

Colorado State individual -- 34. Brianna Espinoza, 73-73-73--222.

## Women's golf: Coleman twins deliver for CU Buffs

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

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ERIE -- Colorado knew it needed good performances out of its No. 4 and No. 5 players to have a chance at the NCAA West Regional this weekend.

The Buffs got more than they expected out of those two slots, though.

Sophomore twins Jenny and Kristin Coleman came into the tournament as CU's No. 4 and No. 5 players, based on season averages. They were the Buffs' leaders during the three-day regionals.

"They're just rock solid," head coach Anne Kelly said. "They played so well. It was really impressive. They kept us in it the first two days. It was definitely a team effort (Saturday), but they were part of it."

Jenny, who had CU's best score on Friday, was CU's top player during the weekend, finishing at 2-over 218. Kristin, who had the Buffs' top score on Thursday, finished at 4-over 220.

A chance to get to the NCAA finals was the main motivation for the sisters, who come from Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.

"We were determined to get (coach Kelly) there, get ourselves there," Jenny said. "It was just something we all wanted to accomplish."

Feeling better

On Friday, Alex Stewart was feeling so sick that she withdrew with three holes to play. After some rest and "almost two gallons of fluid" Stewart was back on the course for a 7:30 a.m. tee time on Saturday.

"I'm not 100 percent, but it's definitely way better than yesterday," she said after a solid 1-under 71. "I hated to withdraw because it makes me feel like I'm letting my teammates down. (On Saturday), I just wanted to help the team as much as I could. I was just going to try my best to play, even if I wasn't feeling well."

Low fives

What a difference a day made for CU on the par-5s.

Colorado National features four par-5 holes. During the first two rounds, the Buffs were a collective 14-over par on those holes. Emily Talley was six-over, including bogeys on all four during Friday's second round.

On Saturday, the Buffs played the par-5s at 10-under par. Talley was 3-under with three birdies and a par.

"They played smart shots," Kelly said. "The last couple of days we made a couple bad decisions and that's not typical. Today they played more like themselves."

#### Notable

UCLA, LSU, Pepperdine, CU, Baylor, Stanford, North Carolina and Oklahoma were the eight teams to qualify for the NCAA finals. ... In addition to the top eight teams, two other individuals, Kimberly Kaufman and Gabriella Dominguez of Texas Tech, qualified for the finals. ... Jenny Coleman eagled the par-5 15th hole on Saturday for CU's only eagle of the tournament. ... In addition to Coleman's eagle, the Buffs had 20 birdies on Saturday after having a total of 22 birdies in the first two rounds combined. ... On Thursday, CU was plus-10 on its final nine; on Friday, the Buffs were plus-8 on the final nine; and on Saturday, they were minus-1. ... As a group, CU's three-day total of 877 was its third-best 54-hole score of the year and eighth best score in team history.

## University of Colorado women's golf team qualifies for NCAA Tournament

By Tom Kensler *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*  
Posted:

DenverPost.com

ERIE — Colorado senior Emily Talley must have felt the golf gods were against her and the team after struggling with matching 76s in her first two rounds of the NCAA Women's West Regional.

Talley, a national top-50 player, had an ugly four-putt Thursday and uncharacteristically bogeyed all four par-5s Friday. But something would be different about Saturday's final round at Colorado National Golf Club, she determined. This was no way to end a college career.

Talley's premonition was spot on. She fired a 4-under-par 68 on Saturday, and the Buffaloes, finishing fourth as a team, are headed to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's 18-year history.

But nobody could have imagined that Colorado would collectively record its best tournament round ever at 9-under.

"On the third hole, I was thinking that this could possibly be my last round of college golf," Talley recalled. "I said to myself, 'That's not going to happen.' "

Colorado, seeded No. 4 here and ranked 10th nationally, found itself tied for ninth entering Saturday's final round. Only the top eight finishers would earn a trip to the May 22-25 NCAA Championship in Franklin, Tenn.

Talk about pressure. CU coach Anne Kelly is known for limiting her pre-round pep talks to "about 10 seconds" but had a point to make this time.

"I told the team, 'It's OK to be nervous, but don't be scared,' " Kelly said to reporters afterward. "I wanted them to play with confidence, and they did."

All five CU players shot under par — a first for the school. In the team format that counts the best four scores of five each day, Colorado threw out one of three 71s.

Talley chipped in for birdie on her eighth hole (the par-4 No. 17) to start a string of four birdies in six holes. Sophomore Jenny Coleman contributed a 69, knocking in a sand wedge from 115 yards for eagle on the par-5 15th. Senior Jess Wallace and sophomores Kristin Coleman and Alex Stewart each shot 71.

On Friday, CU had played hole Nos. 10-18 in 8-over. Saturday, they went 8-under on that nine. The Buffs played the par-5s in 14-over the first two days and in 10-under Saturday.

"The highest score we threw out today was a 71," Jenny Coleman said. "That's just insanely good."

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## University of Colorado women's golf team qualifies for NCAA Tournament

By Tom Kensler *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

ERIE — In a remarkable team effort under pressurized circumstances, the Colorado women's golf team advanced to the NCAA Championship tournament for the first time in the program's 18-year history today by firing a collective, final-round score of 9-under-par Saturday in the West Regional at Colorado National Golf Course.

Colorado, seeded fourth in the regional and ranked No. 10 nationally in the coaches poll, began the day in a tie for ninth — a precarious position considering that only the top eight teams advance to nationals.

The Buffaloes came through with their best-ever round. Everybody on the five-player team shot under par, meaning that under the best-four-scores format, Colorado threw out one of three scores of 1-under-par 71.

According to the school's sports information department, a CU women's team had never thrown out a red number and only once had thrown out an even-par round.

Senior Emily Talley led Colorado with a 68 on Saturday, even with a bogey on her final hole, the par-3 No. 9. Sophomore Jenny Coleman contributed a 69, tying her best round of the season. Senior Jess Wallace, and sophomores Kristin Coleman and Alex Stewart each shot 71.

"To have everybody under par, that never happens," Talley said. "Coach (Anne) Kelly was saying she was waiting for all of us to be on our game in the same round. Today we did that."

After the morning wave, Colorado stood in fourth place, behind LSU, defending national champion UCLA and Pepperdine. But most of the top teams played in the morning, thus assuring CU a likely fourth-place finish and a spot in the NCAA Championship to be held May 22-25 in Franklin, Tenn.

Kelly is completing her 15th year as CU's head coach and finally will be taking a team to the NCAA Championship.

"I didn't want the season to end yet," Kelly said. "I wanted for them so badly to experience a national championship."

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