

CU women's basketball

Wilson embraces defensive purpose

Ashley wants to lead Buffs on 'D'

By Brian Howell Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/24/2011 11:01:53 PM MST

Everybody has different ways of expressing their feelings and emotions.

For Ashley Wilson, it's through a pen and paper.

A sophomore guard on Colorado's women's basketball team, Wilson is a talented poet who picks up a pen in good times and bad.

"I just write all the time," said the 5-foot-8 Wilson, whose twin sister Brittany is also a guard on the CU squad. "As soon as I feel like writing and picking up the pen, I just write, whatever it is. I just like getting it out. I'm not a person who likes to go to other people with my problems, so I just write, write, write."

Her poetry gets her through the ups and downs, and right now, times are pretty good for Wilson and the Buffs, who are 3-0 entering today's first round of the Omni Hotels Classic at Coors Events Center.

"She's really kind of come into her own as far as knowing what we're doing and what her job is," CU head coach Linda Lappe said. "She doesn't try to get outside of her role. She doesn't try to be somebody she's not. She knows who she is and that's very, very valuable on a team."

Wilson is pleased to have a key role on the team. By the end of last season, she was barely seeing the court. This year, she was in the starting lineup for the first two games and has done a nice job for the Buffs.

"It lets me feel a lot better and a lot more confident because I've been working pretty hard," she said of the starting assignments she earned. "I'm just going to do whatever I have to do to contribute to the team. If it's rebounding, bringing energy, or whatever it takes, then I'm just willing to do it."

Wilson's role calls for her to bring energy to the court through rebounding, defense and the occasional scoring opportunity on offense.

"We all know that we can't be Kobe (Bryant) or the world's greatest scorer," she said. "But, we all know that we have something that we bring to the team and we have to bring it every day consistently in order for us to be a great team."

As the season goes along, Wilson figures her defense will be the most valuable part of her game.

"It's going to be really important," she said. "There's a lot of girls who really have the ability to put the ball in the hoop, so we need somebody to step up and stop them. Why not me?"

Wilson's drive to be a better player, and the Buffaloes' drive to be a better team continues today when the Buffs take on Valparaiso at 7:30 p.m. in their own tournament. Wisconsin and Montana State square off in the early game at 5 p.m. The second and final round is on Saturday night.

"We know we're a good team and we know what we can do," Wilson said. "Now it's just getting better every single game and not taking a day off and falling back."

More than anything, that's what Lappe wants to see out of Wilson and the rest of the team this weekend.

"We're excited to go in and be in our own tournament off of a good win (at Colorado State on Sunday)," Lappe said. "At the same time, I told our team we have to stay hungry. It's so early right now and we're going to be disappointed at the end of the season if Colorado State was our biggest win of the year. I think it's important to not be satisfied."

CU women's preview

FRIDAY: The Colorado Buffaloes (3-0) host the Valparaiso Crusaders (0-3) at 7:30 p.m. in the first round of the Omni Hotels Classic at the Coors Events Center.

BROADCAST: No TV. Radio 760 AM, with Mike Rice handling play-by-play.

STORYLINES: Today is the opening round of the 25th Annual Omni Hotels Classic. In addition to CU vs. Valparaiso, Montana State and Wisconsin will play at 5 p.m. ... CU has won this tournament the past two seasons and 14 times overall. The Buffs are 38-10 all-time in this tournament, including 21-3 in the first round. ... CU junior Chucky Jeffery was the tournament MVP in 2010 and has made the all-tournament the past two years. ... CU is holding opponents to 57.0 points per game and 34.5-percent shooting. ... CU averages 75.7 points per game, while Valparaiso averages 55.0. ... Junior Gina Lange has played well for the Crusaders, averaging 14.7 points while hitting 52.9 percent of her shots. ... In two of their three games, CU has raced out to 18-2 leads; it had an 8-2 lead in the other contest. ... Tonight's game is CU's first at home in two weeks, but it starts a six-game homestand. ... Sophomore wing Brenna Malcolm-Peck (concussion) and freshman forward Arielle Roberson (back) will both miss tonight's game. Neither has played yet this season.

KEY STAT: In 120 minutes of basketball, the Buffs have trailed for a total of just 1 minute, 39 seconds. They've trailed just twice, the biggest deficit being 2-0 against Colorado State.

COACHES: Linda Lappe is 21-16 in her second season at CU and 71-52 overall. Keith Freeman is 276-229 in his 18th year at Valparaiso and 405-276 in 24th years overall.

PROBABLE STARTERS (2010-11 stats): **Colorado** -- G Chucky Jeffery, 5-10, Jr., 14.7 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 5.7 apg; G Brittany Wilson, 5-7, So., 13.3 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.0 spg; F Meagan Malcolm-Peck, 6-2, Jr., 7.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg; F Julie Seabrook, 6-3, Sr., 5.3 ppg, 3.7 rpg; C Rachel Hargis, 6-4, So., 7.0 ppg, 4.0 rpg. **Valparaiso** -- G Shaquira Scott, 5-10, Fr., 7.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg; G Laura Richards, 5-9, Jr., 3.3 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 3.3 apg; F Tabitha Gerardot, 6-1, So., 8.0 ppg, 6.3 rpg; F Gina Lange, 6-1, Jr., 14.7 ppg, 6.0 rpg; F Ashley Varner, 6-1, Sr., 9.3 ppg, 8.3 rpg.

SERIES: This is the first-ever meeting between CU and Valparaiso. The Buffs are 4-0 against teams from the Horizon League, including a 65-34 win over Loyola Chicago in the 2010 Omni Classic championship game.

UP NEXT: On Saturday is the final round of the Omni Classic. The winners play at 7:30 p.m., while the losers play at 5 p.m.

Close Window

Send To Printer