

Volleyball: CU Buffs' Nicole Edelman joins U.S. Women's Junior Training Team

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For years, Nicole Edelman's talent in volleyball has taken her around the United States and across the globe.

This summer, the Colorado sophomore and Boulder native will go on a new adventure.

On Tuesday, USA Volleyball announced that Edelman is one of 13 players selected for the U.S. Women's Junior National Volleyball Training Team.

Starting June 5, the WNJTT will train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, N.Y. The team will be narrowed down to 12 players before taking off June 12 to play in the FIVB Volleyball Women's U-21 World Championship in the Czech Republic. The tournament will be held June 21-30 in the Czech cities of Brno and Prostějov.

"I'm just very excited for the opportunity," Edelman said.

Two years ago, Edelman was a part of the USA Youth National team that played in Ankara, Turkey.

"I had the opportunity two years ago and it's such a high level competition in the U.S. that I didn't know if I'd be able to make the team again," she said. "I just feel very fortunate to be selected for the team and I'm very excited to go and compete against the best players in the world."

Edelman, who starred at Fairview High School before going to CU, said she's been involved in the USA program since her freshman year of high school, but she takes special pride in this opportunity.

"This is definitely by the far the biggest accomplishment that I've had, because the older you get, the more competition there is," she said. "This is a big one."

Edelman is one of seven Pac-12 players on the roster. Three other Pac-12 players are among the six alternates.

Most college players take a break from the sport over the summer, so Edelman believes the opportunity to play for Team USA will help her to get better.

"There's no real downside to it," she said. "The international game is so much more advanced than the college game. Plus, it's really hard to train during the summer because of NCAA rules. Being able to train and compete in June is something a lot of girls can't do, especially in college. It'll definitely help me. I think it's very valuable experience for college."

Edelman said she believes her ability to adapt to different styles of players gave her an edge when Team USA officials made their selections. Like all of her other Team USA opportunities from the past, she's looking forward this one.

"I think there's no better way to travel because you meet so many amazing people," she said. "To be able to play a sport against girls from other countries, it's amazing how different the game can be, depending on what

part of the world you're from.

"I like playing. Being able to travel across the world to play against other players is just a really incredible experience."

While one of the 13 players going to Lake Placid won't go to the Czech Republic, Edleman's spot is likely save. She is one of just two setters on the roster.

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