

Howell blog: Lappe's CU Buffs re-adjust at point guard

By Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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The Colorado women's basketball team was already looking at a big hole to fill at the point guard position going into the 2013-14 season.

That hole got a little bigger last week when sophomore Ky Weston decided to leave the program and move closer to her home in Kansas City, Mo.

Weston had a great opportunity to take over the starting role from Chucky Jeffery, who graduated in May after a brilliant career. Jeffery was a two-time All-Pac-12 performer who led the team in scoring, rebounds, assists and steals the past two years.

Weston spent last year being groomed as a potential replacement, but now she's gone and the Buffs will look to a trio of players - senior Brittany Wilson, junior Lexy Kresl and true freshman Desiree Harris - to fill that role.

Harris is the only true point guard among the group.

"I think it means Desiree Harris has to keep getting better and keep understanding what we need from her," CU head coach Linda Lappe said. "We've had the luxury of having 10 practices before we go to Italy (on Monday), so it's been really good for her to play against Brittany Wilson every day in practice and kind of start to understand the offense and the defense."

Lappe isn't ready to anoint Harris as the heir apparent to Jeffery. That'll take some time. But, there's no question she will be counted on heavily this season. Lappe also has the luxury of knowing Wilson and Kresl can handle the position when needed.

Wilson has been primarily a shooting guard, but during her career has handled the point at various times. Kresl is more of a wing player, but has some spot time at the point under her belt; she was the backup point guard for half of her freshman season.

"Both Lexy and Brittany have played point for us at different points in their careers, so that's reassuring to know that," Lappe said.

Of the two veterans, Wilson has spent the most time at the point, but Lappe said Kresl, "does some really good things. She'll get us into our offense. She changes speeds really well at that position and she handles the ball pretty well at that position. I wouldn't want her to play there the whole game because I think you lose her abilities on the wing, but if it's what we need to help our team, I know she'll be more than happy to do whatever we need her to do."

At this time, however, Lappe said its way too early to determine who will be the primary point guard this season. The 10 pre-Italy practices (Thursday was the eighth of those) and the 10-day, four-game trip to Italy will probably help to sort that out. Preseason practices will likely determine that position, too.

"We've just been careful not to put too much into roles at this point because it is so early," Lappe said. "Right now we're just trying to develop our players and develop our team and we're looking forward to a real exciting opportunity to be in a foreign country together and team-build and get to experience the culture and also get to improve."

With Weston leaving, Lappe now has five scholarships available for the 2014 recruiting class. So far, the Buffs have one commitment for that class: Brecca Thomas, a point guard from the Houston area.