

Men's basketball: Fletcher eager to be a part of CU Buffs' improved success

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It says a lot about the Colorado men's basketball program that recruits are now pointing to the Buffaloes' success as a reason to come to Boulder.

"Everyone wants to be a part of a winning program," freshman wing Tre'Shaun Fletcher said.

It also says a lot about the program that recruits like Fletcher are choosing to wear black and gold.

CU is coming off of back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances. The Buffs also won the Pac-12 Tournament in 2012, which made a good impression on Fletcher, who was a junior at Lincoln High School in Tacoma, Wash., at the time.

"Once I saw it, I felt like I needed to be a part of it," Fletcher said.

At 6-feet, 5-inches tall, Fletcher is a unique athlete who fits right in line with CU's love for versatile talent. He has great length, can rebound and score and, more than anything, impressed Buffs head coach Tad Boyle with his ability to pass the ball.

"He's what I call a very crafty player," Boyle said. "He just knows how to play, he's got great instincts."

Last year at Lincoln, Fletcher averaged 21 points, 10 rebounds and five assists per game.

"I think he can play three different positions," Boyle said. "He can play the two (shooting guard) or the three (small forward), and I think he can play at a four (power forward) if we went small."

Perhaps the best thing about Fletcher, however, is that he doesn't think too highly of himself.

"He's a very humble, hard-working young man who just wants to get better," Boyle said.

Fletcher has been steadily improving since he started playing the game at about 9-years old. It wasn't until eighth grade that he started to take it seriously.

"My AAU coach, Gary Ward, he told me I could really take this and get an education with it," Fletcher said. "That's when I put my head into it and I started working hard at it and I'm here today."

It was just a couple of years ago that Fletcher began to realize he could play at the Division-I level.

"I was one vote away from MVP of the league, so that's when I really just started working harder than I was before," he said.

Fletcher was voted league MVP as a junior and was named Class 3A state player of the year this past season.

Several schools pursued Fletcher, including Pac-12 rivals Arizona State, Oregon State, UCLA and Washington State.

"I think I had my best opportunity here and I really like the academic system," Fletcher said. "I know (associate director of academics Mindy Sclaro) does a great job with us and coach Boyle is a great coach."

This summer, Fletcher has had an opportunity to get acclimated to Boulder and campus life, while learning a little about his teammates and how he fits into the mix. He knows CU's roster is loaded with talent, but believes he can be a key player this season.

"Whatever the team needs to do, I'll do," he said.

Following his success in high school, helping his team go 82-21 during his four years, Fletcher is eager to see how he can help the Buffs continue their winning ways.

"Coach Boyle, he told me that this is the best that Colorado basketball has ever been and it's something I shouldn't want to miss out on, and he was right about that," Fletcher said. "I look forward to keeping it going."

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