

CU Buffs volleyball team a force to be reckoned with

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Coach Liz Kritza has helped turn the Colorado women's volleyball team into a dangerous foe in the past month, leading the Buffaloes to upsets of No. 11 UCLA on Sept. 27, then handing No. 1 Washington its first loss of the season Oct. 4.

Kritza's fifth team at CU is talented and balanced, and features more leadership from seniors such as Kerra Schroeder and Nikki Lindow (a Centaurus High School graduate) and junior Taylor Simpson (Doherty).

Kritza says she has always been confident the Buffs would have success.

"The only question was when," she said. "I got a sense that this group could be the one because of the combination of talent and personalities and motivation. ... It was easy to get excited about the possibility of what we could do. I'm always the most realistic about what we have and if somebody is more realistic then we have an issue.

"These are big moments for us, but they're moments. We need a collection of moments to have long-standing success.

"People will take us more seriously in conference, but now we have something to prove. This will be a season of constantly proving ourselves. This group of players, what they're made of and how they look at life in general, we're going to have to be the team that constantly proves themselves. We're not going to surprise many more people. ... They're taking us more seriously now."

The Buffs were unable to surprise No. 8 Stanford on Saturday night, falling 3-0 on the road.

The Buffs are 11-5 overall, 3-3 in the Pac-12, while Stanford improved to 12-3, 5-1 in the Pac-12.