

Men's basketball: CU Buffs' schedule full of quality opponents

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

In three seasons as the head coach for the Colorado men's basketball team, Tad Boyle has missed out on the NCAA Tournament just once.

That one miss, however, still stings because the Buffs felt they did everything they needed to get in at the end of the 2010-11 season. A soft schedule was likely the reason the Buffs didn't get in.

"The one thing I told myself three years ago when we got snubbed was, 'I'll never let our schedule be the reason we don't get in,' " Boyle said. "Absolutely it's what kept us out."

On Tuesday, the Buffs unveiled their complete schedule for the 2013-14 season, and it certainly won't be considered soft by anybody.

"It's as good of a non-conference schedule, I think, that Colorado has had in many, many years, when you look at quality of teams," said Boyle, who has led CU to the NCAA Tournament the past two seasons.

The Buffs will face 12 teams that won 20 or more games last season and 15 that played in a postseason tournament (including eight NCAA teams and four NIT teams).

Six of CU's non-conference opponents finished in the top three of their conference standings. The 13 non-conference foes produced a combined record of 248-176 (.585 winning percentage).

"It is the next step (for the program)," Boyle said. "It's the next step if we can handle it. We want to put ourselves in a position where we're fighting for NCAA Tournament bids. That's the step we've made so far in going to back-to-back tournaments. I don't think anybody is interested in that streak being broken, but it's not going to be given to you or handed to you."

CU went 21-12 last season and returns most of its roster. The Buffs, led by potential NBA first-round pick Spencer Dinwiddie, are expected to be a top-25 team at the start of the season.

The schedule will be tough, Boyle said, but it's a schedule he thinks his team is ready to tackle.

"If I didn't think that, I wouldn't have done it, so yeah, I think we can," he said.

CU will be on the Pac-12 Network 14 times and will be on an ESPN network 11 times. The Buffs will also be on Fox Sports 1 three times.

Contact staff writer Brian Howell at howellb@dailycamera.com or twitter.com/BrianHowell33.

CU men's schedule

DATE OPPONENT,TV,Time

Nov. 8 #vs. Baylor, TBA,TBA

Nov. 10 TENNESSEE-MARTIN, P12N,4 p.m.

Nov. 13 WYOMING, P12N, 7 p.m.

Nov. 16 JACKSON STATE, P12N, 10 a.m.

Nov. 18 ARKANSAS STATE, P12N, 7p.m.

Nov. 21 SANTA BARBARA, P12N, 8 p.m.

Nov. 24 HARVARD, ESPNU, 2:30 p.m.

Nov. 30 at Air Force, TBA, TBA

Dec. 3 at Colorado State, TBA, TBA

Dec. 7 KANSAS, ESPN2, 1:15 p.m.

Dec. 13 ELON, P12N, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 21 vs. Oklahoma State, ESPN2, 9:30 p.m.

Dec. 28 GEORGIA, P12N, 8 p.m.

Jan. 2 *OREGON STATE, ESPNU, 8 p.m.

Jan. 5 *OREGON, FS1, 3 p.m.

Jan. 8 *at Washington State, P12N, 7 p.m.

Jan. 12 *at Washington, FS1, 1 p.m.

Jan. 16 *UCLA, P12N, 6 p.m.

Jan. 18, *USC, FS1, 4 p.m.

Jan. 23 *at Arizona, ESPN2, 7 p.m.

Jan. 25 *at Arizona State, P12N, 5 p.m.

Feb. 1 *UTAH, P12N, Noon

Feb. 5 *WASHINGTON STATE, P12N, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 9 *WASHINGTON, ESPNU, 6 p.m.

Feb. 13 *at UCLA, ESPN2, 7 p.m.

Feb. 16 *at USC, ESPNU, 6 p.m.

Feb. 19 *ARIZONA STATE, ESPNU, 9 p.m.

Feb. 22 *ARIZONA, ESPN2 4 or 7 p.m.

March 1 *at Utah, P12N, Noon

March 5 *at Stanford, ESPN2, 7 p.m.

Mach 8 *at California, P12N, 4:30 p.m.

March 12-15 **Pac-12 Tourney, P12N, TBA

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Head coach Tad Boyle of the Colorado Buffaloes yells from the bench during the second round of the 2013 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament at The Frank Erwin Center on March 22 in Austin, Texas. (Photo by Ronald Martinez/Getty Images)

DALLAS (AP) – NCAA tournament teams Oklahoma and Colorado and defending NIT champion Baylor will play their season openers as part of a tip-off tripleheader.

The Tip-Off Showcase is Nov. 8 at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, about 20 miles from the NFL stadium where the NCAA Final Four will be played next April.

"It's great for basketball fans to come see three great teams and these programs in one day," Baylor coach Scott Drew said.

Oklahoma, with six newcomers, will play Alabama of the SEC in one of the matchups. The Crimson Tide return three starters, including leading scorer Trevor Releford (14.9 points per game).

Sooners coach Lon Kruger hopes the timing of the tripleheader, the day after the Oklahoma football team plays a game in Waco, will draw fans to the AAC along Interstate 35 about halfway between the Baylor campus and Norman, Okla.

Baylor will play former Big 12 rival Colorado for the third straight year. The Bears won a matchup in the 2012 NCAA tournament, but lost to the Buffaloes in the Charleston Classic last fall.

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"It's great for our program to get back down to Big 12 territory, kind of where our roots are, and Big Eight territory for that matter," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "An opportunity to play a team like Baylor right out of the shoot, first game of the year is going to be a great challenge and opportunity for us."

SMU is beginning its second season under coach Larry Brown in a matchup against TCU.

"Larry Brown may be the best and most accomplished coach in this state, regardless of sport or level," TCU coach Trent Johnson said.

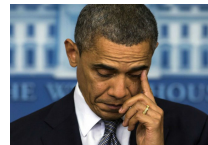
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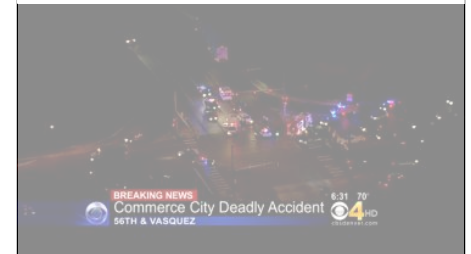
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