

2011 COLORADO BUFFALOES



The University of Colorado women's soccer team will face a new conference with new competition for its 16th season of play. Sixteen returning players will be joined by five newcomers as they kick off the season in the inaugural Colorado Cup. Here they will battle against the other top soccer programs in the state before heading west to take on their new Pac-12 opponents. Colorado head coach Bill Hempen and assistant coach Tracy Chao also welcome new Assistant Coach, Chris Gnehm to a proud Buffalo organization.

WHO'S RETURNING: The Buffs will return 16 players (nine starters) from the 2010 roster, and will be led by a core group of seniors (Caroline Danneberg, Hannah Perry, Kate Russell, Amy Steiner and Maggi Steury). Colorado will have plenty of experience on the pitch, as six players saw action in all 20 games in 2010 (Amy Barczuk, Erin Bricker, Annie Brunner, Danneberg, Hayley Hughes and Russell), and six players saw action in at least 15 out of the 20 games.

WHO'S GONE: The Buffs said goodbye to eight players from the 2010 season. Colorado's defense will need to fill the void of power defender Kym Lowry who contributed three goals, four assists and 28 shots to the offense last season. Lowry also tied for 10th overall in CU history for game-winning goals, two of which came in 2010. CU will also lose midfielder Cassidy Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick earned two goals and three assists last year. Kelly Butler, Amanda Foulk, Mel Hicks, Kelly Moore, Kelly Ross and Taryn Vitacca will also not return.

WHO'S NEW: Colorado will welcome six freshmen to the team for the 2011 campaign. Carly Bolyard, Darcy Jerman and Bianca Jones all played high school soccer in Colorado, while Clare Madden joins the team from La Grange, Ill. Storie Ledger enters the season from Mill Valley, Calif., and Rebecca Boggs will become the first player in the history of CU soccer to hail from Alaska (Eagle River).

FORWARDS: Last season, four players tied for most goals scored with three (of those, Russell, Shaye Marshall and Hughes return). For the 2010 term, the Buffs put away 24 goals on 296 shots, proving the chances were there. Because of that, this season the Buffs are looking for the offense to finish. Head coach Bill Hempen has acknowledged his team had opportunities to score more last year, but couldn't find the back of the net. For the 2011 campaign, Hempen hopes to "see a couple bounce in for us this year that maybe bounced away last year." Danneberg is one player the Buffs will look to put balls on net. The versatile forward/defender contributed three assists and 18 shots for the season and tied with Bricker with the second highest shots-on-goal percentage for 2010. Danneberg saw action in all 20 games and started in 15.

MIDFIELDERS: Russell returns for her senior year after coming off a strong performance last season. Russell led the Buffs in points (11) and assists (5), and she tied for most goals (3), shots (41) and shots on goal (20) in 2010. Russell is currently tied for third on CU's career list for assists with 14, and her ability to

set up goals at crucial moments has benefited her team greatly. Russell will have plenty of support in the midfield with Barczuk returning. Barczuk started in 18 of the 20 games she played last season, and logged 1,822 minutes (only Russell played more). She finished the season with two goals and one assist for five points, and tied Russell in shots (41). Sophomore Hayley Hughes also returns after a strong freshman season where she started every game. Hughes was the third leading scorer with three goals and one assist for seven points.

DEFENDERS: Senior Amy Steiner will return to the Buffs' backfield after a solid performance in 2010. Steiner started in all 19 games she saw action, and will have the opportunity to face her old team, the University of Arizona, this season after transferring to CU her junior year. Sophomore Lizzy Herzel will also return to defense this year after coming off of an exciting freshman campaign. Herzel scored two game-winning goals against UCLA and Texas A&M after being moved up to forward during overtime play. Senior Maggi Steury and freshman Bianca Jones will also add depth to the defense.

KEEPERS: Goalkeeper Annie Brunner returns for her sophomore season with a year of collegiate experience behind her. After playing in all 20 games in 2010 (she started 19 of them), Brunner impressed with her 1.10 goals against average. Her standout performances earned her the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week and the Big 12 Newcomer of the Week honors during the season. Kayla Millar will enter her second season with the Buffs after serving as a reserve keeper for the 2010 season. She saw action in two games and started in CU's 2-1 victory over Washington State. Senior keeper Hannah Perry will also have the opportunity to compete for time this year.

THE SEASON: The University of Colorado women's soccer team will face a slate of new teams as they leave the Big 12 behind for western competition. CU will play 11 Pac-12 conference matches, eight non-conference games and one exhibition against the United States Air Force Academy for the 2011 campaign.

The Buffs will officially open the 2011 season when they co-host the inaugural Colorado Cup. In addition to CU, the tournament will include the University of Denver, Colorado College and the University of Northern Colorado. CU will kick off the season against CC in Denver on August 19 before returning to Prentup for the home opener against UNC on August 21. To finish off the month, regional foe Wyoming will make the trip south to face CU on August 28.

Colorado will then venture to the Midwest to play Purdue (Sept. 2) and Illinois (Sept. 4) where they hope to even their overall records against the two teams, 1-1. The Buffs will return

to Colorado for the next three games when they take on DU at Prentup on Sept. 11 for the Omni Hotels Colorado Challenge, and Auburn and CSU Bakersfield in Denver (Sept. 16 and 18, respectively) for the Denver Invitational Tournament.

CU will begin its first season in the Pac-12 on Sept. 23 against Oregon State in Corvallis, Ore. Prior to this season, Colorado has faced their new Pac-12 opponents only 16 times combined since 1996. The Buffs first Pac-12 home games are Arizona (Sept. 30) and Arizona State (Oct. 2).

October brings two trips to the West Coast. CU will first head to the northwestern-most state to play Washington (Oct. 7) and Washington State (Oct. 9). The Buffs will return home for a quick match Oct. 16 against Oregon before leaving again, this time to California. In the "Sunshine State," CU will first play California on Oct. 21. This game will mark the first meeting between the two teams since September 1996 when women's soccer became a varsity sport at CU. Next, it's a trip to Palo Alto when CU kicks off against Stanford Oct. 23. CU will hope to bring the sunshine back to Colorado when the team returns home to play UCLA on Oct. 28 and USC on Oct. 30 for the final home games of the season.

The Buffs will wrap up a busy regular-season with a matchup against Utah on Nov. 4. Colorado women's soccer has faced Utah the most times any of the Pac-12 teams, and is 6-1 against the Utes overall.