

2012 COLORADO BUFFALOES



The University of Colorado women's soccer team looks forward to their sophomore season in the Pac-12 Conference. Fourteen returning players will be joined by 13 newcomers. Colorado head coach Danny Sanchez takes over the reins from Bill Hempen, and hopes to bring the Buffaloes back to a winning record. In his first season with the program, Sanchez is joined by assistant coaches Jason Green and Don Trentham, who coached with Sanchez at Wyoming, and volunteer assistant coach Rebekah Patrick.

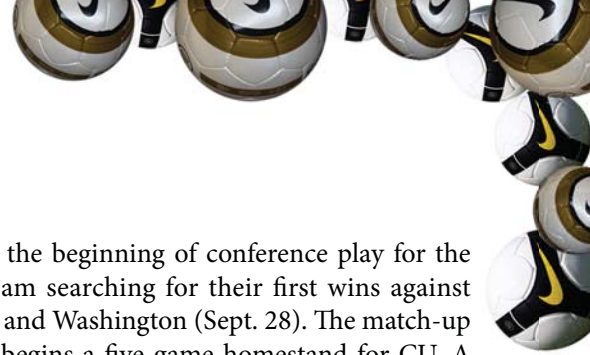
WHO'S RETURNING: The Buffs will return 14 players, including nine starters. Five returning players competed in all 19 games (Amy Barczuk, Anne Stuller, Carly Bolyard, Shaye Marshall and Lauren Shaner). Seniors Barczuk, Marshall, Shaner, Quinn Krier, Erin Bricker and Kayla Millar hope to end their CU careers on a high note. Four of the team's top five scorers also return. Stuller, Barczuk, Hayley Hughes and Darcy Jerman contributed 12 of the team's 21 goals last season.

WHO'S GONE: In addition to saying goodbye to head coach Bill Hempen, the Buffs lose six players, including four seniors. Colorado has big cleats to fill with the loss of Kate Russell, the team's leading scorer with four goals and two assists. Russell ranks third all-time on CU's list of most assists, with 16. She scored three career game winners, tying her for 10th on CU's all-time list, and ranks sixth with 6,716 minutes played. CU also loses fellow seniors Caroline Danneberg, Maggi Steury (who each contributed one goal last season) and Amy Steiner. Clare Madden and Rebecca Boggs played a combined 13 games in their freshmen campaigns and will not be returning this season.

WHO'S NEW: Colorado welcomes aboard 13 newcomers, 12 of whom are freshmen. Nikola Machalek and Heather Ward remain in their home state of Colorado. Madison Krauser, Ashley Love, Amanda Simkins, Taylor Thurmond and former CU Gold club player Betsy Builder all hail from California. Jenna Glad and Emily Paxton both come to Colorado via Arizona, while Courtney Dudley and Elise Romano came from New Mexico and New Jersey, respectively. Former Chicago-area club teammates Olivia Pappalardo and Carly Manso round out the new crew.

FORWARDS: The Buffs are led by the offensive presence of Anne Stuller and Hayley Hughes. Stuller was just behind Russell in 2011, leading all returners with four goals and one assist. Hughes scored her first two goals of the season in the inaugural Colorado Cup. Her final goal was the decisive one in CU's first conference win, a 1-0 game against California. Also providing a scoring presence, Carly Bolyard, who had the highest shots on goal percentage of all freshmen, adds depth to the front line with returners Erin Bricker and Storie Ledger.

MIDFIELDERS: Seniors Amy Barczuk and Shaye Marshall look to lead a pack of freshman, while filling the void left by Kate Russell in the midfield. Barczuk continues to make a name for herself in Colorado soccer, contributing seven points (three goals and one assist) last season. For her superb 2011 outing, Barczuk was an All-Pac-12 honorable mention and U.S. Under-23 National Team selection. Marshall maintains her family's legacy with the Buffs by pitching in offensively with one goal and one assist in 2011.



DEFENDERS: The Buffs lost Amy Steiner, a starter with great experience in the Pac-12, but several returning players make their way to the defensive end of the ball this season. Seniors Lauren Shaner and Quinn Krier add strong seniority and show great versatility, playing in a combined 34 games last season. Lizzy Herzl returns as a top defender for CU, as does Bianca Jones, who proved herself to be one of 2011's essential freshmen, contributing one assist in her 18 games played.

KEEPERS: Annie Brunner returns for her junior campaign with two seasons as lead goalkeeper under her belt. She started 14 games for the Buffs in 2011, and ranked in the top 10 of the Pac-12 with a 2.86 saves per game average. Her two shutouts in the Colorado Cup helped her move into sole possession of fourth place on CU's all-time list. Senior Kayla Millar earned more time in the net, finishing the season with 15 saves in seven games. She helped the Buffs to their first conference win, shutting out then No.15-ranked California in the 1-0 road match. Walk-on Betsy Builder hopes to see minutes with the Buffs after playing two seasons with the CU Gold club team.

THE SEASON: The University of Colorado women's soccer team will play nine non-conference teams and all 11 conference opponents in their sophomore season in the Pac-12.

Colorado begins the season with the Colorado Cup. The second annual tournament includes in-state foes Denver, Northern Colorado and Colorado College. In the inaugural event, CU shut out CC 5-0 and UNC 3-0. The Buffs hope to continue their success this year as they face the Bears on Aug. 17 in Greeley and the Tigers on Aug. 19 in Colorado Springs.

The Buffs begin play at Prentup with the Omni Hotels Colorado Women's Soccer Classic. In addition to host CU, the tournament features LIU Brooklyn, Denver and Wright State. CU takes on the Blackbirds on Aug. 24 and the Rebels on Aug. 26. It will be the Buffs' first meeting with both teams.

CU then begins a four-game road trip against some new faces and some very familiar ones. The Buffs travel to the Prairie State for their first meeting with Northwestern on Sept. 2. They return to Colorado for matches against Denver and Cincinnati in the DU Invitational from Sept. 7-9. The Buffs finish their road trip in Wyoming on Sept. 16 with a homecoming for Danny Sanchez and his coaching staff.

Colorado completes non-conference matches with a home game against Air Force on Sept. 21.

September marks the beginning of conference play for the Buffs, with the team searching for their first wins against Oregon (Sept. 21) and Washington (Sept. 28). The match-up with the Huskies begins a five-game homestand for CU. A game against Washington State concludes the month.

October is packed with Pac-12 play, with visits from three more conference opponents. The Buffs hope to strike gold once more against California after defeating the Golden Bears 1-0 in their first meeting last season. Colorado is hungry for its first wins against the reigning NCAA Champion Stanford (Oct. 7) and against Oregon State (Oct. 13).

The Buffs finish the month on a four-game road trip out West. CU heads to Los Angeles to face UCLA on Oct. 19 and Southern California on Oct. 21. The Buffs have just one win against the Bruins in four meetings, and dropped their first meeting against USC last season. Colorado searches for their first wins in Arizona against Arizona (Oct. 26) and Arizona State (Oct. 28).

CU once again closes its season against Utah, with a home match on November 2. Colorado holds a 6-2 lead against the Utes, with its two losses coming in the teams' first and most recent meetings.

