

2009-10 SEASON IN REVIEW



Colorado finished the 2009-10 season with a 13-17 overall record and finished the Big 12 regular season in 11th place at 3-13. Despite the sub-.500 mark, the 36th season of Colorado women's basketball was highlighted by a host of memorable games and performances.

Colorado took advantage of home cooking early by winning nine of 10 nonconference games at home en route to a 10-3 preseason record.

The Buffaloes finished second at the Minnesota Subway Classic and won their own Omni Classic at the Coors Events Center.

Brittany Spears and **Bianca Smith** were named to both all-tournament teams while **Chucky Jeffery** was named to the Omni Classic All-Tournament team. Jeffery hit the game winning shot against Harvard in the Omni championship game.

Other big wins during the non conference campaign came against Denver, Seton Hall and San Jose State among others. The 84-57 win over Denver was the first game against the Pioneers in 10 years. The Buffaloes also delivered one of the biggest paybacks in team history, blowing out Seton Hall 80-54 one year after suffering a 37-point loss on the Pirates home floor. Colorado's lone loss at home during the nonconference schedule was to nationally ranked Virginia.

Playing ranked teams turned into a trend during Big 12 play as the Buffaloes played 10 such contests during the league campaign, and two more against teams that had been ranked at one point during the season. In all, CU's 11 games against ranked teams were the second most in team history, trailing only the 16 played in 2001-02. The Buffaloes played 15 of their 30 games against teams that would advance to either the NCAA or WNIT postseason events.

Colorado's tough Big 12 schedule provided some bright moments. By picking up victories at Missouri and Kansas State, the Buffaloes recorded multiple Big 12 road wins in one season for the first time since 2004. Against Missouri, Colorado rallied from a 12-point second half deficit as Spears scored a season-high 34 points, including a 3-pointer that sent the game to overtime.

Even in losses the Buffaloes had some hard-fought battles. Colorado kept pace with No. 3 Nebraska in Lincoln, before falling 89-73, by drilling 15 3-pointers, the second most in team history and the highest ever output on the road. Additionally, the 15

3-pointers set a Bob Devaney Sports Center record as well as a Nebraska opponent mark.

Colorado led the Big 12 and ranked 14th in the nation in free-throw accuracy at 76.1 percent, the third best mark in team history. CU's 229 3-pointers made were the second most on the team's all-time charts. The Buffaloes ranked second in the Big 12 and 18th in NCAA Division I in 3-pointers made at 7.6 per outing.

Spears led Colorado in scoring (17.7 ppg), rebounding (7.8 rpg) and steals (2.1 spg), earning honorable mention to the 2010 All-Big 12 Conference team. She is one of only six players in team history to reach 1,500 points and 700 rebounds in a career. Spears ranked among the Big 12 leaders in nearly every statistical category including scoring, rebounding, steals, blocks, 3-pointers and free-throw percentage.

Smith was named the 2010 Big 12 Sixth Man Award winner after averaging 12.8 points per game and leading the Big 12 in 3-pointers (2.7 3mpg) and free-throw percentage (.887). She graduates as CU's single-game, season and career leader in 3-point field goals made and attempted. Smith completed her career in 18th place on CU's all-time scoring list with 1,138 points.

Jeffery and **Meagan Malcolm-Peck** started the majority of the season for the Buffaloes as true freshmen, which bodes well for their future. Jeffery topped the Buffaloes in assists as a true freshman in 2009-10 while averaging 9.3 points and 5.2 rebounds per game. Jeffery also played solid defense, leading all Big 12 freshman in steals with two per outing, and ranking fourth overall on the league charts. Malcolm-Peck pitched in 5.3 points and 3.7 rebounds per game and was CU's top shot blocker with 34 in her initial season.

Colorado picked up several Big 12 weekly honors. Spears was named Player of the Week on Nov. 23 after her performance at the Minnesota Tournament. Jeffery and Malcolm-Peck each earned Big 12 Freshman of the Week honors. Malcolm-Peck was honored on Dec. 28 and Jeffery on Jan. 11.

Sophomores **Alyssa Fressle** and **Julie Seabrook** were named to the Academic All-Big 12 Conference Women's Basketball First Team. Kathy McConnell-Miller ended her five-year run as head coach of Colorado with an overall record of 65-88, as it was announced by CU athletic director Mike Bohn on March 29, 2010 that she would not return for the 2010-11 season.



Bianca Smith



Meagan Malcolm-Peck