



2011-12 OUTLOOK

With the uncertainty that surrounds every coaching change well in the distance, the University of Colorado women's basketball team is focused on building off a successful 2010-11 season. Head coach **Linda Lappe** and her staff can move away from teaching their concepts from scratch, and towards capitalizing on the experiences of a year together.

"It's night and day in terms of what our players understand; the level at which they have been practicing," Lappe said. "We still have a long ways to go, but it really is amazing what a difference a year can make in terms of their work ethic, in terms of their teamwork. Last year there wasn't that distinction between freshmen and everybody else, but this year we definitely have a line from our returners to our freshman...but our freshmen are doing a great job, they'll catch on quickly."

But no season is without some change, and the Buffaloes face two significant ones; moving from the Big 12 to the Pac-12 Conference and replacing Brittany Spears, the school's all-time leading scorer.

"We have a lot of points to make up," Lappe said. "The bright side is that we should be a lot more balanced this year and hopefully tougher to guard as we go through the season, but it means everybody has to step up. We have to do a better job of executing our offense and being balanced."

Despite the loss of Spears, Colorado isn't void of playmakers; in fact the Buffaloes return a dynamic guard in **Chucky Jeffery**. The 5-foot-10 junior did just about everything but mop the floor during timeouts last season. Jeffery led Colorado in assists (4.3 apg) and steals (2.5 spg) while ranking second behind Spears in scoring (13.5 ppg) and rebounding (7.9 rpg). She had nine double-doubles as a sophomore and logged just the second triple-double in team history with 10 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists against Loyola Chicago.

Jeffery split time with sophomore guard **Brittany Wilson** last year, but with the gradu-

ation of Britney Blythe, the duo will likely see a lot of time on the floor together, with both able to play either guard position. Wilson had a solid freshman season averaging 7.8 points and 3.4 rebounds while ranking second on the team in assists with 61. While the on-court positioning may continue to rotate as needed, Lappe is encouraged by the growth in Jeffery.



Chucky Jeffery

"I have seen a lot of leadership out of Chucky this fall, something we didn't see last year, a lot of consistency," she said. "We're trying to get better this year at playing the same way, whether it's practice or playing Stanford, Wisconsin or (Texas A&M) Corpus Christi.

"The point guard leads that and that's what I'd expect from Chucky, there's a lot of growth to be made between your sophomore and junior year. She's now an upper classman and has been through every scenario you'd expect in a college atmosphere. She's ready to settle in and help our team be successful."

Brittany's twin sister **Ashley Wilson** also returns to the Colorado backcourt after appearing in 30 of 34 games a year ago. Despite playing limited minutes, the elder of the Wilson twins provided great energy off the bench and is looking forward to contributing even more with a year under her belt.

Incoming freshmen **Lexy Kresl**, **Jasmine Sborov** and **Esther Lee** solidify the Colorado backcourt, each bringing something a little different. Kresl

led the state of Arizona in scoring the last two years and is a formidable outside threat. Sborov, out of Round Rock, Texas, is a bigger guard at 6-0, and will help the Buffaloes defensively. Lee, who won a California state title with Harvard-Westlake in 2010, joined Colorado as a walk-on this fall.

Heading out towards the wing, junior **Meagan Malcolm-Peck** is Colorado's most consistent long-range threat. She averaged 7.0 points and 4.6 rebounds as a sophomore while knocking down 38 3-pointers. Malcolm-Peck hit 36 percent from downtown, ranking among the leaders in the Big 12 in 2011.

"Meagan got really good last year at figuring out where her



Meagan Malcolm-Peck



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shots were going to come from, and getting herself ready before the pass even came, and that made her consistent from behind the arc," Lappe said. "She's also been working really hard on her pull-up jumper and her drives and finishes at the rim. And as she gets stronger she'll be able to finish even better than she did in previous years."

With the departure of Spears, the Buffaloes retool at that position. In addition to Meagan Malcolm-Peck, her twin sister **Brenna Malcolm-Peck** returns after missing the 2010-11 season with a leg injury. Colorado also brings in freshman **Arielle Roberson**, a 6-1 forward from San Antonio and the younger sister of CU men's forward Andre Roberson.

"Arielle is going to be one of our better rebounders," Lappe said. "She's also shown that she can hit the outside shot; she's pretty versatile in what she brings."

Colorado's lone senior is 6-3 forward **Julie Seabrook** who gained newfound success under Lappe. Seabrook started all 34 games last year, leading the Buffaloes in field goal accuracy at 49 percent. Her primary presence remains in the post, but her ability to shoot from outside helps stretch the opponent's defense.

"Julie is very good away from the block," Lappe said. "She's very good with setting screens and reading screens. She really helps our offense flow, and she helps our defense flow as well. I still foresee her playing against the other team's post players, but we are going to move her away from the rim a lot, away from the basketball because she can hit the three."

Seabrook's contributions go beyond the box score. The North Vancouver, B.C. native, whose experiences included a spot on the Canada World University Games team this past August, is a valued team leader for her ability to communicate on the floor.

"Julie did a great job last year of leading us," Lappe said. "She helps our freshmen get to where they need to go, she helps our



Brittany Wilson

other post players, and really just makes everything go. Julie is one of those players that can get five rebounds and score two points, and be the MVP of the game just because she made the team go offensively and defensively."

Seabrook will be joined down low by returning sophomore **Rachel Hargis** and incoming freshman **Jen Reese**. Hargis' play improved as the season went along last year and she emerged as one of Colorado's post defenders. Reese, a 6-2 forward, had a storied high school career earning back-to-back Gatorade Oregon Player of the Year honors. She averaged 25 points and 20 rebounds as a senior, guiding Clackamas High School to a 27-2 record and a Class 6A runner up finish.



Julie Seabrook

After advancing to the quarterfinals of the 2011 Postseason WNIT, the Buffaloes will look to improve on that finish with the road looking remarkably different. This season CU says goodbye to Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas and hello to California, Arizona, Washington, Oregon and Utah with the Pac-12. Colorado will face an 18-game Pac-12 schedule with home-and-home series against all but four teams (CU plays USC and UCLA in Boulder while traveling to the Washington schools.)

"One of the main differences is we have to get to know a whole new conference, we have to get to know whole new players, and they also have to get to know us," Lappe said. "I think that's a benefit sometimes when they don't know your players, they don't know your style as much some of the other teams in the Big 12 coming into here, so that might be a positive.

"I think the thing we are going to have to be better at this year is handling the ball better under pressure, and breaking presses because there weren't a whole lot of teams in the Big 12 that press, and that play change-up defenses. In the Pac-12 there's a lot of different defenses in the half-court and in the full-court, so we are going to have to be better prepared for that and that's going to be fun and that's going to be something that we're ready for."