



2011-12 SEASON IN REVIEW

A historic start to a new beginning and a memorable finish highlighted the 2011-12 University of Colorado women's basketball season.

The Buffaloes ushered in the Pac-12 Conference era with a 21-14 overall record; the school's first 20-win season in eight years. Colorado experienced some growing pains in the first league schedule, finishing in 10th place at 6-12, but rebounded to make a run to the quarterfinals of the 2012 Postseason WNIT.

Under second-year head coach **Linda Lappe**, the Buffaloes couldn't have started the season any better. Colorado swept its 11-game nonconference regular season schedule and equaled the second-best start in school history at 12-0 by defeating Utah, 58-52, in its inaugural Pac-12 game.



Jasmine Sborov

During the preconference run, the Buffaloes won two tournaments: their own Omni Hotels Classic and the UTSA Holiday Classic in San Antonio. The Buffaloes also enjoyed rivalry wins over Colorado State and Denver.

After winning their first 10 games by an average of nearly 20 points a contest, the Buffaloes developed a flair for the dramatic. In the final game of the nonconference schedule against Creighton, neither team led by more than seven and it took a 3-pointer at the buzzer by freshman **Lexy Kresl** to preserve a 52-49 win over the eventual Missouri Valley Conference Tournament Champions.

Colorado then erased second half double-digit deficits to win two of its first three Pac-12 games. The Buffaloes trailed Utah 48-38 with 10 minutes left, but ended on a 20-4 run, holding the Utes scoreless for the final 8:33 of the contest. After suffering its first loss of the season at Washington, Colorado responded with a 57-56 win at Washington State in which the Buffaloes trailed by 11 midway through the second half before rallying for the road win.

At 13-1, 2-1 in Pac-12 play, the Buffaloes would face their first sustained adversity of the season. Colorado let a double-digit lead slip away against California in the Pac-12 home opener and followed with losses to No. 4 Stanford and at Arizona State.

Colorado regained some of its mojo with back-to-back tight wins. After edging Arizona 56-54 on national television to break its three-game slide, Colorado played one of its most complete games of the season in defeating USC 69-67, exacting revenge on the Trojans who ended CU's season in 2010-11 in the WNIT quarterfinals. **Chucky Jeffery** accounted for the final points in both wins hitting the go-ahead bucket at Arizona with 17 seconds left and two free throws against USC with under two seconds left.

Just three days after the big USC win, Colorado received its first of several heartbreaks during its worst stretch of the season. The Buffaloes had a late lead at home against UCLA, but the Bruins rallied to tie the game in the final minute and eventually won, 62-54 in overtime. That setback began a stretch where CU lost eight of nine, twice in overtime at home and another pair by two and five points.

While the NCAA Tournament was falling out of reach, Colorado still had plenty to play for. At 16-12, the Buffaloes were already eligible for WNIT play, but needed a strong finish to solidify a spot.



Jen Reese

Not wanting their season to end in the first days of March, the Buffaloes responded. CU broke a five-game losing streak by defeating Oregon State 67-57 on Senior Day. A fitting final regular season home game for Julie Seabrook, who had a double-double, while exacting pay-back for an ugly 20-point loss in Corvallis in early February.

The Buffaloes, who had earned the No. 10 seed in the Pac-12 Tournament, continued their momentum into the postseason with a 55-41 win over No. 7 Utah for their first conference tournament win

since 2007. Colorado dropped a hard-fought battle to No. 2 seed and eventual tournament runner up California, 68-59 in the quarterfinals.

Colorado advanced to the WNIT for the second straight season, its first back-to-back postseason appearance of any kind since



playing in four straight NCAA Tournaments from 2001 to '04. The Buffaloes won WNIT games against Northern Colorado, South Dakota and Villanova before falling to an inspired Oklahoma State team on the road in the quarterfinals.

Jeffery had an incredible postseason run averaging 15.8 points and 11.8 rebounds during the WNIT. She had double-doubles in the final three games and recorded her second career triple-double, and just the program's third, with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists at Oklahoma State.

The Buffaloes had the third best rebounding defense (34.4 rpg) and rebounding margin (+5.7 rpg) in the Pac-12 and also ranked fifth in scoring defense (58.4 ppg), field-goal percentage (.396) and offensive rebounds (13.6 orgp).

Overall Jeffery led the Buffaloes at 15.5 points, 8.0 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.3 steals per game. She was prominent on the Pac-12 leader board, ranking fourth in assists, fifth in steals, sixth in scoring and defensive rebounds (6.1 drpg), eighth in overall rebounding, 10th in assist-to-turnover ratio (0.8), 12th in field-goal percentage (.445) and 13th free-throw percentage (.680).

Jeffery scored in double-figures in 30 of Colorado's 35 games and reached the 20-point mark on eight occasions. She had a team-best 10 double-doubles on the season, tying for seventh in the Pac-12 and also seventh on CU's single-season list. She led or shared the team lead in scoring in 21 contests this season. Jeffery had the second-most assists in a junior season (133) and 11th overall. Her 541 points were the ninth best in team history while she also ranked fourth in minutes played (1,161), seventh in steals (82), eighth in field-goals made (211) and ninth in rebounds (280). Her point total is the third-best by a junior while her rebounds and steals both rank fourth.

Jeffery was the MVP of CU's Omni Hotels Classic and was named Pac-12 Women's Basketball Player of the Week on Dec. 4.



Brittany Wilson

Senior forward **Julie Seabrook** led Colorado in field goal accuracy at 48.8 percent while also averaging 7.3 points and 5.2 rebounds per game. An honorable mention Academic All-Pac-12 pick, Seabrook played in 120 career games and started the final 69 contests of her career. Her 35 starts this year tied De Celle Thomas (1995-96) for the third-most in one season in a CU uniform. Seabrook closed out her playing career ranking 16th in field-goal percentage at .487. She went out with a bang, leading the Buffaloes with 16 points and tying career-highs with four 3-pointers on six attempts in the WNIT quarterfinal game at Oklahoma State. Seabrook, who ranked seventh in the Pac-12 in field-goal percentage during conference games (.474) shot 50 percent or better in 22 of 35 games, 10 of 18 in league play. She made 81 percent from the line (25-of-31) during conference play.

Sophomore guard **Brittany Wilson** was second on the team in scoring (9.1 ppg), assists (63), steals (47) and 3-point field goals (44). She was Colorado's leading scorer at the Pac-12 Tournament (19.5 ppg) and averaged 13.7 points on 42 percent shooting during the six-game postseason. Wilson ranked 13th in 3-point percentage (.312), 14th in 3-pointers made (1.3 3mpg) and 27th in scoring on the Pac-12 charts. Brittany's twin sister **Ashley Wilson** hit 47.8 percent from the field on the season while averaging 3.5 points and 2.9 rebounds per game.

Freshman guard **Lexy Kresl** ranked third on the team in scoring at 9.0 points per game and led Buffaloes in 3-point field goals (63). On the Pac-12 charts she ranked fifth in 3-pointers made (1.8 3mpg), 12th in 3-point percentage (.318) and 28th in scoring.



Meagan Malcolm-Peck