



## 2012-13 SEASON IN REVIEW

Colorado went into the 2012-13 season, looking to “be uncommon.” Conference or national rankings or advancing to the NCAA Tournament was not going to define whether or not goals had been achieved. It was a call to do the little things it takes to be great, knowing that focus and determination would get the Buffaloes to where they wanted to be at the end of the season.

So a focused Colorado squad went about its business, displaying the hard work, dedication and desire to “be uncommon.” From there, the rest took care of itself.

Colorado had its best season in nearly a decade, finishing with a 25-7 overall record and by placing fourth in the Pac-12 Conference at 13-5.

The 25 wins are the eighth best total in team history and the most since 1995-96 (26-9) while Colorado’s 24 regular season wins are the most since the 1994-95 squad won 24 en route to a school-record 30-3 finish. CU’s .781 winning percentage is the fifth best in the program record book.

The Buffaloes registered a perfect preseason schedule for the second straight year. Colorado won all 11 of its nonconference games, including solid regional wins over Wyoming, Colorado State and Denver. CU won its 16th Omni Hotels Classic title by defeating Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and dispatching of defending Mountain West Conference champion San Diego State.

But the win during nonconference play that began to turn heads, not only in the Colorado community, but on the national scene was CU’s statement-making 70-66 win over then-No. 8 ranked and eventual national runner up Louisville on Dec. 14.

That win, which put Colorado at 9-0, helped propel the Buffaloes into the *Associated Press* Top 25 for the first time since 2008. Two weeks later, at 11-0 and heading into Pac-12 play, the Buffaloes entered the *USA Today Sports Coaches’* poll. With the exception of one poll (Jan. 8 Coaches), Colorado remained ranked for the rest of the season, reaching as high as No. 18 in both polls March 4.

Colorado’s preseason push helped prepare the Buffaloes for a challenging Pac-12 schedule. After finishing in a tie for 10th

place in their first league season in 2012, not much was expected out of CU as the team was picked to finish ninth in the preseason coaches’ poll.

The Buffaloes were aiming to find a way to get through a brutal beginning of the league schedule. CU would pair up with the consensus top two teams - California and Stanford twice in the first four weeks of the season.

California and Stanford were as strong as advertised, meeting up with the Buffaloes ranked at least No. 7 or better in all four matchups. While Colorado lost those four meetings, the Buffaloes sandwiched in four wins against Utah (twice), Arizona and Arizona State to draw even through the first eight.

A disappointing loss at No. 18/19 UCLA on Feb. 1, put CU at 4-5 at the Pac-12 midway point. That loss coincided with consecutive setbacks at the Bay Area schools, marking the first time in school history the Buffaloes had played three straight ranked opponents on the road.

But the way the Buffaloes responded from that loss was impressive to say the least. Two days following the UCLA game, Colorado rebounded with a strong 65-49 win at USC. That victory sparked a run which saw Colorado win its final nine Pac-12 games, its longest win streak within conference games in one season since the 1994-95 team swept the Big Eight at 14-0.

A little bit of everything happened during that late-season run. The Buffaloes had convincing home wins over Oregon, Washington and Washington State. CU also had nail-biting road wins, overcoming double-digit deficits in wins over Arizona State and Oregon State. Colorado came back from a 12-point second half deficit to defeat Arizona State and erased an 18-point first half deficit to knock off Oregon State in overtime.

The win at Oregon State capped off CU’s regular season run that vaulted the Buffaloes to a 13-5 league mark and sole possession of fourth place in the final league standings. Colorado’s 13 conference wins were the third most in team history, trailing only



**Chucky Jeffery**



**Arielle Roberson**



the program's two undefeated Big Eight teams (14-0) in 1989 and 1995. The Buffaloes finished +7 in league wins from a year ago (6-12).

Colorado earned the No. 4 seed in the Pac-12 Tournament, and extended its overall win streak to 10 by defeating No. 5 Washington 70-59 in the quarterfinals. This marked the first time in program history the Buffaloes had two winning streaks of 10 or more games in the same season.

CU fell to top-seed and eventual champion Stanford in the semifinals, its deepest conference tournament run since reaching the 2003 Big 12 semifinals.

Capping off an outstanding regular season, Colorado was awarded the No. 5 seed in the Norfolk Region of the 2013 NCAA Tournament. It was CU's 13th NCAA Tournament bid and first since 2004. The Buffaloes, which hosted first- and second-round games at the Coors Events Center, welcomed in No. 12 Kansas, No. 4 South Carolina and No. 13 South Dakota State to Boulder.

Colorado's memorable run would end however in the first round, as the former Big 12/Big Eight rival Kansas Jayhawks claimed a first round win, 67-52 over the Buffaloes.

All-Pac-12 guard **Chucky Jeffery** led the team in scoring (13.7 ppg), assists (4.0 apg), rebounds (8.2 rpg) and steals (2.2 spg). Jeffery had 10 double-doubles on the season, eight of which came during Pac-12 play. On the Pac-12 leaderboard Jeffery ranked fourth in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.3), fifth in steals and assists, sixth in overall rebounding and defensive rebounds (6.3 drpg), ninth in scoring and 13th free-throw percentage (.709).

Redshirt freshman forward **Arielle Roberson** was second on the team and ranked 17th in the Pac-12 in scoring at 12.1 points per game. The 2013 Pac-12 Freshman of the Year and five-time Pac-12 Freshman of the Week, she was second on the team in



Jen Reese

rebounding at 6.2 per game. She ranked seventh in offensive boards (3.0 orpg) and 16th in overall rebounding the Pac-12 leaderboard.

Junior guard **Brittany Wilson** ranked second on the team in steals (1.3 spg), assists (2.2 apg) and 3-point field goals (32) while coming in fourth in scoring at 8.3 points per contest. A member of the Pac-12 All-Defensive team, she became the 10th player in team history to reach 100 career 3-pointers in the Pac-12 semifinal against Stanford. Wilson finished the season ranking sixth in the Pac-12 in free-throw percentage at .762.

Sophomore forward **Jen Reese** made a successful return from a freshman-year

eye injury, playing in all 32 games this season. She was third on the team in scoring (8.4 ppg) and rebounding (4.9 rpg) while hitting 42.5 percent from the field and a team-best 80.6 percent from the foul line. Reese earned honorable mention to the All-Pac-12 team.

Junior center **Rachel Hargis** emerged as one of Colorado's best defenders. Hargis had a team-best 34 blocked shots and career-high 26 steals, 15 of which came during CU's late season 10-game win streak (1.5 spg). Hargis, who missed the NCAA Tournament with a knee injury, finished 10th in the Pac-12 in blocked shots at 1.1 per outing.

Sophomore **Lexy Kresl** led Colorado in 3-point shooting for the second-straight year, connecting on 34 from long range. She averaged 6.0 points and 2.7 rebounds per game while ranking third on the team in steals with 38. She ranked 14th in the Pac-12 in 3-point percentage 3-pointers made per game at 1.2.

Freshman forward **Jamee Swan** finished the season as CU's field-goal percentage leader (.455), second on the team in blocks with 28 and fourth in rebounding at 4.5 per game. She had a great Pac-12 Tournament averaging 10.5 points, 8.0 rebounds and 2.0 blocks over the two games.



Brittany Wilson