



# HEAD COACH LINDA LAPPE

Fifth  
Season



When Linda Lappe first came to Colorado as a freshman in the fall of 1998, she joined a basketball program with a proud history, but facing a rebuilding period. Over her five-year career as a player she helped lead the Buffaloes from a time of struggle to the doorstep of the Final Four.

In the spring of 2010, Lappe returned to Boulder, finding the Colorado program in a similar mode of rebuilding as she had when she arrived a decade earlier. But as she did as a player, her desire to return the Buffaloes back to prominence wouldn't be denied.

Now four years into her reign as head coach of her alma mater, Lappe is proving once again to be a catalyst in the revival of Colorado basketball.

Lappe is 83-52 at Colorado, and in just four short seasons, ranks second in all-time coaching wins for the program. She has guided the Buffaloes to four-straight postseason berths: the 2013 NCAA Tournament and three Postseason WNIT appearances (2011-12, '14). The 2014-15 season will be her eighth overall as a collegiate head coach, sporting a seven-year mark of 133-88 with each season ending with a record of .500 or better.

She has led the Buffaloes to four-straight winning seasons, and postseason appearances, for the first time since 2000-04. Additionally, Colorado's NCAA Tournament appearance in 2013 was its first since 2004.

Lappe brought Colorado back into the *Associated Press* national rankings for 25 straight weeks spanning parts of the last two seasons, from Dec. 17, 2012, to Jan. 13, 2014. Her team reached as high as No. 11 in the *AP* poll and No. 14 in the *USA Today Sports* coaches' poll during the 2013-14 nonconference schedule.

Bolstered by a statement-making upset win over then No. 8-ranked and eventual national runner-up Louisville, Lappe helped Colorado to its first *AP* Top 25 ranking since 2008, debuting at No. 25 on Dec. 17, 2012. With the initial ranking, Lappe became the eighth NCAA Division I women's basketball coach to play for an *AP* ranked team and then return to lead that same program back into the *AP* poll. Overall she was the 31st person to coach and play for an *AP* ranked women's team.

She picked up her 100th collegiate coaching win, and 50th at Colorado, with an 84-39 victory over New Mexico on Dec. 29, 2012. That win also clinched the Buffaloes' second-straight perfect nonconference regular season record (11-0). Colorado would extend its preseason success into 2013-14, winning its first nine games and establishing a 33-game nonconference regular season win streak which ended only after dropping a competitive 69-62 decision by No. 7 ranked Louisville on the

road in December 2013.

Lappe led Colorado to a 19-15 record in 2013-14, advancing to the third round of the Postseason WNIT. After a 9-0 start led the Buffaloes to a No. 11 *AP* national ranking, Colorado was hit by the injury bug, and a slow start to Pac-12 play. However, as in previous years, the Buffaloes found momentum late in the season, winning five of their final eight games through a fourth-straight postseason appearance.

In her third season, Lappe led Colorado to a 25-7 mark and a fourth place finish in the Pac-12 at 13-5, its most overall wins since 1995-96 and league wins since 1994-95.

When the Buffaloes heard their name called on NCAA Selection Monday, she became one of eight head coaches to play for and coach the same program in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament as Colorado was invited to the Big Dance for the 13th time in program history.

Lappe has coached a pair of first-team all-conference performers, one for each league she's coached in. Lapped guided Chucky Jeffery to back-to-back All-Pac-12 honors in 2012 & '13 and Brittany Spears to All-Big 12 accolades in 2010-11.

Colorado's 2012-13 individual awards were plentiful to say the least. Arielle Roberson was named the Pac-12 Freshman of the





## Lappe's List

### Position

Head Coach, Colorado (2010-present)  
 Head Coach, Metro State (Colo.) (2007-10)  
 Assistant Coach, Colorado State (2006-07)  
 Assistant Coach, Drake (2003-06)

### Noteworthy

1 NCAA, 3 WNIT  
 50-36 record  
 Assisted former CU  
 Assistant Jen Warden  
 47-42 record, two  
 Postseason WNIT  
 appearances

**Playing Career:** Colorado, 1998-2003

### Honors:

First Team Academic All-Big 12 Conference: 2001, 2002, 2003

All-Big 12 Honorable Mention: 1999, 2003

Three NCAA Tournament Teams: 2001, 2002 (Elite Eight) &  
 2003 (Sweet 16)

CU Crystal Ford Adams Scholar Athlete Award: 2002, 2003

CU Sixth Man Award: 2002

CU Offensive MVP: 1999

Finalist, V Foundation Comeback Player of the Year Award: 2003

Year, while earning honorable mention to both the All-Pac-12 and league All-Defensive teams. Brittany Wilson earned All-Pac-12 Defensive honors while Jeffery and Rachel Hargis were given honorable mention along with Roberson.

Lappe helped mentor Spears, CU's all-time leading scorer, into a 2011 WNBA second round draft pick (No. 19 overall) by the Phoenix Mercury. Two years later, her team celebrated Jeffery being selected by the Minnesota Lynx in the second round (No. 24 overall) of the 2013 WNBA Draft. Jeffery would go on to play 17 games for the New York Liberty spanning the 2013 and '14 seasons.

Her staff has also been successful on the recruiting trail with four strong classes, including the 27th ranked recruiting class in the nation in 2013, according to ESPN's HoopGurlz.

Her second season (2011-12) couldn't have started any better. Colorado swept its 11-game nonconference regular season schedule and with its first ever Pac-12 win, a 58-52 come-from-behind classic at Utah in the opener, CU equaled the second-best start in school history at 12-0.

Colorado also achieved its first conference tournament win since 2007 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2012 Postseason WNIT for the second straight season.

At the time of her hire, Lappe, now 34, was the youngest head women's basketball coach at a BCS conference school, behind only Jamie Craighead (Sacramento State) and Candace Whittaker (UMKC). Just a couple months after her 30th birthday, she became the second-youngest to be named head coach of the CU women's team. Lappe's mentor, CU Athletic Hall of Fame coach Ceal Barry, was 28 when named on April 12, 1983, exactly 27 years to the date of her own hiring.

Possibly surprising to those outside the program, but not those who played or





## Lappe's College Coaching Record

Year	School	Overall (Pct)	Conf (Pct)	Finish	Postseason
2007-08	Metro State	19-10 (.655)	14-5 (.737)	2nd/RMAC East	RMAC Tourn
2008-09	Metro Sate	14-14 (.500)	12-7 (.632)	3rd/RMAC East	RMAC Tourn
2009-10	Metro State	17-12 (.586)	11-8 (.579)	3rd/RMAC East	RMAC Tourn
2010-11	Colorado	18-16 (.529)	6-10 (.375)	t-8th/Big 12	WNIT Quarters
2011-12	Colorado	21-14 (.600)	6-12 (.375)	10th/Pac-12	WNIT Quarters
2012-13	Colorado	25-7 (.781)	13-5 (.722)	4th/Pac-12	NCAA 1st Round
2013-14	Colorado	19-15 (.559)	6-12 (.375)	t-9th/Pac-12	WNIT 3rd Round
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>4 Years</b>	<b>83-52 (.615)</b>	<b>31-39 (.443)</b>		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7 Years</b>	<b>133-88 (.602)</b>	<b>68-59 (.535)</b>		

coached with her previously, Lappe's first year turned heads of outsiders immediately. With an emphasis on team, Lappe helped Colorado's squad thrive. She inherited a team with only six healthy returning players, three of which had limited playing experience. Lappe meshed the returners with three newcomers who all contributed significant minutes.

Picked to finish last in its final season as a member of the Big 12 Conference, Colorado surprised naysayers with a 6-10 record, good enough for an eighth place tie in a league that sent seven teams to the NCAA Tournament. Her first CU team finished 18-16 overall, advancing to the quarterfinals of the 2011 Postseason WNIT.

Lappe was the only rookie NCAA Division I head coach with wins over ranked teams in 2010-11, both wins special in their own way.

The first win was a 66-60 overtime triumph over No. 17 (AP)/16 (ESPN/USA Today/WBCA) ranked Iowa State. The victory provided Lappe with her first Big 12 win and came against her home state school.

Her second win over a ranked opponent provided a different set of circumstances. Needing wins in three of their final four regular season games to ensure postseason eligibility, Lappe's squad didn't waste any time by knocking off No. 16/15 Oklahoma (73-68) in Boulder. The Buffaloes then proceeded to win two straight road games, their first road wins of the season, to clinch their WNIT berth. Lappe became one of three NCAA I rookie head coaches to lead a team into the 2011 postseason, guiding Colorado to wins over UC Riverside, future Pac-12 rival California at home and on the road at Wyoming.

A key contributor as a player for some very prominent Colorado women's basketball teams, Lappe was named the seventh head coach in the program's history by then-athletic director Mike Bohn on April 12, 2010, just under a decade removed from her playing career at her alma mater.

Lappe returned full circle to the Buffaloes after a three-year stint as head coach at Metropolitan State College in Denver. She was 50-36 at Metro State, guiding the Roadrunners to top-three finishes and winning records in the Eastern Division of

the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference in each of her three seasons.

Her 2009-10 squad finished 17-12 overall before ending the season in the RMAC Tournament semifinals against the eventual NCAA Division II national runner up in Fort Lewis (Colo.) College. She had two players earn RMAC All-Eastern Division honors in 2010 in Kristin Valencia and Chelsea Williamson and Valencia was tabbed as the East Division Defensive Player of the Year.

Lappe's 2007-08 Metro State team posted a 19-10 overall record, finished second in the RMAC's East Division and qualified for the conference tournament. Metro State put together a season-high nine-game winning streak during the season and ranked third in the RMAC in scoring defense.

She landed her first head coaching job after four years as an assistant at the NCAA Division I level, three with Drake University (2004-06) and one with Colorado State (2006-07).

Lappe was hired at Colorado State by Jen Warden, a former Colorado assistant who was on the bench with Barry during Lappe's playing career. At CSU, Lappe was the recruiting coordinator and also worked with the Rams' backcourt players.

Lappe began her collegiate coaching career at Drake where she spent three years on Amy Stephens' staff, helping the Bulldogs to a 47-42 mark. She assisted Drake to WNIT appearances in 2004 and 2006 and helped sign a Top 50 class that would go on to help the Bulldogs claim the 2007 Missouri Valley Conference Championship.

A two-year captain and All-Big 12 honorable mention selection, Lappe averaged 7.8 points, 3.7 rebounds and 2.0 assists in 115 games from 1998-2003. She helped Colorado to three consecutive NCAA appearances from 2001-03, including an Elite Eight appearance in 2002 and a spot in the Sweet 16 as a senior in 2003.

Lappe averaged 8.4 points and 4.4 rebounds as a senior 2003 while dishing out 96 assists, and shooting 84.3 percent from the free throw line as the Buffaloes finished 24-8 and fourth in the Big 12. She was a finalist for the V Foundation



Comeback of the Year award after missing large chunks of her sophomore and redshirt junior years with injuries.

She missed the first 11 games the 2001-02 season, but worked her way back into the lineup for CU's Elite Eight squad averaging 4.6 points and 2.9 rebounds per game against a brutal schedule that included 16 games against ranked teams.

Lappe helped CU to a 22-9 mark in 2000-01 and the team's first NCAA appearance since 1997. She led the Big 12 in free throw percentage at 85.9 percent and tallied seven points and nearly three rebounds per contest.

As a freshman in 1998-99 Lappe was CU's offensive MVP after she led the team in scoring (10.7 ppg), free throws made (91) and percentage (.827), assists (3.8 apg) and steals (1.7 spg) as the Buffs made their first ever postseason WNIT appearance. She played just two games as a sophomore in 1999-2000 before a broken knee cap ended her season.

A three-time first team Academic All-Big 12 honoree, Lappe graduated from CU with her bachelor's degree in business administration in 2002. She is a native of Morning Sun, Iowa, where she had a stellar prep career. An honorable mention Street & Smith's All-American, she graduated from Winfield-Mount Union High School with prep records in career points (1,987), steals (402), steals in a season (111), steals in a game (10), career assists (652), season assists (208), single game assists (14) and a 110-3 (.974) career record.

She was a first-team Class A (the smallest classification in Iowa) all-state selection from 1996 to 98 and a second-team



all-Iowa pick following her freshman year. Her Winfield-Mount Union teams were the Class A state champions in 1995 and 96 and her 1997 team went 28-0 before being upset in the state semifinals, snapping an 80-game win streak. Her 1998 Winfield-Mount Union team would also return to the state finals. In 2009 Lappe was inducted into the Iowa Girls Basketball Hall of Fame.

The daughter of Tom and Jean Lappe, she has two siblings who both played college basketball. Her older brother Burt is a graduate of Northern Iowa, and her younger brother Jake is a graduate of Luther (Iowa) College.

### Lappe Against Opponents (NCAA I Only)

Alcorn State .....	1-0	Missouri .....	2-0	Stanford.....	0-7
Arizona .....	6-0	UMKC.....	1-0	TCU .....	1-0
Arizona State .....	2-4	Nebraska .....	2-0	Tennessee-Martin.....	1-0
Baylor.....	0-1	New Mexico .....	2-0	Texas .....	0-1
California .....	1-6	North Dakota .....	1-0	UTEP .....	0-1
UC Riverside .....	1-0	Northern Arizona .....	1-0	Texas-Pan American .....	1-0
Creighton .....	1-0	Northern Colorado.....	1-0	Texas A&M.....	0-1
Colgate .....	1-0	Oklahoma .....	1-0	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.....	2-0
Colorado State .....	4-0	Oklahoma State.....	0-2	Texas State .....	1-0
Dayton.....	0-1	Oregon.....	3-2	Texas Tech .....	0-1
Denver.....	3-1	Oregon State.....	3-2	UCLA .....	3-2
Evansville.....	1-0	Regis.....	1-0	Utah.....	5-2
Idaho .....	2-0	Rice.....	1-0	Utah Valley.....	1-0
Illinois.....	2-1	San Diego State.....	1-0	Valparaiso .....	1-0
Iowa.....	1-0	San Francisco.....	1-0	Villanova.....	1-0
Iowa State.....	1-1	Santa Clara .....	1-0	Washington .....	2-3
Kansas .....	0-4	South Alabama.....	1-0	Washington State .....	2-2
Kansas State .....	0-2	South Dakota .....	1-0	Weber State .....	1-0
Louisville .....	1-1	Southern Utah .....	2-0	Wisconsin.....	1-0
Loyola Chicago.....	1-0	USC .....	2-4	Wyoming.....	3-0



**Jenni Benningfield** is in her first season as an assistant coach for the CU women's basketball team and third overall.

Benningfield served the last two seasons as the director of operations for the Buffaloes' program. With the addition of Jamie Carey in June 2014, Colorado now has two former WNBA veterans on its coaching staff.

In her two seasons as director of operations, Benningfield handled a variety of duties including scheduling and team travel, monitoring the budget and coordinating community service efforts. She was also co-director for Colorado's summer basketball camps.

During her first season she took on the task of organizing Colorado's 10-day tour of Italy which took place in August 2013.

Before joining the women's basketball staff, she was a volunteer assistant coach with the Buffaloes' volleyball team in 2011, serving as a sports psychology consultant. She was also the head varsity girls basketball coach at Pomona High School in Arvada for the 2011-12 season and in that same role at Nederland (Colo.) High School in 2010-11.

A native of Louisville, Ky., Benningfield was a four-year standout at Vanderbilt University (2000-04) where she helped the Commodores to four NCAA Tournament appearances and a pair of SEC Tournament titles (2002, '04). She scored 1,501 points for Vanderbilt, averaging 11 points and 6.3 rebounds in 136 career games. A two-time All-SEC second team selection (2003, '04), Benningfield earned honorable mention to the 2003 *Associated Press* All-America team as a junior averaging 16.5 points and 7.9 rebounds while shooting 56 percent from the field.

Benningfield was drafted by the Charlotte Sting in the second round of the 2004 WNBA Draft (22nd pick overall). She later signed with the Indiana Fever, where she played the 2005 season. In addition to her WNBA career, she played internationally in Spain (2004-08) and Australia (2008-09).

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Human Development from Vanderbilt in 2004 and completed her Master of Education in Sport Psychology and Counseling from Boston University in 2010. Benningfield served as a sport psychology consultant at Wheelock College in Boston while working on her master's.

Benningfield is a 2000 graduate of Assumption High School in Louisville, the same school that produced Ceal Barry. She excelled in both volleyball and basketball at Assumption, earning second team All-America honors and a national championship in volleyball while earning Miss Basketball in Kentucky on the hardwood. She was a captain on the 2003 USA silver medal winning basketball team at the Pan-American Games.

## Benningfield's Chart

Director of Operations, Colorado (2012-14)

1 NCAA Tournament

1 WNIT

### Professional Playing Career:

Australia (2008-09)

Spain (2004-08)

Indiana Fever, WNBA (2005)

2004 WNBA Draft Pick, Charlotte Sting

### College Playing Career:

Vanderbilt University (2000-04)

4 NCAA Tournaments

2 SEC Tournament Championships

Two-time All-SEC Second Team



**ASSISTANT COACH JAMIE CAREY**First  
Season

Former WNBA point guard and USA Basketball administrator **Jamie Carey** is in her first season as an assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Colorado, joining the program on June 16, 2014.

Carey joins Colorado after four years with USA Basketball as the assistant women's national team director. She worked with all levels of the national team program, helping the organization identify coaches and

athletes for participation. Carey assisted with organizing logistics for trials, training camps and international competitions, supported the athletes and staff on site internationally and assisted with practice for all national teams.

While working with USA Basketball, Carey was a three-year head girls basketball coach at Sand Creek High School in Colorado Springs (2011-14), guiding the program to a 62-16 record, three Colorado Class 4A Great 8 State appearances and a pair of Pikes Peak Athletic Conference titles. She was the Pikes Peak Athletic Conference Coach of the Year this past season and the Colorado Springs Area Coach of the Year in 2012.

Carey's high school coaching career included two seasons at Legacy High School in Broomfield (2008-10), helping the team to a Colorado Class 5A runner up finish in 2010. Her five year high school coaching record is an impressive 106-25 (.809).

One of the top point guards in the nation, Carey was drafted by the Phoenix Mercury with the 31st overall pick in the 2005 WNBA Draft. She would later sign as a free agent with the Connecticut Sun, where she enjoyed a four-year career on some very successful teams. Connecticut played in the postseason all four years during Carey's time there, including the 2005 WNBA Finals.

Her collegiate career was a well-documented achievement over adversity. The 1999 Ms. Colorado Basketball out of Horizon High School, Carey signed to play at Stanford where she was the 2000 Pac-10 Conference Freshman of the year, a member of the Pac-12 All-Freshman team and named to several Freshman All-America squads.

However concussions sidelined her career at Stanford for the next two seasons. Carey resumed her career at the University of Texas in 2002 where she was a two-time All-Big 12 Conference selection and helped the Longhorns to the 2003 Women's Final Four. She was a finalist for several national awards over her final two seasons including the Wade Trophy, Naismith Award and Nancy Lieberman National Point Guard of the Year in 2004 and 2005.

Carey won the Jim Valvano Comeback Player of the Year Award in 2004 and received numerous off the court accolades. As a senior in 2005 she was named the NCAA Woman of the Year and earned the Big 12's Dr. Prentice Gautt Postgraduate Scholarship. Carey was a two-time Academic All-Big 12 pick and named to the 2005 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America team.

Carey helped the 1998 USA World Youth Games Team to a bronze medal and the 2003 USA Pan American Games Team to a silver medal. She also played for the USA in the 2007 Women's National Team College Tour, and she served on the USA Basketball Developmental National Team Committee.

**Carey's Chart**

USA Basketball, 2010-14

Assistant Women's National Team Director

Head Coach, Sand Creek High School (Colo.), 2011-14

2014 Pikes Peak Athletic Conference Coach of the Year

Three Class 4A Great 8 State Appearances

Head Coach, Legacy High School (Colo). 2008-10

2010 Class 5A State runner up

106-25 Overall Coaching Record

**Playing Career**

Connecticut Sun, WNBA (2005-08)

Colorado Chill, NWBL (2005-06)

University of Texas (2002-05)

Stanford (1999-02)

**Honors:**

NCAA Woman of the Year, 2005

Big 12 Postgraduate Scholarship, 2005

ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American, 2005

All-Big 12 First Team, 2004 &amp; '05

Naismith Award &amp; Wade Trophy Finalist, 2004

Jim Valvano Comeback Player of the Year, 2004

2003 NCAA Final Four Appearance

Pac-12 Freshman of the Year, 2000

Freshman All-American, 2000

Carey earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Texas in 2004 and completed her Masters of Education in Sport Management in 2006. She was Valedictorian of her graduating class at Horizon in 1999 where she was also a WBCA High School All-American and Colorado's Gatorade Player of the Year.





# ASSISTANT COACH KELLY RAE FINLEY

Third  
Season



**Kelly Rae Finley** is in her third season as an assistant women's basketball coach as she was hired by head coach Linda Lappe on May 18, 2012. She serves as Colorado's recruiting coordinator and also coaches the wing position.

Finley has helped Colorado to winning records and post season berths in each of her two seasons on the Buffaloes' bench enjoying a 2-to-1 success ratio with a two-year record of 44-22. Colorado was 19-15 overall in 2013-14, advancing to the third round of the postseason WNIT.

Her first season in Boulder turned out to be a terrific one as Colorado participated in its first NCAA Tournament since 2004. The Buffaloes were 25-7 in 2012-13 and finished fourth in the Pac-12 Conference at 13-5. Additionally, Colorado enjoyed its first national ranking since 2007-08, reaching as high as No 18 in the Associated Press and WBCA Coaches Polls.

As the recruiting coordinator, she's helped Colorado to establish a strong foothold not only in the Pac-12 footprint, but nationally and worldwide. Her first recruiting class in 2013 hit a pair of Pac-12 states in Washington and California, while reaching out to Virginia. Class number two hit California once again, while revisiting Texas, historically an important area for Colorado recruiting, and the Buffaloes' first international recruit in six years.

Finley, 29, arrived at Colorado after four years on the staff at Harvard University (2008-12); the last three as a full-time assistant coach. The Crimson posted a 75-41 mark in her four seasons in Cambridge including four second place Ivy League finishes – a record of 42-14 - and three Postseason WNIT appearances.

At Harvard, Finley was the recruiting coordinator, signing a class in 2011 that was ranked 31st in the nation by ESPN including the Ivy League's first McDonald's All-American in Temi Fagbenle. She coached 12 All-Ivy League players and coordinated player development with an emphasis on the forward position.

Off the court Finley was Harvard women's basketball's liaison for equipment management, community outreach coordinator and was an active participant at alumni events. She was a Harvard Faculty Affiliate with the Leverett House, an upperclass dorm. Finley also continued her education with graduate studies in organizational leadership & non-profit management through the Harvard University Extension School.

Finley graduated cum laude from Colorado State University in 2008 with her bachelor's degree in human development and family studies. She was a two-year letterwinner for the Rams and was a Mountain West Conference Scholar-Athlete Award winner in 2008. She played one year for Lappe, who was a CSU assistant in 2006-07. Finley began her collegiate career at

## Finley's Chart

Assistant Coach, Colorado (2012-present)

1 WNIT 1 NCAA Tournament

Assistant Coach, Harvard (2008-12)

3 WNIT Appearances

### Playing Career

Colorado State (2005-08)

Mountain West Conference Scholar Athlete Award

Northwestern (2004-05)

Northwestern University where she lettered in 2004-05.

She was involved with Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Collins and Chicago as well as a representative on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

A native of Minneapolis, Finley was a three-year team captain for The Breck School, helping her team to a Minnesota Class 2A State Championship in 2004, runner-up finish in 2003 and a third-place showing in 2002. Her AAU team, the Minnesota Metro Stars won the Nike Showcase championship in Chicago in 2003.

Finley began her coaching career in her native state, as an assistant with her former AAU team from 2005-07. She coached the 12U, 13U and 16U teams, developing game schemes and practice plans while assisting with tournament organization and coordination. Finley also served as the MN Hardball basketball camp director from 2007-08, engaged in all aspects of the organization's functions.

