



2014-15 SEASON IN REVIEW

Colorado finished the 41st season of women's basketball with a 15-17 record, along the way exhibiting an exciting brand of basketball that provided its share of memorable moments.

The Buffaloes had their best overall offensive effort in nearly a decade. Colorado had success scoring inside and out, and by utilizing a balanced attack. The more players involved the better as the Buffaloes had a sparkling record of 15-5 when three or more players scored in double digits.

Colorado averaged nearly 70 points per game and hit the 80-point mark eight times. Three-point efficiency was a strength as the Buffaloes led the Pac-12 and ranked eighth in the nation from beyond the arc at 38.2 percent. That figure ranks as the fifth best in team history and the best overall since 2001-02.

The Buffaloes efficiency from the field wasn't limited to the 3-point arc. Colorado's overall field goal percentage of 42.9 was its best mark since 2003-04 and its 74.8 percent showing from the foul line ranks ninth in the team annals.

Colorado also had its share of nail-biting moments. The season featured a school-record four overtime contests, three of which came in the first seven games, and the sixth double-overtime outing in program history. The Buffaloes had 16 games decided by 10 points or less with half of those coming against Pac-12 Conference opponents.

The Buffaloes embarked on one of the most competitive nonconference schedules in recent memory by participating in the 2014 Preseason WNIT, reaching the quarterfinals and finishing with a 2-1 mark. A consolation round win over Arkansas State sparked a season best five-game win streak which included a road win at Denver and also top honors at the 2014 Omni Hotels Classic.

Colorado won its home holiday classic for the 18th time, and in dramatic fashion. After cruising to a first round win against Missouri State, the Buffaloes had their hands full in the championship against Colorado State. Facing a 14-point second half deficit the Buffaloes fought back to win in double-overtime on the heels of **Lexy Kresl** who sported a triple-double (12 points, 11 rebounds, 11 assists) en route to Omni Classic MVP honors. **Jen Reese** also earned All-Tournament honors, registering 26 points and 14 rebounds against the Rams.

Colorado would finish out nonconference play at 7-4, against a schedule that collectively won 60 percent of its games and accounted for eight postseason appearances.

The Buffaloes then entered what would prove to be one of the most competitive Pac-12 seasons in recent years. Five teams would make the NCAA Tournament, the league's most in nine years, plus another two played in the WNIT.

Colorado had a rocky start to conference play dropping its first four, including the season's only meeting with Stanford and California on the road. The Buffaloes regrouped to sweep their home-and-home series with Utah.

After dropping five of its next six, four of which game against postseason teams, Colorado started to gain some momentum for the final stretch run. The Buffaloes put together their best all-around performance to date with a resounding 72-51 win over Washington State. Colorado was also able to celebrate Senior Day in style with an 84-69 win over Oregon.

Having split each of its final three weekends, Colorado finished out the Pac-12 season at 6-12 and in ninth place in the standings. In a season that had its share of highs and lows, the Buffaloes ended with a bang.

As the No. 9 seed in the Pac-12 Tournament, Colorado matched up for a first round game with No. 8 USC. The Trojans swept the season series, winning a pair of games by an average of 18 points. But this was a different Colorado team. The Buffaloes shot 53 percent and controlled the game throughout, taking a 75-63 decision and in the process securing their streak of winning at least one game in each Pac-12 Tournament they've competed in since joining the league in 2011-12.

One night later, Colorado turned the heads of the entire nation, knocking off the top seed and No. 8/9 ranked Oregon State, 68-65 in the quarterfinals. Avenging a 22-point loss in Boulder just two weeks earlier, the Buffaloes became the lowest seed to ever defeat a No. 1 or 2 seed at the Pac-12 Tournament. Kresl scored 19 points and tied a tournament record by hitting 5-of-5 from 3-point range. Jamee Swan registered her eighth double-double of the season with 18 points and 13 rebounds as Colorado advanced to the semifinals for the second time in three years.

The run came to an end in the semifinals as Colorado fell to No. 4 seed California 68-55, in a closely fought game in which the Bears pulled away late.



Jen Reese



Lexy Kresl



Junior forward **Jamee Swan** led Colorado at 13.2 points, 7.9 rebounds and 1.9 blocks per game, earning honorable mention to the coaches All-Pac-12 team. Her 62 blocked shots rank fifth on Colorado's single-season list. She shot 46.7 percent on the season and also led the Buffaloes in free throws made (101) and attempted (141). Swan scored in double-figures a team-best 22 times including six of her last eight and 12 of her last 15. Swan also led the team with eight double-doubles and 10 double-digit rebounding games.

In the Pac-12 Swan ranked second in blocks, fourth in offensive rebounds (3.2 orpg), sixth in overall rebounding, 12th in defensive rebounds (4.8 drpg), 13th in scoring and 15th in field goal percentage.

Senior guard **Lexy Kresl** was third on the team in overall scoring at 12.4 points per game while pacing Colorado at 4.5 assists and 1.1 steals per outing, joining Swan as an honorable mention Pac-12 pick. She was the team's top 3-point shooter at 40.7 percent (61-of-150). Her 61 3-pointers rank 13th on Colorado's all-time season list while her 134 total assists rank 11th.

Kresl was named to the Pac-12 All-Tournament team as she averaged 14.0 points, 5.0 assists and 4.0 rebounds while hitting 49 percent from the field. On the overall Pac-12 charts Kresl ranked fourth in assists and free-throw percentage (.818), sixth in 3-pointers made (2.0 3mpg), seventh in 3-point percentage, 11th in assist-to-turnover ratio and 19th in scoring.

Senior forward **Jen Reese** was second in scoring (12.9 ppg), rebounding (6.9 rpg) and field goal percentage (.470). She completed her illustrious playing career as one of only 11 Buffaloes to record 1,200 points and 600 rebounds. Reese recorded double figures in scoring in 21 games including a career and team-season high 30 against UCLA on Jan. 11, the game in which she surpassed 1,000 points in her career.

She finished 2nd in the Pac-12, and 24th in the nation, in overall free throw percentage (.864). Reese topped all Pac-12 players in free throw percentage during conference games hitting 93 percent (40-of-43) and at one point made a team season best 24 straight.



Jamee Swan



Haley Smith

Also on the Pac-12 leaderboard, Reese was ninth in defensive boards (5.3 drpg), 11th in overall rebounding, 12th in field goal percentage and 15th in scoring.

Sophomore guard **Haley Smith** led Colorado and ranked ninth in the Pac-12 in field goal percentage (.472). She hit 88 percent from the line (51-of-58) but fell just below the minimum number of attempts to be ranked on the league leaderboard. That number was good enough though for the ninth best single-season mark in team history (minimum 50 attempts). Smith was third on the team in rebounding (5.4 rpg) and fourth in scoring (9.4 ppg).

Senior guard **Jasmine Sborov** started all 32 games and averaged 6.5 points and 5.0 rebounds and ranked second on the team in assists with 78. In the win over Oregon she scored

13 points, grabbed a team-best nine rebounds and dished out four assists. Sborov had one of her best all-around games of her career in this season's first game with Arizona scoring 14 points with 11 rebounds and seven assists. It was her third career double-double, the second this season and first ever against a conference opponent. In fact all three numbers, points-rebounds-assists, are personal bests in a Pac-12 game.

Sophomore wing **Lauren Huggins** was second on the team with 43 3-pointers and hit 38.4 percent from long range, ranking 11th in the Pac-12. She made 14 of her final 28 from 3-point range including 7-of-13 over her final four contests. Sophomore forward **Zoe Beard-Fails** averaged 3.5 points and 2.7 rebounds and was second on the team in blocked shots with 16. Against Long Beach State she had career highs in points (14), rebounds (8) and field goals made and attempted (7-of-13).

Colorado received help from its freshman class throughout the season. Guard **Brecca Thomas** led the class in scoring by averaging 3.3 points per game. Forward **Zoe Correial** was the top rebounder in the group, averaging just over two per game. Correial also hit 55 percent from the field and had 10 blocked shots. Guard **Alina Hartmann** averaged 2.5 points as a first year Buff and made 45 percent from 3-point range. Center **Bri Watts** saw spot action in 18 games, including the final six.