



CU women break into Top 25

K-Mac's squad has won seven consecutive games

Camera staff report

Tuesday, December 25, 2007

When Kathy McConnell-Miller's Colorado Buffs take the floor Friday against Southern Utah, it will be a first for the CU coach.

Monday afternoon, the Buffs were ranked No. 25 in the Associated Press poll -- their first appearance in the poll since the 2003-04 season and the first-ever appearance by a McConnell-Miller team.

The Buffs turned heads around the nation with back-to-back wins over Wyoming and Vanderbilt two weeks ago. They began to be named in the weekly balloting, but Monday was the first time they managed to break out of the "also receiving votes" category. The 8-2 Buffs have won seven in a row, the program's longest winning streak since the 2003-04 season. That year, Ceal Barry's team was ranked No. 17 in the final AP poll of the season.

McConnell-Miller, in her third season at CU, has been associated with Top 25 programs before, as an assistant coach at Illinois and Rutgers. This is her first appearance in the group as a head coach.

CU is the sixth Big 12 team in this week's poll, joining No. 9 Oklahoma, No. 10 Baylor, No. 14 Texas A&M, No. 19 Texas and No. 24 Oklahoma State. The Buffaloes are 12 votes behind the 10-1 Cowgirls.

Overall, it is CU's 155th appearance in the AP poll since 1980. The Buffs were ranked in 75 straight polls from Mar. 15, 1992, to Dec. 9, 1996, and 30 straight from Jan. 22, 2001 to Mar. 22, 2002.

The Buffs will play their first game as ranked team Friday when they play host to Southern Utah in a 7 p.m. contest at the Coors Events Center.



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CU women crack AP Top 25 poll

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The University of Colorado women's basketball team made its debut in the 2007 Associated Press Top 25 poll released Monday. The Buffs are ranked No. 25 this week, their first national ranking since 2004.

CU, receiving 91 votes, had been listed first among other teams receiving votes for the past two polls before making the jump Monday. CU was ranked No. 17 by the AP in its final poll of 2003-04.

The Buffaloes are 8-2 and have won seven straight games for the first time since early in the 2003-04 season. CU is one of six Big 12 Conference teams in the AP Top 25. The Buffs join No. 9 Oklahoma, No. 10 Baylor, No. 14 Texas A&M, No. 19 Texas and No. 24 Oklahoma State.

The Buffaloes are 12 votes behind 10-1 Oklahoma State.

This ranking marks CU's 155th appearance in the AP poll since 1980. The Buffaloes were ranked in 75 straight polls from March 15, 1992, to Dec. 9, 1996, and 30 straight from Jan. 22, 2001, to March 22, 2002.

CU will play its first game as a ranked team on Friday when it hosts Southern Utah University at 7 p.m. at the Coors Events Center. The game will be televised live on Fox Sports Net Rocky Mountain.



Aija Putnina and the CU women's basketball team are ranked for the first time since 2004. **Joshua Duplechian / Times-Call**

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

sports - region report

Buff's break into top 25

The Denver Post

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A seven-game winning streak, including two wins over ranked opponents, was enough to earn a ranking for the University of Colorado women's basketball team in The Associated Press Top 25 released Monday. CU (8-2) received 91 points to squeak in at No. 25, its first national ranking since reaching No. 17 in the final 2003-04 poll.

Colorado is one of six Big 12 Conference teams in the AP Top 25, including two in the Top 10 — No. 9 Oklahoma and No. 10 Baylor.

The Buffs' next game is Friday at the Coors Events Center against Southern Utah, and it will be televised on Fox Sports Rocky Mountain. The conference schedule begins Jan. 9 at Missouri.

Wyoming (11-1) moved up three spots in the poll to No. 21 after blowout wins over Northern Colorado and Westminster (Utah) last week.

14ers lose guard to Nets.

Colorado 14ers guard Billy Thomas is now an ex-14er after the New Jersey Nets called him up,

making him the fifth NBA Development League player called up to the big league this season.

Thomas, a 6-foot-5 guard, averaged 14.7 points and 4.7 assists for the 14ers. The University of Kansas product played 25 games for the Nets in 2004-05.

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