



# Bufs to wrap up Front Range tour

## Final stop at CSU includes matchup against another new coach

By Ryan Thorburn

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Once again, the other team's uniforms will look familiar but most of the faces belong to strangers as Colorado hits the road for another nonconference game along the Front Range.

The Buffs (5-5) will try to end a three-game losing streak tonight against Colorado State. The opening tip is scheduled for just after 7 p.m. at Moby Arena (television on the mtn.).

"A lot of coaching changes around the country," Richard Roby, CU's leading scorer and rebounder, has noticed. "I think DU had a new coach this year. And Air Force. And Wyoming. Everybody is finding themselves right now. That's just part of having a new staff, a new system and new players."

The Buffs, who are off to an inconsistent start under first-year head coach Jeff Bzdelik, were able to beat Joe Scott's Pioneers and Jeff Reynold's Falcons on the road. A shaky first half cost CU a chance to beat Heath Schroyer's Cowboys in Laramie.

Considering all of the local grudge matches will be played outside of Boulder this season, winning three out of four wouldn't be a bad run for the Buffs.

"I'm sure they're going to play extremely hard," Bzdelik said of CSU. "And they're going to be well prepared."

The Rams (5-6) have also struggled recently under their new head coach, Tim Miles, and enter the game on a three-game losing skid. Stuart Creason, the 7-foot senior center, is the only returning starter and one of only two returning lettermen in the program.

Bzdelik was 4-0 against CSU as Air Force's head coach but says he doesn't view tonight's game much differently than he did playing Colorado Christian or Stanford.

"Obviously some games are more special than others for the fans and the alums," Bzdelik said. "But from a coaching standpoint, I treat each game the same. I just want my team to be as prepared and motivated and ready to go as possible."

The returning players might be motivated by the Rams' 72-69 win last season at the Coors Events Center. It was the first time CSU left Boulder with a victory since Dec. 2, 1957.

"Every game I've played against them has been close," Roby said. "I think they've won two and we've won one. It's going to be another great game I presume."

Entering Friday night's action, the five Front Range teams with new coaches were a combined 24-25. And the RPI numbers for CU (155), CSU (156), Wyoming (260), Air Force (276) and DU (301) were even worse.

So, yeah, the Buffs and Rams should be a pretty good matchup.

"I think it's developing," Bzdelik said of CU's team chemistry. "You've got some new players out there, a new system. They're really good young men who care. We need to just teach them how to consistently play to win."



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