



Thorne's goal: Aggies

CU sophomore hopes to return for Big 12 play

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Sunday, January 6, 2008

There are probably about nine or 10 teams Jeff Bzdelik would prefer to make his Big 12 coaching debut against instead of Texas A&M.

But the Aggies will serve as the ultimate motivation for Dwight Thorne as Colorado's sophomore guard tries to come back from a deep bone bruise on his right knee in time for next Saturday's conference opener.

"Texas A&M is my goal," Thorne told the Camera after spending some time in the training room, his new home away from home, on Saturday. "I'll be back in the home state and I'll have a lot of friends and family at that game."

Thorne, a high school star in Arlington, Texas, will miss his second game on Monday night when the Buffs host Tulsa at the Coors Events Center. He scored 10 points before getting injured against Grambling State on Dec. 29.

Bzdelik, who only used a seven-man rotation during Friday night's 63-52 victory over SMU, is just relieved that his backup point guard was not lost for the season. An MRI revealed that the painful injury was not a torn ACL.

"We had good news there," Bzdelik said. "It's still going to take him a little while to calm the knee down. Hopefully we get him back here soon."

Without Thorne's services, senior point guard Marcus Hall played 37 minutes and led the Buffs with 16 points and six assists. Richard Roby added 15 points and four assists.

"It's hard not having Dwight on the court because he does a little bit of everything," Hall said. "We're just glad it's not something extra serious."

Thorne said the bruise was from an old injury and when he was running the floor against Grambling State something triggered its painful return.

"When I got the MRI back and it said it was just a nice bruise under the knee cap I was pretty relieved," said Thorne. "There's a lot of pain and swelling, but I'm starting to feel more comfortable. ..."

"I'm ready to get back out there and start practicing again and get ready to play. I want to get this thing on a roll in the Big 12 and just solidify the fact that this is a good basketball team."



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