



Twins complete CU's largest in-state class since 1997

Boulder sisters familiar with their future teammates

By Chris Shelton

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Sit down to visit with Boulder twin sisters Brenna and Meagan Malcolm-Peck and be prepared to be amused, charmed and impressed.

Meagan starts to tell the story of the time she broke both her arms snowboarding, and Brenna leans back on the sofa and waits for the right moment to interject the best part. So as Meagan is about to finish, Brenna leans forward and announces -- it happened on the bunny slope.

"She doesn't add all the details," Brenna explained.

The Malcolm-Pecks will complete more than each other's stories when they join the Colorado women's basketball team next fall.

The two 6-foot-2 wing players are part of the largest in-state recruiting class at CU since 1997. In addition to the Boulder twins, CU is expected to sign Sierra High point guard Janeesa "Chucky" Jeffery of Colorado Springs for three in-state recruits in one year. Rounding out this class is 6-foot-7 center Melissa MacFarlane of Omaha, Neb., who will become the tallest player in CU history when she joins the Buffs.

Members of the 2009 recruiting class can begin turning in their letters of intent today and they have a week to file them. The Malcolm-Pecks are expected to sign their letters Thursday during a ceremony at Horizon, where they play high school hoops. Jeffery and MacFarlane are expected to sign today.

"They can both shoot the 3, and they're both very good at slashing to the basket," Horizon coach Greg Hahn said of the Malcolm-Pecks. "They handle the basketball very well for girls over 6-foot."

Recruiting the top in-state players has been a priority for CU coach Kathy McConnell-Miller ever since she was hired in 2005. College coaches can't comment on players until they receive their letters of intent.

According to All-Star Girls Report, MacFarlane is rated the 20th best center in the country and No. 70 overall. Meagan and Brenna check in at Nos. 121 and 122, respectively, while Jeffery is not rated because she did not play club basketball this summer.

But the Malcolm-Pecks can give a scouting report on their 2009 teammates since they played with MacFarlane in club tournaments in Virginia and in Paris this past year.

"She is so fast for how tall she is. It was amazing. She was running with the point guards," Brenna said of MacFarlane.

"It helps to have a couple people you know on the team," Meagan added. "You can get adjusted quickly."

The Malcolm-Pecks also played against Jeffery in one club tournament.

"She's very fast," Brenna said. "She can handle the ball very well. She's awesome on defense."

And then there is MacFarlane's take on the Malcolm-Pecks.

"They're really nice and easy to get along with," MacFarlane said. "They push each other. They have really good shots. They'll be a good asset to the team."

Basketball fans in Boulder, however, might not know as much about the Malcolm-Pecks.

The two have been home-schooled since the seventh grade (playing for Sacred Heart in Boulder through the fifth grade and for Boulder Country Day in the sixth grade) and chose to play high school basketball outside the area.

When they were growing up, the best club program was Colorado Hoopster in Highlands Ranch. When it came time to play high school ball, they went with some of their friends and club teammates to ThunderRidge.

But after their mom developed heart problems, they moved back to Boulder so she could be near her doctor and they transferred to Horizon in Thornton for their junior and senior seasons. They wanted to play for a school that had a new coach and Hahn, who won a state title in 1993 at Horizon, returned to coach at Horizon after a brief hiatus.

"It would have been awesome to play locally," Meagan said. "It's just that we started so early, in the fourth grade, with Hoopster and we just felt it was right at the time. The Boulder Rockies (Jeffery's club team) now are a very good club team. It would have been a different situation."

The Malcolm-Pecks will get one chance to play in Boulder this season. Boulder and Fairview joined the Front Range League this year and Horizon will play at Fairview on Feb. 6. Boulder High and Monarch will play at Horizon this season. Of course, they can play at CU if Horizon makes it to the Final Four of the state tournament.

When the Malcolm-Pecks do become regulars at the Coors Events Center, expect a big cheering crowd. A large number of family members, as many as 20 of their cousins for instance, live in the Boulder area.

Their parents went to CU, too.

As Brenna said, "We're pretty excited to stay here and play for CU."

Notable

McConnell-Miller has two more scholarships available for 2009 recruits, but doesn't expect to sign any more players this fall. ... The 1997 freshman class of in-state recruits included Kami Carmann

(Arapahoe), Melody Johnson (Palmer), Nikki Swagger (Doherty) and Nikki Weddle (Montbello).



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