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Clock ticking on Buth's career at CU

By Chris Dempsey
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Alex Buth picked volleyball over tennis and golf as her college sport of choice. (Karl Gehring, The Denver Post)

Alex Buth's career as a volleyball star at Colorado comes to an end this week, something that has been increasingly on her mind. But that doesn't mean this Thanksgiving week she has nothing to be thankful for in a career that has proved she is one of the best to play the sport at CU. She took time to talk with staff writer Chris Dempsey about her career, Thanksgiving food and traveling.

Q: How has your senior season been?

A: It's been really up and down. Obviously, beating Nebraska was awesome, but losing four games right after that has been the definition of our season. It hasn't been very consistent. And this being my senior season, I kind of put a lot of pressure on myself and on our team to succeed.

Q: Has it hit you yet that your career is winding down?

A: It's already hit me, for sure. I think every day I kind of go in and say, this is one of my last practices or this is my last time playing a team. And so I almost need to probably stop doing that. I need to soak it in and take in the last week and not think of it as my last time but just enjoy it and have fun.

Q: How do you view your career?

A: A lot of dedication and hard work. I had a lot of fun. Playing for five seasons, I can't believe it's already over.

Q: In high school you played volleyball, golf and tennis. How'd you settle on volleyball?

A: I played tennis really seriously when I was little, traveled all around the country when I was 12, 13, 14. Played in national tournaments. And so I kind of had my serious dedication to tennis, got a little burned out, played in high school and kind of realized that I really wanted to play a team sport in college. I had a lot of encouraging people tell me I should pursue volleyball. I would get letters for tennis and kind of throw them in the trash. (laughs)

Q: So what's better: A kill, an ace or a hole-in-one?

A: I think definitely getting a block. That wasn't one of the options. (laughs) Or, getting a kill for sure is

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better than an ace.

Q: What's next for you, volleyball-wise, after college?

A: Old women's volleyball leagues. (laughs) No. Honestly, I don't know. It kind of just depends. Playing beach went through my head a little bit last year, but that's kind of fading a little bit because I have so many other things that I'm trying to get accomplished. If I get a call one day and get asked to play overseas, I could consider it. I went to Prague last summer and absolutely loved Europe. I'm basically open to any option.

Q: You've done a ton of community work as well. Why is that so important to you?

A: I really just have a passion for helping people, whether that's going to the hospital and talking or having relationships with other people who are less fortunate. That's definitely one of my passions, people, and helping out the community definitely correlates with that.

Q: Being that this is Thanksgiving week, what's your favorite thing to eat? Do you even get to pig out for Thanksgiving, given it's still in volleyball season?

A: Not really. (laughs) But I would say mashed potatoes. Turkey's good, too. But I would say mashed potatoes.

Chris Dempsey: 303-954-1279 or cdempsey@denverpost.com

Five Butth bests

Butth is big into traveling and has been around the world. Her five favorite places:

- Prague, Czech Republic

- Caribbean

- Munich, Germany

- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

- Her cottage on Lake Michigan

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