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college basketball

## Help on the way for CU hoops

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

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Depth is coming, depth is coming.

And none too soon for the Colorado men's basketball team, coach Jeff Bzdelik and his players said last week after being bounced from the Big 12 Tournament by Texas in the first round at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City.

Colorado (9-22, 1-15 Big 12) must only replace senior forward Jermyl Jackson-Wilson and will welcome at least four new players next fall. Much is expected from 6-foot-11, 250-pound center Shane Harris-Tunks of Sydney, Australia.

A graduate of the renowned Australian Institute of Sport, Harris-Tunks is a member of Australia's junior national team. "He will give us what we don't have," Bzdelik said.

CU played this season without a true center. At 6-6, Jackson-Wilson gave great effort in the paint but was often overmatched.

### CU Basketball

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- Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik .

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"(Harris-Tunk) is a banger, and in this league you need some bangers," junior guard Dwight Thorne II said.

Also signing in November were 6-5 combination guard Alec Burks of Grandview, Mo., in suburban Kansas City, and 6-6 wing forward Keegan Hornbuckle of Los Angeles. Burks led Grandview (28-1) to the Missouri Class 5A championship game. He scored 30 points and outplayed a Missouri signee during a recent tournament game. Hornbuckle also was recruited by Arizona and Arizona State.

"We're really encouraged by the way the guys coming into our program played this year," Bzdelik said.

Colorado could sign one or two more players when the spring signing period begins on April 15, Bzdelik said. One target is known to be 6-7,

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225-pound forward Marcus Relphorde of Indian Hills Community College (Iowa). Relphorde, who began his college career at Saint Louis University, would supply strength and athleticism to Colorado's frontcourt.

CU coaches have made dozens of recruiting trips during the season, including stops in Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Buffs could use an infusion of talent to complement expected improvement and maturity from players already on the roster. The 22 losses are the most in school history. Thorne will be the only senior next fall.

"We got a little fatigued this year," CU sophomore Cory Higgins said. "But next year, when we have depth, we will be fresh for the whole 40 minutes."

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## CU OUTLOOK

**Who's back:** 6-4 G Cory Higgins (17.4, 5.4 rebounds, third-team all-Big 12), 6-3 G Dwight Thorne II (12.0, 3.4), 6-9 F Austin Dufault (8.2, 3.7), 6-2 G Nate Tomlinson (7.4, 3.0 assists).

**Who's gone:** 6-6 F Jermyn Jackson-Wilson (5.4, 3.8).

**2009-10 schedule highlights:** Maui Invitational with top field that includes Arizona, Cincinnati, Gonzaga, Maryland, Vanderbilt and

Wisconsin; Big 12 vs. Pac 10 Hardwood Series game at Oregon State; Big 12 South opponents Oklahoma, Texas Tech and Baylor come to Boulder.

**November signees:** 6-5 G Alec Burks, Grandview (Mo.) HS, 22 points, 6.3 rebounds (led KC-area Grandview to Class 5A semifinals tonight); 6-6 F Keegan Hornbuckle, Campbell Hall HS, Los Angeles, 12.2 points (ESPN.com: "Hornbuckle has an almost effortless jumper ... and very good athleticism."); 6-11 C Shane Harris-Tunks, Australian Institute of Sport (playing for Australian junior national team).

**April hopefuls:** No oral commitments yet but 6-7 Marcus Relphorde of Indian Hills CC is known to be a target.

**Starting up:** The first full practices will begin in mid-October.

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