



## Jackson-Wilson stays positive through the losses

By Ryan Thorburn

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — Jermyl Jackson-Wilson came to Colorado from Ohio State, sat out a season per NCAA transfer rules and was about to finally lace up the sneakers for the Buffs when Ricardo Patton called him into his office.

The long-time CU head coach had decided not to seek a contract extension.

Jackson-Wilson's first season in Boulder would be Patton's last.

"The day he told me I cried like a little baby," Jackson-Wilson recalled. "But I didn't regret coming here. I knew there was a risk of him not getting a contract. I still wanted to come play for Coach P."

The Buffs were 7-20 during Patton's final campaign.

Although there is internal optimism about the future of CU basketball under Jeff Bzdelik, the team has posted a 21-39 record since he was hired to rebuild the program.

Add all the scores up from this painful transition and Jackson-Wilson has suffered through more losses than anyone in CU history over a three-year period.

So how does the friendly forward keep the tough times between the lines in perspective?

"Well, they say when life throws you lemons, make lemonade," Jackson-Wilson says through his million-dollar smile. "You've just got to take the good out of everything. You lose but you need to learn from it. You just keep working hard."

Jackson-Wilson graduated with a degree in ethnic studies last August and hopes to play professional basketball somewhere when his collegiate career ends this month.

Bzdelik, a long-time NBA scout and coach, will have some nice things to say about the hard-working forward if any prospective employers call to inquire about Jackson-Wilson.

And if the Buffs are able flip the familiar script in a couple years and start winning 20 games a season, Patton holdovers like Richard Roby, Marcus Hall, Marcus King-Stockton and Jackson-Wilson will have played important roles in the process.

"They are players I have the utmost respect for," Bzdelik said. "Because they've been caught in change and change is hard. They've handled it very well and been great people to coach."

Jackson-Wilson has started 62 games at CU (46 for Bzdelik) and is averaging 5.5 points and 3.9

rebounds as a senior.

“I’ve enjoyed playing for coach Bzdelik,” he said. “It has been a great experience. But it’s not over yet.”

The Buffs host Texas A&M tonight at the Coors Events Center (7 p.m., ESPNU). Jackson-Wilson will be honored before the game and will address the crowd when it ends.

It’s going to be another emotional night at CU for the program’s only senior, whether the Buffs snap their nine-game losing streak or suffer a 20th loss for the third straight year.

“I know these relationships will last a long time. I feel like I’m a part of the university forever,” Jackson-Wilson said. “I have my degree from here, went through all the blood, sweat and tears ... when they turn it around I definitely feel like I’ll be a part of it.”



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## CU men's preview: March 4, Texas A&M

By Ryan Thorburn

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

**TODAY** — Colorado will host Texas A&M at 7 p.m. in the Buffs' final home game of the season at the Coors Events Center.

**BROADCAST** — Television: ESPNU with Dave Armstrong and Reid Gettys; Radio: KKZN (760 AM) with Mark Johnson and Charles Johnson.

**STORYLINES** — The Buffs (9-19, 1-13) are looking to snap a nine-game losing streak. The program hasn't lost 10 consecutive games since closing the 1985-86 campaign with 17 straight losses. ... This will be the last home game for Jermyl Jackson-Wilson, the only senior in the program. ... Nate Tomlinson is expected to return to the starting lineup after missing the past two games due to a concussion. ... The Aggies (21-8, 7-7) have won four consecutive games and are looking to get back onto the NCAA Tournament bubble. ... Josh Carter sparked the team's late-season turnaround with a buzzer-beating, game-winning shot at Nebraska last week.

**KEY STAT** — The Buffs are on the verge of losing 20 games for the third consecutive season. That dubious streak would be a first in the 108-year history of CU basketball.

**COACHES** — Jeff Bzdelik is 21-39 in his second season at CU. Mark Turgeon is 46-19 in his second season at Texas A&M.

### PROBABLE STARTERS û

**CU** — G Nate Tomlinson, 6-2, freshman, 7.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg, G Cory Higgins, 6-5, sophomore, 17.3 ppg, 5.6 rpg, G Dwight Thorne, 6-2, junior, 12.3 ppg, 3.2 rpg, F Austin Dufault, 6-8, freshman, 8.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg, F/C Jermyl Jackson-Wilson, 6-6, senior, 5.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg.

**Texas A&M** — G Derrick Roland, 6-4, sophomore, 5.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg, G David Sloan, 6-2, sophomore, 11.1 ppg, 4.3 rpg, G Josh Carter, 6-7, junior, 13.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, F Bryan Davis, 6-9, sophomore, 10.4 ppg, 7.6 rpg, F Chinemulu Elonu, 6-10, sophomore, 10.4 ppg, 7.6 rpg.

**SERIES** — Colorado leads 9-6 but the Aggies have won the last five meetings since 2005.

**UP NEXT** — The Buffs will finish the regular season at Kansas State on Saturday (11:30 a.m., Altitude).



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