



Bzdelik set to get it started — in Springs

First four official CU practices under new coach will be held far from Boulder

By Ryan Thorburn

Thursday, October 11, 2007

The Colorado men's basketball team will make its first road trip of the season this weekend.

Jeff Bzdelik is taking his Buffs back to the coach's old stomping grounds — Colorado Springs — where the team will conduct its first four official practices together at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

"It should be interesting going up there and getting away from everybody," CU senior Richard Roby said with a smile. "There's no telling what he's going to do to us up there behind closed doors. Guys might be a little bit nervous about that, but we've got to start the season off right. And that's where it starts — in practice."

CU's new coaching staff has been working with players on a limited basis per NCAA rules this fall. Bzdelik has been pleased with the way the players have kept themselves in shape and said a lot of progress has already been made running his offense.

The Buffs will crank up the intensity beginning with a practice on Friday night, two more practices on Saturday, and one more on Sunday morning before returning to Boulder.

Bzdelik also took his Air Force teams to the same Olympic facility. His other former team, the Denver Nuggets, will be using the Coors Events Center on Friday night for a preseason game, which led to his decision to practice in Colorado Springs.

"Time is of the essence with us. We need every possible moment," Bzdelik said. "It's really inspiring down there because you're going to stay in the Olympic dorms, you're going to eat in the Olympic cafeteria, we're going to practice in a beautiful facility. Every player will have their own basket. And it will be nice and quiet."

Bzdelik and his assistants have already spent countless hours scouring the country for talent and preparing to get the most out of the players they have inherited from Ricardo Patton. The returning Buffs have been trying to do their part in the classroom and with conditioning.

Now Bzdelik gets to start enjoying his favorite time of the year.

"To me the fun part is being on the practice floor," Bzdelik said. "It's better than the games, it's better than recruiting, it's better than everything else that you do on the job. Just coming out here and seeing players who want to get better and learn."

Although Patton did exit with a painful 7-20 season, the cupboard wasn't left completely bare.

Roby, an honorable mention All-Big 12 preseason pick, returns hoping to parlay a successful senior season into a future in the NBA. Xavier Silas, another talented player who showed flashes of his potential last year as a freshman, should make some significant strides after a year of Big 12 experience. And Marcus Hall returns to help run the new offense after sitting out last season with an injury.

The Buffs open up the regular season on Nov. 9 against New Mexico at the Coors Events Center.

"We have a long ways to go, trust me," Bzdelik said. "I'm just trying to take it day by day and get better every day. And whatever happens, we'll just keep working to do the best we can."



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu basketball

Bzdelik building confidence

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 10/11/2007 12:06:30 AM MDT

BOULDER - First-year Colorado men's basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik realizes that fans want to know how the Buffaloes will adapt to his Princeton-style offense with all the passing, cutting and screening involved.

"Everybody makes such a big deal about it; let's just call it the 'Colorado offense,'" Bzdelik said Wednesday, two days before college programs can begin full practices. "European basketball is really what it is. But we'll just call it the Colorado offense."

Bzdelik said he sees signs the players are beginning to understand its principles.

"We've had some backdoor (layups) that have made the players even surprise themselves," Bzdelik said with a grin.

Senior guard Richard Roby, an all-Big 12 Conference pick as a sophomore but coming off a disappointing junior season, said he has enjoyed learning a new system.

"It's amazing when you can run it and it even

works against guys that understand it," Roby said, referring to intrasquad scrimmages. "When we go against teams that don't understand it, they won't have a chance."

Colorado, 7-20 in Ricardo Patton's final season, will practice Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. CU's Coors Events Center will be used Friday for the Nuggets vs. Portland preseason game, and Bzdelik liked the fact that a three-day trip to Colorado Springs could promote team bonding.

"Our guys will see world-class athletes

training for the Olympics," said Bzdelik, who took his Air Force Academy teams there. "And practicing at a higher altitude won't hurt, either." training for the Olympics," said Bzdelik, who took his Air Force Academy teams there. "And practicing at a higher altitude won't hurt, either."

Colorado returns four starters: the 6-foot-6 Roby, 6-5 sophomore Xavier Silas, 6-9 senior Marcus King-Stockton and 6-6 senior Jermyl Jackson-Wilson. Also back is 6-2 senior Marcus Hall, a starter in 2005-06 who sat out last season to concentrate on academics. Jeremy Williams, a 6-7 sophomore forward, was a part-time starter last season but is academically ineligible this semester.

With the roster lacking depth, true freshmen Cory Higgins (6-4), Levi Knutson (6-4) and Caleb Patterson (6-11) could be called upon to contribute.

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase.
One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

"We do have athleticism and mobility at all positions," Bzdelik said. "(But) we lack size. And the players need confidence, because their confidence was shaken last season."

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or tkensler@denverpost.com

training for the Olympics," said Bzdelik, who took his Air Force Academy teams there. "And practicing at a higher altitude won't hurt, either." training for the Olympics," said Bzdelik, who took his Air Force Academy teams there. "And practicing at a higher altitude won't hurt, either." training for the Olympics," said Bzdelik, who took his Air Force Academy teams there. "And practicing at a higher altitude won't hurt, either."

 Print  Email  Return to Top

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase.
One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07