



CU's Williams to miss rest of season

Sophomore will retain three years of eligibility

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Jeremy Williams told the Camera before Colorado's practice on Friday that he will redshirt this season.

CU officials later confirmed the decision in a press release.

The 6-foot-7 forward was academically ineligible for the fall semester and had planned to return to the lineup in January. But after Williams discussed his situation with the coaching staff during the Christmas break the decision was made to have him sit out the remainder of the schedule.

"He has already missed 11 games and grades are still pending," CU head coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "He can have three full seasons instead of two and a half and he can continue to concentrate on his academics to get them even stronger next semester."

Williams played in all 27 games, including 18 starts, last season as a true freshman and averaged 7.7 points and 4.6 rebounds.

There is no question the Buffs could use him this season when the Big 12 schedule begins, but even the upperclassmen seem to understand the long-term vision Bzdelik has for the program and Williams.

"He deserves to have a full year of playing basketball," senior Richard Roby said. "It's not going to hurt him at all. And whatever is best for him, we're all going to support him."

Williams will have three years of eligibility remaining. As will 6-9 sophomore forward Casey Crawford, who is sitting out this season after transferring to CU from Wake Forest.

"We view it as a very positive situation," said Bzdelik, who will welcome a promising class of five freshmen next season. "We had an outstanding recruiting class and all of those players are playing really well right now. You couple that with, to me, Jeremy being like another recruit along with Casey Crawford. That gives you added strength."



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Bzdelik's Buffs aim to reclaim home advantage

Just 1-3 at home, CU hosts Grambling today

By Ryan Thorburn
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Jeff Bzdelik believes that when he rebuilds the Colorado men's basketball program the fans will come back to the Coors Events Center.

But the first-year CU head coach could sure use the help of the student body when Big 12 play begins.

"We need them," Bzdelik said on Friday before his team practiced on an eerily quiet campus. "Of course, we also need to couple that with playing well."

The Buffs (6-5) -- who have posted a very respectable 5-2 record in games played outside of Boulder this season -- will host Grambling State (0-6) today at the Coors Events Center (2:05 p.m., KKZN).

Bzdelik's team will also play SMU (Jan. 4) and Tulsa (Jan. 7) at home before the students return for the spring semester.

The bad news: CU is 1-3 at the Coors Events Center, where the average attendance so far is 5,128.

Maybe the Buffs should wear their black uniforms for these final three nonconference games?

"We have to play with the same intensity that we play with on the road at home," senior Richard Roby said. "When you're on the road you feel like everybody is against you and there is an extra little drive. We've got to have the same drive at home. We can't just expect teams to fold just because you're at home."

CU is coming off a 73-70 victory at Colorado State last Saturday. Roby led four Buffs in double figures scoring with 18 points as the team executed Bzdelik's offense more precisely than it had in the previous 10 games.

"We're definitely making improvements. I think we won one road game last year, so that's a good improvement," Roby said. "Now we have three straight home games. We feel like we need to win all of them to get a winning record at home and get some momentum going into the Big 12."

The Buffs, coming off a 7-20 season, can win their seventh game of the season today. CU didn't pick up its sixth win last season until Feb. 3.

But will anyone come and witness the rebuilding process?

"Fans are fans. There are a certain core of them that will support you regardless," Bzdelik said. "Then

there's a lot of them that when you win they'll be out there. We just have to worry about what we can control and that's playing good basketball."



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