



# Bufs eye first win as Rattlers next up

## CU begins play in Wisconsin tourney

By Ryan Thorburn  
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MADISON, Wis. — Jeff Bzdelik's team will face seven opponents that appeared in the NCAA Tournament last season.

Well, sort of.

Colorado (0-1) plays Florida A&M (1-0) at 4:30 p.m. today to open the three-day America's Youth Classic here at the Kohl Center. The Buffs will also play Savannah State on Friday and Wisconsin on Saturday.

"I know they won 21 games last year and played in the NCAA Tournament," Bzdelik said when asked about the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference champions.

FAMU won its conference tournament in March to earn a bid to the Big Dance, but the school expressed disappointment with the selection committee after the team's run was only rewarded with a spot in the play-in game at Dayton, Ohio.

The Rattlers lost 77-69 to Niagara, which went on to lose to Kansas 107-67 in the first round.

Now FAMU — which plays road games at Kansas State, Texas A&M and Baylor in December — will have the opportunity to play a Big 12 opponent on a neutral floor.

The Buffs, coming off a 54-47 loss to New Mexico in the opener, aren't exactly feeling like Goliath entering the matchup. Any win, over a David like FAMU or a basketball giant like Duke, would feel pretty good for the players who endured last season's 7-20 nightmare.

"We need to get back on the court," Richard Roby said after scoring one point against the Lobos. "Keep working, and fix these things."

CU's defense was solid against New Mexico, holding Steve Alford's talented new team to 39.1 percent shooting and 24 points in the second half. Freshman Cory Higgins helped limit KU transfer J.R. Giddens to four points.

But the Buffs didn't give the crowd of 8,372 at the Coors Events Center anything to cheer about on the other end. The home team was 4-for-19 (21.1 percent) from behind the arc and only made 15 shots all night.

"We're getting a little bit better every day," Bzdelik said after Wednesday's practice at the Kohl Center.

"We've been spending a lot of time working on our offense. We want to run so that we attack quickly and precisely. We always need to be looking to score and putting ourselves in positions to score."

Roby is walking a fine line right now. He doesn't want to force shots like he did last season, but the senior needs to take more than three shots he totaled in the opener.

"He was too passive in his movement without the ball," Bzdelik said. "He was open at times and teammates missed him. And so were other players. ... "We can't just run offense to run offense. We need to run offense to score. And there is a difference."

Marcus Hall led CU with 11 points, six rebounds and four assists against New Mexico. The senior point guard also had four turnovers and was 1-for-5 on 3-pointers.

The Buffs would love for the Rattlers, who opened the season with an 86-83 victory over Carver (Ga.) Bible College, to stick with their aggressive, man-to-man defense today. CU has primarily faced zone defenses and struggled to knock down perimeter shots.

"We had a tough opener," Bzdelik said. "And we did well on one side of the ball."

Wisconsin, Stanford, Texas, Kansas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech are the six teams CU will face this season that made the field of 64 in March.



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