



Bufs' Spears honored by Big 12

Forward teams up with Houston for ESPN feature

By Chris Shelton Camera Sports Writer
Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Brittany Spears' star power shot up several notches Monday.

The Colorado freshman forward was named Big 12 rookie of the week and she filmed a spot for ESPN with sophomore teammate Whitney Houston.

Spears and Houston were filmed coming out of an SUV and being mobbed by paparazzi as they headed into the Coors Events Center. Spears and Houston were also interviewed on campus by ESPN's Chris Connolly.

The feature will air on ESPN this weekend, although specific times were not available.

Spears and Houston are drawing attention for sharing their names with singers Whitney Houston and Britney Spears, and CU's Spears is drawing attention around the league for her play on the court.

Spears (6-foot-1) scored 16 points, grabbed seven rebounds and notched four assists and four steals in last Friday's 65-53 win over Pepperdine to earn rookie of the week honors.

It was CU's first rookie of the week honor since Kara Richards received the recognition as a freshman early in the 2004-05 season.

"I'm just more comfortable with the system, I guess," Spears said. "But I feel the same. I'm getting better with my teammates and just learning from them."

She leads all Big 12 freshmen in scoring at 13.5 points per game and blocked shots (1.31).

Spears has started all 13 games this season and has helped CU put together a 10-game win streak en route to a No. 23 ranking in the AP Top 25.

The Bufs (11-2) open Big 12 play Wednesday at Missouri (7-6) and Spears realizes she still has room for improvement.

"I just want to play good defense," Spears said. "Do what I have to do."



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Big 12 women's basketball preview

By Chris Shelton Camera Sports Writer
Tuesday, January 8, 2008

The Big 12 women's basketball season begins Wednesday.

A look at the conference teams, in order of predicted finish by the Big 12 coaches in their preseason poll:

Texas A&M

Coach: Gary Blair, 5th season at A&M (85-52), 23rd overall (493-215).

Record: 12-2.

AP ranking: No. 13.

Best nonconference win: No. 14 Auburn 62-60.

Worst nonconference losses: Wake Forest 53-46; No. 22 George Washington 66-65 (OT).

Players to watch: Takia Starks, 5-8, Jr., G; Danielle Gant, 5-11, Jr., G/F.

Did you know?: The Aggies hold the nation's longest active home-court win streak with a school record 26 in a row (30 is the record).

Oklahoma

Coach: Sherri Coale, 12th season (242-120).

Record: 9-2.

AP ranking: No. 8.

Best nonconference wins: No. 14 Arizona State 69-57; No. 21 Michigan State 66-55.

Standout nonconference games: Lost to No. 4 Maryland 76-66 and No. 1 Tennessee 70-67 in first two games of season.

Players to watch: Courtney Paris, 6-4, Jr., C; Ashley Paris, 6-3, Jr., F; Danielle Robinson, 5-9, Fr., G.

Did you know?: Courtney Paris has notched a double-double in 72 consecutive games and in 77 of her 80 career games.

Baylor

Coach: Kim Mulkey, 8th season (195-54).

Record: 12-1.

AP ranking: No. 9.

Best nonconference win: No. 12 California 69-56.

Standout nonconference game: Lost to No. 5 Stanford 87-63.

Players to watch: Angela Tisdale, 5-7, Sr., G; Danielle Wilson, 6-3, So., F; Rachel Allison, 6-1, Jr., F; Jhasmin Player, 5-10, Jr., G.

Did you know?: All five Baylor starters are averaging double-digit scoring.

Texas

Coach: Gail Goestenkors, 1st season (12-2), 16th overall (408-101).

Record: 12-2.

AP ranking: No. 16.

Best nonconference wins: No. 22 Arizona State 62-51; No. 12 DePaul 91-81.

Worst nonconference loss: Virginia 86-83.

Standout nonconference game: Lost to No. 1 Tennessee 92-67.

Players to watch: Brittainey Raven, 6-0, So., G; Ashley Lindsey, 6-4, Jr., F; Carla Cortijo, 5-7, Jr., G.

Did you know?: Goestenkors won 80 percent of her games at Duke for the third-best winning percentage among all active Division I coaches.

Oklahoma State

Coach: Kurt Budke, 3rd season (38-34), 6th overall (118-50).

Record: 12-1.

AP ranking: No. 24.

Best nonconference wins: Arkansas State 96-54; Oral Roberts 83-65.

Worst nonconference loss: TCU 97-63.

Players to watch: Andrea Riley, 5-5, So., G; Danielle Green, 5-8, Sr., G.

Did you know?: None of OSU's nonconference opponents had an RPI of 145 (Oral Roberts) or better.

Iowa State

Coach: Bill Fennelly, 13th season (270-121), 20th overall (436-174).

Record: 11-2.

AP ranking: none.

Best nonconference wins: Iowa 58-44, Drake 58-51.

Worst nonconference loss: Minnesota 69-61.

Players to watch: Alison Lacey, 6-0, So., G; Nicky Wieben, 6-4, Jr., F.

Did you know?: Iowa State has made at least one 3-point field goal in 392 consecutive games, which is the second-longest streak in the nation.

Nebraska

Coach: Connie Yori, 6th season (96-72), 18th overall (291-212).

Record: 11-3.

AP ranking: none.

Best nonconference wins: Mississippi 80-59, USC 87-69.

Standout nonconference games: Lost to No. 18 Ohio State 86-74; lost to Utah 56-44.

Worst nonconference loss: Marist 66-59.

Players to watch: Kelsey Griffin, 6-2, Jr., F; Danielle Page, 6-2, Sr., F; Cory Montgomery, 6-2, So., F.

Did you know?: Griffin, an all Big 12 forward, has missed the last three games with a rib injury.

Kansas State

Coach: Deb Patterson, 12th season (226-133).

Record: 8-5.

AP ranking: none.

Best nonconference win: UTEP 66-58.

Worst nonconference loss: Tulane 60-57.

Players to watch: Kimberly Dietz, 5-9, Sr., G; Marlies Gipson, 6-0, Jr., F.

Did you know?: The Wildcats have held all 12 nonconference opponents to under 70 points for the first time in the Patterson era.

Texas Tech

Coach: Kristy Curry, 2nd season (26-18), 9th overall (205-69).

Record: 12-2.

AP ranking: Receiving votes (26th).

Best nonconference win: No. 18 Arizona State 73-69.

Worst nonconference loss: Houston 66-63.

Players to watch: Dominic Seals, 6-2, Jr., F; Erin Myrick, 6-3, Sr., C.

Did you know?: Texas Tech's roster this year includes seven junior college transfers and two players who took a redshirt last year.

Kansas

Coach: Bonnie Henrickson, 4th season (50-50), 11th season (209-113).

Record: 11-2.

AP ranking: none.

Best nonconference wins: Hartford 76-72, Indiana 58-51.

Standout nonconference game: Lost to No. 12 California 74-41.

Worst nonconference loss: SMU 68-56.

Players to watch: Danielle McCray, 5-11, So., G/F; Sade Morris, 5-11, So., G.

Did you know?: Jayhawk sophomore Porscha Weddington's father, Michael, played football for Oklahoma and the Green Bay Packers and freshman Krysten Boogaard's brother, Derek, plays for the Minnesota Wild.

Colorado

Coach: Kathy McConnell-Miller, 3rd season (33-40), 9th season (124-128).

Record: 11-2.

AP ranking: No. 23

Best nonconference wins: No. 21 Wyoming 69-55, No. 20 Vanderbilt 62-51.

Worst nonconference loss: Siena 83-74.

Players to watch: Jackie McFarland, 6-3, Sr., F; Brittany Spears, 6-1, Fr., F; Bianca Smith, 5-9, So., G.

Did you know?: On sophomore guard Whitney Houston's list of things she must have if stranded on an island: Brittany Spears.

Missouri

Coach: Cindy Stein, 10th season (157-127), 13th overall (222-152).

Record: 7-6.

AP ranking: none.

Best nonconference win: Robert Morris 74-73.

Worst nonconference loss: Stephen F. Austin 84-81 (OT).

Players to watch: Alyssa Hollins, 5-11, Jr., G; Jessra Johnson, 6-1, So., F.

Did you know?: Former CU women's assistant and former Buff Matt Daniel is in his third season as an assistant at Missouri.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

sports - region report

Big 12 sings praises of Spears

The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 01/08/2008 12:12:42 AM MST

Colorado freshman forward Brittany Spears was named Big 12 rookie of the week Monday for her performance Friday in Colorado's 65-53 victory over Pepperdine.

Spears scored 16 points on 7-of-10 shooting and had seven rebounds, four assists, four steals and one blocked shot against the Waves to help lead the Buffaloes to their 10th straight win — a first since the 1994-95 season. Spears has made a big impact on the Buffs' 11-2 start and No. 23 ranking in The Associated Press poll. Her 13.5 points per game and 1.3 blocked shots per game lead Big 12 freshmen. She also ranks in the top three in assists, rebounds and steals.

Tigers well-represented on men's region soccer team.

Colorado College had four players named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's all-Far West Region team.

Senior goalie Dave Khuen, senior forward Pat

Fagan and junior forward Logan Boccard of Broomfield were named to the second team, and senior defender Matt Samson made the third team.

Colorado College finished the 2007 season 13-7-0.

Advertisement

TARGET COUPON

EXPIRES 3/8/08

FREE

Twenty 4x6" basic prints

Offer available at Target One-hour Photo Labs. Go to Target.com/photo for the location nearest you. One-hour service limited to machine capacity. Limit one item or offer per coupon. Offer not available for prints made on the Kodak Picture Kiosk. Void if copied, transferred, purchased, sold or prohibited by law. No cash value. Maximum retail value \$4.40 for combined free offer.



9856-0113-2647-5849-0376-5806-89

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™