



# CU women eye taking the next step

## K-Mac, Buffs eager to improve on 13-17 record

By Ryan Thorburn  
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Kathy McConnell-Miller and her staff put the Colorado women's basketball team through an intense workout on Friday afternoon at the Coors Events Center.

After the first official practice of the season the head coach joked with the players about making sure their lockers were ready for Allen Iverson and the Denver Nuggets to use in Friday night's preseason game.

And that kind of sums up what McConnell-Miller wants her third CU team to be like: all business on the court with great chemistry throughout the program.

"We had a good first practice. We didn't have to go over a lot of stuff and everyone was really prepared," senior forward Jackie McFarland said. "The newcomers and freshmen stepped up and played really well. In practice we were saying, 'No steps back. We only go forward from now on, we're not going to have any back steps. We only get better and we only win more games.'"

McConnell-Miller, after finishing with records of 9-21 and 13-17 in her first two seasons, is finally working with a complete roster. There were 15 healthy bodies on the floor, including plenty with size and skill.

The more experienced Buffs plan to run more sets offensively and to be more of a threat from behind the arc. And that can only help McFarland, a preseason All-Big 12 pick, inside where she averaged 17.8 points and 10.8 rebounds last season.

"We've talked about raising the bar," McConnell-Miller said. "We've talked about building upon last year, drawing from the good and learning from the bad, and just the areas we needed to improve. They really focused this summer. They didn't just talk about it, they put it to the test over the summer."

CU was picked to finish 11th in the Big 12. That wasn't the vibe the Buffs were giving off on Day One.

"I want to go to the NCAA Tournament," McFarland said when asked what the team goal was for the 2007-08 campaign. "I think we can definitely place in the top half of the Big 12 this year. We have enough players. ...

"You never know exactly what the team chemistry is going to be until that first game day, but I think in practice this is already the best chemistry we've had on a team since I've been here."



## Regional roundup: Buffs picked 11th in Big 12 women's hoops poll

Camera staff report  
Saturday, October 13, 2007

The Colorado women's basketball team was picked to finish 11th in the Big 12 in the league's coaches poll released Friday.

Defending conference co-champion Texas A&M was tabbed to win the league, with Oklahoma coming in second.

If the Aggies win the regular season league title it would be their second in a row. Texas A&M received seven of 12 first-place votes by the coaches.

Oklahoma, which tied A&M last year, finished two points behind the Aggies in the coaches poll, 117-115.

Baylor was tabbed to finish third, Texas fourth and Oklahoma State fifth. The rest of the field went like this: Iowa State sixth, Nebraska seventh, Kansas State and Texas Tech tied for eighth, Kansas 10th, Colorado 11th and Missouri 12th.

The preseason selection has won at least a share of the Big 12 title in five of the previous 11 seasons. A preseason poll was not conducted in the first year of the conference.

### Big 12 women's coaches poll

**Note** — First-place votes in parentheses; coaches not allowed to vote for their own team).

1. Texas A&M (7) 117; 2. Oklahoma (5) 115; 3. Baylor 97; 4. Texas 86; 5. Oklahoma State 66; 6. Iowa State 64; 7. Nebraska 56; 8. Kansas State 54; 8. Texas Tech 54; 10. Kansas 43; 11. Colorado 29; 12. Missouri 11.

### Rage opens preseason tonight

The Rocky Mountain Rage battle its counterparts from the Colorado Eagles during their first preseason game today at the Broomfield Event Center at 7:05 p.m.

Roster spots are at a premium as the 26 players at training camp continue to compete for only 19 spots on the club's regular season roster, which must be submitted to the Central Hockey League by head coach Tracy Egeland on Oct. 17.

Tickets will be half price.



## Buffs rally to notch Big 12 road victory

Camera staff report  
Saturday, October 13, 2007

WACO, Texas — The Colorado women's soccer team came from behind to defeat Baylor 3-2 Friday.

Colorado (7-3-3, 3-1-0 Big 12) got goals from three different players in the win over the Bears (6-6-2, 0-4-1 Big 12) — CU's second-ever in Waco.

"Anytime you win on the road in the Big 12 you've got to be happy about that," said coach Bill Hempen. "The kids really responded tonight when we needed them to so we are very happy with the effort and with a win."

The Buffaloes got on the board first on a goal by junior Amber Bettenhausen, the first of her CU career. The ball was played back into the Baylor defense and due to some miscommunication got through the Bear defense. Bettenhausen pursued the ball inside the box and found the open net at the 38:05 mark to give CU a 1-0 lead.

CU's advantage would be short-lived, however, as Baylor answered just two minutes later when Betsy Kyle netted her first goal of the season on a shot from the middle of the 18 to beat CU starter Kara Linder. It was the first goal that Linder has surrendered this season.

The second half was tame until the last 12 minutes. The game remained tied until the 78th minute, when Baylor's Katie White beat Linder one-on-one to give the Bears their first lead of the game.

But Hempen did not have to worry for long.

CU's leading scorer, Nikki Marshall, scored exactly two minutes later on assists from Kym Lowry and Bettenhausen to knot the game at two apiece. It was Marshall's seventh goal of the season and marks the third game in a row that the reigning Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week has scored at least one goal.

"My goal was handed to me on a platter of goodness from Kym," said Marshall. "She delivered a perfect cross and I just touched it into the goal. I can't tell you how perfect the pass was all; I had to do was touch it."

CU's persistent effort continued from that game-tying momentum as junior Gianna DeSaverio delivered the game-winner less than four minutes later. It was DeSaverio's third goal of the season and her first game-winner. Lowry notched her second assist of the game and of her career, while Marshall picked up her second assist of the season.

Colorado will travel south to College Station to take on the No. 5 Texas A&M Aggies.