



Chemistry grows for Bzdelik's Buffs

Coach praises effort after first two practices

By Ryan Thorburn
Sunday, October 14, 2007

COLORADO SPRINGS — Colorado head coach Jeff Bzdelik seemed to be relaxed, happy and genuinely enjoying his lunch break here on Saturday afternoon.

And the rest of the Buffs?

Well, most of the players had their feet propped up in dorm rooms, trying to catch their collective breath after surviving two of the four practices scheduled at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

"The players have worked hard," Bzdelik said. "They're attentive, coachable and trying to do the right things."

Richard Roby, the face of the program the past three seasons, says the transition to the new coaching staff is officially over.

"I think everybody has a feel for him and he has a feel for us," Roby said. "Now we've just got to continue to grow as a unit."

Things appear to be off to a pretty good start inside the Buffs' inner circle.

Initially, Bzdelik decided to bring his new team to Colorado Springs because the Coors Events Center was being used by the Denver Nuggets for a preseason game on Friday night. The coach knew his players would benefit from a distraction-free weekend using world-class facilities.

But what about the perception of this team from the outsiders?

Despite the addition of Bzdelik, CU has been picked to finish last in the Big 12.

"I see where people have picked us, and it's justified," said Bzdelik, who inherited a team that finished 7-20 last season. "But it's up to us to see if we can prove the people wrong. And that remains to be seen. We can't kid ourselves, we've got a long ways to go."

The Buffs are already starting to grasp Bzdelik's Princeton-style offense, which he would prefer to just call the "Colorado offense" from now on. Some of the players are still trying to get used to the easy backdoor layups they are getting.

"Yeah," Roby said when asked if he was surprised at how the system works. "Especially how it works on somebody that already knows what you're going to do. Even they get confused sometimes. It should

be a breeze when we have another team out there."

This is the part of the season Bzdelik says he enjoys the most, conducting practices and film sessions with his players in October so that they are in position to execute in March.

"I don't really focus on winning and losing. I just focus on playing the way we're supposed to play," Bzdelik said. "If you play with intelligence and stick to your game plan and play with desperate effort, hopefully you put yourself in a position to win some games."



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Buff Barringer wins Pre-Nationals meet

Colorado men finish second, women sixth on NCAA course

Camera staff report
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TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — Colorado junior Jenny Barringer ran a course-record 19 minutes, 49 seconds Saturday on the new 6K course to claim first place in the Pre-Nationals meet, helping the CU women to a sixth-place team finish.

The CU men finished second in the race, led by Stephen Pifer's third-place time of 23:16.7 on the 8K course. Buff Brent Vaughn was just behind in fourth (23:16.8).

Princeton won the women's title while UTEP won the men's crown.

The Pre-Nationals race was the first competition of the season for Barringer, who finished third at last year's race. Saturday, Barringer defeated North Carolina's Brianna Felnagle, the white race runner-up, by more than seven seconds (19:56.7).

"Jenny broke the course record, which is not as thrilling as it sounds because they changed the course last year," Wetmore said. "So there have only been four college races here; but still her time here today it the equivalent of the records on the old course. It was a powerful wind and she road it the last kilometer. She is in the middle of a pretty serious training block. She did very well today."

Barringer became the second Buff to own a course record at the La Vern Gibson Course. Jorge Torres set the men's 10k record of 29:04.7, set in 2002.

Sara Ensrud was the second Buff woman to cross the finish, clocking 20:50.5. Erin Marston, the lone senior of the squad, was 39th overall (21:05.1).

"I'm real pleased with where we are at," Pifer said. "I think there is a real big upside. This was only our second race and we have some real young guys on our team and I think they are just getting better and better every race. Hopefully we will just keep getting better and we will be right there in November."

"For many people, it was just their first or second time here," Wetmore said. "All in all, it was a useful day. We've gathered the information we need and we are going to go back to work now."

The next action for the varsity team will be the 2007 Big 12 Championships on Oct. 26 in Lubbock, Texas.

2007 Pre-Nationals

Men's team scores — 1. UTEP, 129; 2. Colorado, 159; 3. North Carolina State, 182; 4. Michigan, 208;

5. Notre Dame, 261; 6. Stanford, 264; 7. Minnesota, 289; 8. Providence, 301; 9. Arizona State, 305; 10. Cal Poly, 328.

Top 10 individuals — 1. Josh McDougal, Liberty, 22:56.4; 2. Jacob Korir, Eastern Kentucky, 23:00.6; **3. Stephen Pifer, CU, 23:16.7; 4. Brent Vaughn, CU, 23:16.8;** 5. Patrick Smyth, Notre Dame, 23:18.2; 6. Max Smith, Providence, 23:21.2; 7. Michael Woods, Michigan, 23:24.7; 8. Stephen Samoei, UTEP, 23:28.4; 9. Francis Kasagule, Lamar, 23:32.4; 10. Patrick Mutai, UTEP, 23:33.4.

Other CU finishers — 27. Kenyon Neuman, 23:48.5; 40. Pete Janson, 23:58.5; 81. Richard Medina, 24:20.0; 101. Matt Tebo, 24:33.5; 122. Rob Thayer, 24:44.0.

Women's team scores — 1. Princeton, 149; 2. Arizona State, 171; 3. Michigan, 173; 4. Washington, 187; 5. Illinois, 189; 6. Colorado, 231; 6. BYU, 231; 8. Iowa, 261; 9. Providence, 287; 10. Florida, 322.

Top 10 individuals — **1. Jenny Barringer, CU, 19:49.3;** 2. Brianna Felnagle, UNC, 19:56.7; 3. Diane Nukuri, Iowa, 20:10.3; 4. Angela Bizzarri, Illinois, 20:13.4; 5. Liza Koll, ISU, 20:15.2; 6. Danette Doetzel, Providence, 20:22.5; 7. Liz Costello, Princeton, 20:25.1; 8. Dana Morgan, Portland, 20:26.7; 9. Jenna Kingma, ASU, 20:26.9; 10. Christy Johnson, Princeton, 20:27.0.

Other CU finishers — 20. Sara Vaughn, 20:05.5; 39. Erin Marston, 21:29.9; 74. Laura Thweatt, 21:29.9; 97. Allison Eckert, 21:43.6; 102. Anna Chase, 21:47.2; 119. Allison Sawyer, 21:59.2.



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CU spikers fall to A&M; losing streak hits 9

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COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The Colorado volleyball team's woes continued Saturday night, as the Buffs fell to Texas A&M, 26-30, 30-22, 30-25, 30-17.

It was CU's ninth straight loss.

Schylur Edelman led the Buffs with 12 of CU's 63 kills.

Colorado came out strong in the first game and grabbed the lead at 3-2 and led for the rest of the game. Three kills by Alex Buth and a block by Edelman helped the Buffs pull ahead 15-10.

Buth recorded a game-high 15 digs and contributed 10 kills. Mallori Gibson hit .320 with 11 kills on 25 attacks. Edelman hit 12 kills on 23 attempts and recorded her team's best hitting percentage at .435.

The third game saw 14 ties and nine lead changes. TAMU pulled ahead 28-24 on two service aces by Kelsey Bryant and blocks from Jillian Phillips Mary Batis. A kill by Batis ended the game and helped her hit a .211 on a game-high 16 kills on 38 attempts.

Bryant recorded the best percentage of the game at .812 with 13 kills on 16 errorless attacks. Batis led the match in both kills and attacks, dishing out 16 kills and 38 attacks.

Jen Moore contributed a team-high 13 digs and Mary Batis hit 11, helping the Aggies total 58 digs to the Buff's 55.

Colorado is now 0-9 in the Big 12 and 5-11 overall.

The Buffs return home to face Iowa State on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Coors Events Center.



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