



CU's Pifer, Barringer honored

Camera staff report

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Colorado junior Jenny Barringer and senior Stephen Pifer were named Big 12 Conference Runners of the Week on Tuesday for their performances at the Pre-National Invitational over the weekend.

Barringer won the Terre Haute, Ind., race in her first competition of the season. The victory was the second of her collegiate cross country career.

Pifer led the second-ranked men's team with a career-best third-place finish, just a blink ahead of teammate Brent Vaughn.



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McFarland missing one thing from resume

Senior hopes to lead Buffs to NCAAs

By Ryan Thorburn

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Looking for a story that will make you feel good about college sports again? All you have to do is take a carefree three-hour drive from here heading southwest through the nation's heartland.

Set the GPS in the rental car for Derby, Kan., a town that boasts on its Web site of having more than 21,000 residents with a wide range of retail, service and manufacturing businesses, as well as an outstanding school system and a top-10 ranking in the *Family Circle* magazine "Top 10 Towns for Families" poll.

It's also the place where Ceal Barry and her staff uncovered an All-American parting gift for the Colorado women's basketball program before the legendary coach retired three years ago.

Jackie McFarland is one of Derby's finest. And, thanks to an assist from the Flatirons, she's also one of the best ambassadors the CU athletic department has to offer.

"I remember first coming over the hill on (Highway) 36 coming into Boulder," McFarland, a senior for the Buffs and a first-team All-Big 12 pick, said of her recruiting trip during an interview at the conference's basketball media days on Tuesday. "And being from Kansas, it's a nice place to live and I loved growing up there, but it's flat.

"Coming over that hill ... I just remember how absolutely beautiful it was."

McFarland's career numbers are also impressive: 1,320 points, 770 rebounds, 100 blocks ... oh, and a team-best 3.89 grade-point average for those scoring at home in Derby.

Talk about balance.

"From the time I was little my parents always told us that there's no excuses for not making A's. It's all a matter of how hard you want to work. We were just always taught to work hard," said McFarland, a two-time academic All-American. "I'll graduate this spring with a bachelor's and a master's in accounting with only being at school for four years and having it all paid for through the university with my athletic scholarship.

"It's been a great opportunity for me. I can't say enough about how lucky I am and how blessed I've been."

Obviously, McFarland — photogenic to the point where friends and teammates have prodded her to try

out for "America's Next Top Model" — was a wise choice for the 2007-08 media guide cover.

But there is one thing missing from the 6-foot-3, forward's basketball résumé: Team success.

"The one thing I'm really missing is being able to say I've made it to the NCAA Tournament, the big dance," McFarland said. "It's going to be really disappointing if I do graduate from my career without being able to say that."

CU head coach Kathy McConnell-Miller, in her third season, finally has enough healthy bodies in practice and talent in place to talk openly about shooting for the stars before this star pupil graduates.

"I know she has always put the team first and her individual statistics second. She really would like to experience more W's with this group and she wants to continue to lead," McConnell-Miller said of McFarland. "She has never talked about herself or her future, she has always talked about the success of the team and what she needs to do to build that chemistry and lead them to team success."

The Buffs will spread the floor more this season in their offensive sets. The guards will take, and plan to make, a lot more 3-pointers. The idea being that opposing defenses won't be able to just collapse two or three players on McFarland in the paint, although she did average 17.8 points and 10.8 rebounds facing double- and triple-teams last season.

McFarland is the living link between Barry's legendary career, which included 12 NCAA Tournament appearances, and McConnell-Miller's first realistic opportunity to put her own winning stamp on the program.

"She's more than I could ever ask for in a teammate," said CU guard Susie Powers, the only other senior on the roster. "She's my roommate, she's one of my best friends on the team, and we know each other inside and out. We can read each other. So getting to play with her was just so great for me last year and getting this last year as the only two seniors together is really special."

So how about a storybook ending for this true student-athlete? What's it going to take to return some March Madness to Boulder?

The answer can be found in Derby, Kan.

"Coach Barry always used to say, 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.' And that's my favorite motto," McFarland said. "I'm not the most athletic person in the world, I don't jump that high, can't run that fast ...

"But where there's a will, there's a way. I think you can really achieve anything you want if you go after it."



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CU men finish in tie for ninth at Prestige

Camera staff report

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

LA QUINTA, Calif. — The Colorado men's golf team finished in a tie for ninth place at the Prestige at PGA West on Tuesday.

No. 1-ranked UNC-Charlotte led from wire-to-wire, turning in a 10-under 854 team score for three rounds. No. 20 Stanford was eight shots back in second place. Colorado tied for ninth with Minnesota as both teams finished with 17-over par 881 scores.

Senior Michael Baird and sophomore Luke Symons led the way for the Buffs. Both turned in 1-over par 217 scorecards on the 7,156-yard, par-72 Greg Norman Course at PGA West. Symons shot par in Tuesday's final round while Baird struggled to a 4-over 76. The CU duo finished in a four-way tie for 15th.

The Prestige

At the 7,156-yard, par-72

Greg Norman Course at PGA West

Team scores — 1. UNC-Charlotte 281-285-288 — 854; 2. Stanford 285-293-284 — 862; 3. Central Florida 284-286-299 — 869; 4. Pepperdine 287-294-295 — 876; 4. TCU 299-286-291 — 876; 6. Wisconsin 292-297-289 — 878; 7. Cal-Irvine 292-294-293 — 879; 7. Michigan 298-285-296 — 879; **9. Colorado 291-295-295 — 881**; 9. Minnesota 290-300-291 — 881; 11. California 286-297-299 — 882; 12. San Diego 287-294-302 — 883; 13. Pacific 306-290-296 — 892; 14. Denver 289-298-306 — 893; 15. Cal-Davis 298-296-302 — 896; 16. Kansas 304-298-295 — 897.

Top 5 — 1. Clayton Rask, Minnesota 68-68-72 — 208; 1. Dan Woltman, Wisconsin 70-69-69 — 208; 3. Corey Nagy, UNCC 73-70-68 — 211; 4. Jonas Hedin, UNCC 69-74-69 — 212; 4. Alexander Sitompul, Michigan 74-70-68 — 212.

CU individuals — T15. Michael Baird 69-72-76 — 217; T15. Luke Symons 70-75-72 — 217; T41. Derek Tolan 79-73-72 — 224; T61. Michael Imperato 77-75-75 — 227; T63. Jim Grady 75-76-77 — 228.



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