



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BUFFALOES SPORTS INFORMATION SERVICE

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HEAD COACH TAD BOYLE QUOTES

General

"Obviously, finished with year three of our coaching staff as we started three years ago, and good things have happened. This year was an exciting year, it was a good year. We have talked as a staff a couple times of how you define good years, great years, very good years, but I think this was a good year for Colorado basketball. It was the first time going to back-to-back [NCAA] Tournament's in 50 years, it was the first time we have kept all the coaches in place for the straight years ever. So, a lot of firsts and seconds that we are pretty proud of. Our team is young, was young, and were going to be young next year as well, but just as I told the guys after the (NCAA Tournament) game vs. Illinois: just because you are going to be a year older, does not mean you are going to be a year better; there is obviously a lot of room to grow and develop. But if I look at the players that are returning, I look at the players that are sitting out – Wesley Gordon, and Chris Jenkins – and then I look at the players we have coming in and I couldn't be more excited about Colorado basketball and the direction we're headed."

On Depth Next Year

"Depth will be much improved, our athleticism will be much improved. I look at Chris Jenkins and Wesley Gordon, both are long and athletic players. Then Tre'Shaun Fletcher, Dustin Thomas, and Jaron Hopkins are all 6-foot-5, 6-foot-6, 6-foot-7 and are athletes who can move their feet and can jump and they have skills, so, I think we will be a more skilled team. We have to become a better half-court offensive team. We got together as a coaching staff and that was priority number one in the off-season and then priority number two is that we want to use that depth and athleticism and length on the defensive side of the ball. So, you can look for us to extend our defenses more, press a little bit more, and then jump and try to get the game going up-and-down, a high possession game."

On Finding A 'Shooter'

"Yeah, we just talked about that when we went to lunch today as a staff and in the 2014 (recruiting) class we need to recruit a knock-down shooter, we need a guy that can come in and just make shots. I think we have some guys in the program that can develop into that. I look at Chris Jenkins, he is a very good shooter right now, I'm not sure he is as consistent as he needs to be. Eli Stalzer has the ability to become a knock-down shooter, Xavier Talton has great mechanics and a great jump-shot he will have the opportunity to become a knock-down shooter, and then Ski [Booker] had a sub-par year this year shooting the basketball and he has the ability to make shots on a more consistent basis but that comes from getting to the gym in the off-season and working on it and developing your game."

On How Being Ranked In Pre-Season Polls Helps The Program

"It helps, you know it helps. I think anytime you start seeing yourself in top-20 polls, whether it's pre-season or regular season, I think it is a sign of respect, it is a sign that people recognize that you have talented guys in your program. But with that comes a lot of expectations and a lot of responsibility to live up to those expectations. You guys know I'm always trying to minimize them and down play them as much as possible but when you progress as a program – again going to three straight post-seasons and back-to-back NCAA's – just the natural progression is to be bigger and better. We think we have the opportunity next year with the personal in place to have a great year. At the end of the day the (rankings) don't mean anything except the amount of attention you're getting. Recruiting is about sales, and building trust, and it depends on where your program is and what you've done, up until this point we've talked about the challenge of coming in and making your mark on a program, and now the pitch is, 'hey, we've proven we can do it here at Colorado when they said we couldn't do it, and now you can help us take it to the next level'. We've gone to the NCAA Tournament and won a game, we've gone to the NCAA Tournament and were a one-and-done, and now we want to go deeper and that is the challenge to the guys we are recruiting."

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On Trying To Get Programs To Play At Boulder In the Non-Conference

"I asked John Calipari, we were trying to get a game with Kentucky, that was on the docket, but the deal-breaker was them coming to Boulder, that was not going to happen, at least not while he is the coach there. So, he kind of laughed me off but that is one example, we're working on a schedule and we're probably going to have to go with some neutral-court games because that is kind of a happy medium. But it is harder and harder to get people to come here, and we'll get somebody, it's just a matter of some you have to pay to come here and that is always a fun negotiation. Scheduling right now, and recruiting are at the forefront of what we're doing. The one thing we won't have (in the schedule) is the Charleston Classic with three neutral-court games and that is one reason we are looking for neutral court games, one on the west coast and one on the east coast just to get our team some exposure back east and get true neutral court games. So, that is in the works, it is hard for me to comment on that, that's what we're working on and we would still love to get another name program to come in. But, Colorado State and Air Force are on the road next year, and then Wyoming is at home, KU is at home, and then we know that we have Arizona and UCLA coming so I think from a fan's standpoint we will still have some good home games in the non-conference it just isn't as many as we would like."

On The NBA Draft Process

"It has taken a lot of time out of my day, but when you get into coaching, you know on the front-end you have to deal with recruiting and AAU coaches and high school coaches and all the things that go with that. But now, you have to work on the back-end of it with guys leaving early and deciding early. It is just part of the world we live in, there is nothing I can do about it other than try to get our guys the best information I can and come up with a set of criteria that makes sense to the family and the kid, and try to stick to that criteria but there are a lot of moving parts and a lot information, and a lot of misinformation that gets in the wrong hands and that makes my job a lot harder. But it is what it is, and we will deal with it, and Andre will make his decision when he makes his decision."

On Andre Roberson Making His Decision

"Andre knows that we are going to have a good team next year, I don't think the polls are going to have an effect, we're going to be good next year whether Andre comes back or we're ranked or not and those things don't mean a lot other than the attention they bring and the recruiting benefit that you might get out of it. I've told Andre and I've told his parents, we want what is best for him, bottom line, that's what this thing is about. If he leaves early, I want him in the NBA, I want him getting paid, if he leaves early and he's not in the NBA and he is not getting paid then it is a disappointing decision on his end and they know that. But, we've prepared in the fall with our signing class, we've prepared for Andre leaving. We're going to be good next year with or without him. Obviously, we are a better team with him but it is not going to be a make or break decision for Colorado basketball. One of the things I talked to Andre about is that you are going to develop next year as a basketball player, the question is: where you want to develop? Do you want to develop in college, do you want to develop in the D-League, do you want to develop overseas, do you want to develop on an NBA bench where you are working out with an assistant coach getting better, where do you see yourself, where would you be most comfortable, where would you be most happy, and that is really the decision he has to make. He is going to develop as a player next year, wherever he is, so it is just kind of where he wants to be and that is a personal choice that I can't make for him."

On Jeremy Adams Moving On

“Well, I talked about it last night at our banquet, but Jeremy and I sat down before the season and talked obviously about the season ahead, and you never make decisions before the season, but one thing we knew was that Jeremy was going to graduate in May, and the other thing we knew was that the master’s degree he wanted to pursue, CU does not offer. We knew that before the season, so the possibility of him not coming back was something we talked about, we didn’t decide we just said, ‘let’s see how the season goes, make sure you pass all the classes you are taking and you do graduate in May’, and then as the season was winding down I brought him in the week of senior night, both him and Shane (Harris-Tunks), and I told him we wanted to honor both him and Shane, but he said his parents weren’t in town and he didn’t want to do that. It was kind of an ongoing thing, it probably started in the fall, and then once the season is over with you have to sit down with your guys and see what direction they want to go. I don’t think he was ever a 100 percent bill of health while he was here, there was always something nagging at him in practice and it just always seemed to take him a little longer to get loose than most players, but once he got loose and had a good day he helped us down the stretch, he was a good player for us. The thing I am most proud about Jeremy is, and this is something we always talk about with recruits and their families, you have to use the system and don’t let the system use you. The system of Division I basketball can sometimes use kids and their eligibility is exhausted and they don’t have their degree. Well, Jeremy is just the opposite, his eligibility isn’t exhausted and he has his degree already and now he is going to get a master’s degree and college basketball is going to afford him the opportunity to have that paid for and graduate with a master’s degree and no debt... pretty good deal. He is using the system, and not letting the system use him, and I’m really proud of him for that. He had the option of coming back, but he is probably in the one percentile of kids that are using this rule for the true intention of the rule which is: you graduate early, the school you are at doesn’t have the degree that you want, and then you go somewhere to get that degree. He is going to do that, and the reason I know he is going to do that is because we have had schools call on him and they don’t have the degree he wants and he says, ‘I’m not interested’. Good schools, good programs, good situations basketball-wise for him, but he is going to find the best situation for himself academically where basketball will work as well. Other-wise it’s just rent-a-player, he could have come back to CU for his fifth year and taken some classes and we would have rented him for a year and he wouldn’t have had his graduate degree, he would have had his undergraduate degree and could move on, but he chose not to do that, so that’s pretty rare.”

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