

2016-17 IN REVIEW

THE SEASON: Colorado finished the 2016-17 season at 19-15 overall and finished the regular season in sole possession of seventh place in the Pac-12 at 8-10. The Buffaloes received a bid to the 2017 Postseason NIT, dropping a first round game at UCF, 79-74.

Colorado had a roller coaster season. The Buffaloes had a solid nonconference season with a record of 10-3 including wins over ranked teams in No. 13/14 Xavier at home and No. 22/21 Texas in Brooklyn. It marked the fifth time in seven seasons under head coach Tad Boyle CU finished with at least 10 wins prior to the tip-off of the conference slate.

However, the beginning of the Pac-12 season was a different story. Colorado lost its first seven conference games, aided by a treacherous stretch with five of seven on the road. During that span, Colorado faced three straight ranked teams for just the fourth time in team history and began conference play with three road games for the first time in 85 years, when the 1931-32 Buffaloes had their first three Rocky Mountain Conference games away from Boulder.

The Buffaloes rallied though, paving their way to the postseason with an 8-3 mark to finish off the regular season. Overall, Colorado won nine of its final 14 games which allowed the Buffaloes to add onto their own program-best record with a seventh-straight postseason appearance.

Senior **Derrick White** led the Buffaloes at 18.1 points, 4.4 assists and 1.2 steals per game while shooting 51 percent from the field and 81 percent from the free throw line in his lone season at the base of the Flatirons. He was named to the Pac-12's 2017 All-Conference First Team, All-Defensive Team and All-Tournament Team. He was also selected to the USBWA All-District VIII First Team and NABC All-District 20 Second Team.

On the Pac-12 leaderboard, White ranked third in scoring, fifth in free throw percentage, sixth in assists, seventh in blocks (1.4 bpg), 10th in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.8), 14th in 3-point percentage (.396) and steals and 15th in field goal percentage. He was one of two players, joining the NBA Draft's No. 1 overall pick, Washington's Markelle Fultz, to rank in the Pac-12 Top 10 in scoring, assists and blocked shots.

White was the league's second-leading scorer during the conference season at 18.5 points an outing. He had 14 games with at least 20 points, 11 of those coming against Pac-12 competition and included in that were three of his four 30-point outings. He's the ninth player with four or more 30 point games in a CU career and first with four in one season since Chauncey Billups in 1995-96.

White finished the 2016-17 season with 615 points, ranking seventh at Colorado in a single season while also ranking eighth in assists (148), 10th in field goals (205) and 11th in blocks. His 49 blocks are the most by a guard in a season in team history. White was named the Chauncey Billups Award winner as the team's MVP.

White was selected by the San Antonio Spurs in the first round of the 2017 NBA Draft with the 29th overall pick.

Senior **Xavier Johnson** was second on the team in scoring (14.8 ppg) while ranking third in rebounding (5.9 rpg), steals (17) and 3-pointers made (39). Johnson averaged 19.5 points and 6.5 rebounds at the Pac-12 Tournament.

On the Pac-12 Conference season charts he was 15th in scoring and 18th in rebounding.

He's finished his career in 11th place on CU's all-time scoring list with 1,463 points while also ranking seventh in 3-point field goals (130) and games played (127) and 11th in starts (97), rebounds (705) and minutes (3,387).

Johnson is on a short list with Colorado greats Donnie Boyce and Richard Roby as players with 125 3-point field goals and 600 rebounds.



Derrick White



Wesley Gordon

George King led the Buffaloes in rebounding at 6.8 per game while ranking third in scoring at 11.1 points an outing. He more than doubled his rebounding output from his first two seasons combined (61 games).

King was 13th in overall rebounds, 14th in defensive boards (4.8 drpg) and 15th in offensive rebounds (2.0 orpg). King shot 37.6 percent from 3-point range on the season, but that number skyrocketed to 47.8 percent during Pac-12 play, ranking fifth in the conference during that span.

King recorded his team season-best sixth double-double of the season with 21 points and 12 rebounds in the home win over Washington - both game highs. He matched a season-high eight field goals, registering his 10th career game with 20-plus points.

His first four double-doubles came in a seven-game span during the nonconference schedule, including a 16-point, 10-rebound effort vs. Xavier. King was 11th in the Pac-12 with his six double-doubles and also led the Buffaloes with six double-figure rebound outings.

Wesley Gordon topped the team in blocks average (1.5 bpg) while ranking second in rebounding (6.3 rpg), assists (1.9 apg) and fourth in scoring (6.7 ppg). He ranked sixth in blocks, ninth in offensive rebounds (2.3 orpg) and 14th in overall boards on the Pac-12 season leaderboard.

He was one of the top defensive players in the Pac-12 over his four-year career, and among the select greats in Colorado history. He is just the second player in team history to reach 200 career blocked shots, joining David Harrison (2001-04) and his school record of 225. Gordon finished his career with 204 blocks, ranking eighth in Pac-12 history. On Colorado's career charts he ranked third in starts (122), fifth in games played (131), sixth in rebounds (882) and 10th in minutes (3,405). Gordon scored 870 career points (6.6 ppg), 41st on CU's all-time list.

He is the first Colorado player since 1977-78 to record 40 blocks in four straight seasons. Gordon was a four-time team Best Defender Award winner (voted on by the players). Finished his career with 12 double-doubles, 25 double-figure rebound games and 35 double-figure scoring games.

Josh Fortune averaged 6.0 points per game, ranking third on the team in assists (51) and fourth in 3-point field goals (31). Fortune hit the 1,000 point milestone for his collegiate career (including two years at Providence) during his 11-point performance at Oregon. He finished his career with 1,037 points, scoring 556 in two seasons with the Buffaloes. He had a solid season from the free throw line hitting on 85.7 percent of his attempts (48 of 56), which included a string of 19 straight early in the season.

Dominique Collier ranked fifth on the team in scoring at 6.0 points per game while averaging 1.6 assists and just under one steal per contest. He was second on the team in total steals (24) despite missing nine games early in the season with a foot injury. All 24 of his steals came during Pac-12 Conference play, allowing him to be ranked 12th on the league leaderboard during that span.

Junior **Tory Miller** averaged 5.6 points and 4.0 rebounds while shooting 54 percent as the first front court player off the bench. He played in 32 games averaging 15.8 minutes an outing, the most for a Buffalo who came off the bench for at least half the season. His shooting improved to 59 percent during Pac-12 Conference games, hitting on 48 of 82 field goal attempts.

Sophomore **Thomas Akyazili** was fifth on the team in assists (39) while scoring just under two points per contest. Colorado's active freshman class of **Deleon Brown**, **Bryce Peters** and **Lucas Siewert** made good contributions over the course of the season. The trio were rewarded for their hard work, by starting the home Oregon State game; the initial collegiate starts for Peters and Siewert and the third for Brown. As a group they averaged 10.6 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.