

2019 PAC-12 CHINA GAME

Colorado and Arizona State tipped off the 2019-20 season in Shanghai, meeting in the fifth edition of the Pac-12 China Game presented by Alibaba Group. Longtime Pac-12 Conference partner Federation of University Sports of China (FUSC), which operates under China's Ministry of Education, served as the co-host for the game.

The Pac-12 China Game is the flagship event of Pac-12 Global, designed to grow the global popularity of Pac-12 athletic programs and universities, fostering cultural exchange through sport, and creating unique educational experiences for Pac-12 student-athletes. China is also an important country for CU Boulder recruiting. More than 1,100 Chinese students study at CU Boulder; they represent the campus' largest population of international students.

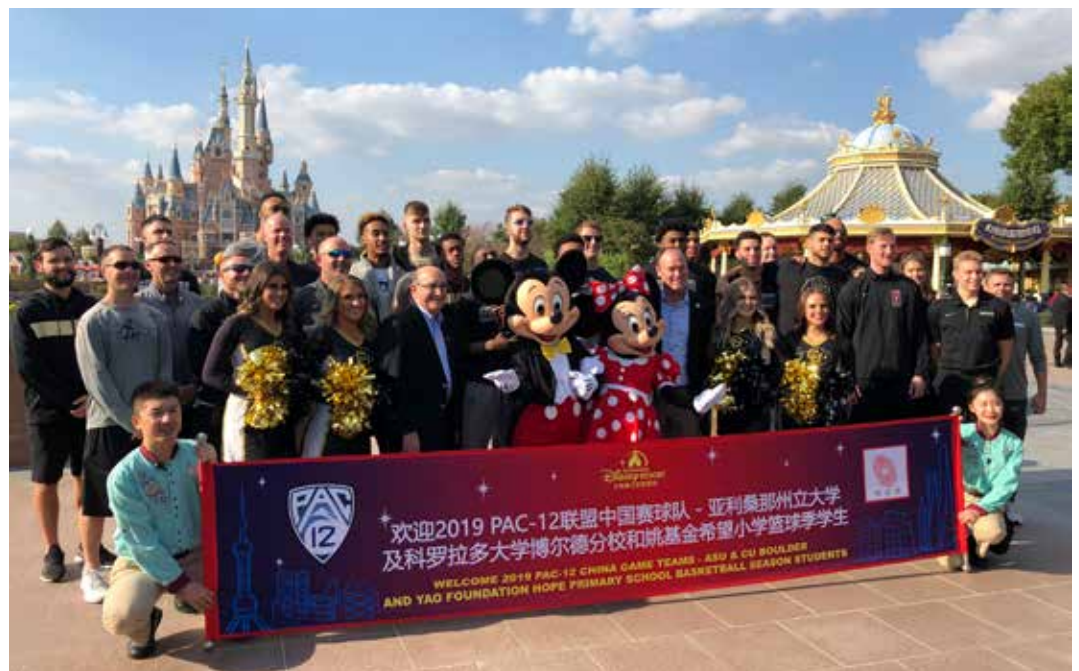
The Buffaloes played an exhibition game on Wednesday, Nov. 6, a 109-42 win over Tsinghua University, and defeated the Sun Devils, 81-71, in the Pac-12 China game on Nov. 8 (Nov. 9 in China).

During the week leading up to the Pac-12 China game, the Buffaloes enjoyed sight seeing in the world's third largest city of Shanghai - more than 24 million. Colorado players and coaches spent time with children from the Yao Ming Foundation and participated in a basketball clinic at Alibaba.

Along with the kids clinic, the Buffaloes took part in educational activities at Alibaba, China's leading e-commerce company. The Pac-12's partnership with the Alibaba Group is what has allowed the conference to fund team travel and other costs for this annual event.

Aside from players and coaches, members of Colorado's Spirit Squad and Chip the mascot were in attendance on the trip along with CU Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano and Athletic Director Rick George.

This was the the first intercollegiate regular season event for a Colorado Athletics program in China, or the Eastern Hemisphere for that matter. The Buffaloes had played in a handful of regular season events outside the continental United States. Both basketball programs have played in Puerto Rico; the men in 1998-99 and the women in 2005-06.



2019-20 IN REVIEW

THE BUFFALOES: Colorado finished the 2019-20 season at 21-11 overall and tied for fifth place in the Pac-12 Conference regular season standings at 10-8.

Colorado's 21 regular season wins tied for the most in program history, achieved three other times: 1996-97, 2013-14 and 2015-16. Overall, it tied for the seventh-most wins counting postseason.

It was the sixth time in 10 seasons the Buffaloes have had at least 10 conference wins. CU's Pac-12 best is 11, in 2011-12 (11-7).

The Buffaloes were well in line for an NCAA Tournament bid before the season was shut down on March 12 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Colorado played its last game on March 11, a first round Pac-12 Tournament loss to Washington State. Hours later, the Pac-12 made the decision to cancel the remainder of its tournament and by mid-day on March 12, the NCAA had announced the cancellation of all its winter and spring sport championships.

Colorado was ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 poll for a school record 13 weeks while appearing in 11 USA Today/Coaches polls. The Buffaloes peaked at No. 15 in the Coaches poll and No. 16 in the AP poll on Feb. 10.

Statistically, the Buffaloes were second in the Pac-12 and 41st in the nation in scoring defense at 64.3 points per game. On other Pac-12 charts Colorado ranked second in 3-point field goals (7.5 3mpg), rebounding margin (+5.2), defensive rebounds (26.9 drpg) and rebounding defense (31.8 rpg), third in rebounding (37.0 rpg) and fourth in scoring margin (+6.6), 3-point shooting (.351) and free throw percentage (.736).

During the Pac-12 schedule, Colorado ranked second in field goal shooting (.451), rebounding margin (+3.5), and rebounding defense (31.9 rpg), third in assists (13.4 apg), scoring margin (+4.4), 3-pointers made (7.6 3mpg) and rebounding (35.4 rpg) and fourth in scoring (70.4 ppg), 3-point shooting (.347), assist-to-turnover ratio (1.1) and free throw percentage (.740).

Two-time All-Pac-12 guard **McKinley Wright IV** led the Buffaloes at 14.4 points and 5.0 assists per game. It was his third straight season leading the team in assists and second time pacing the squad in scoring. He was second on the team in steals (36), blocked shots (11) and free throws made (95) and third in rebounding (5.7 rpg) and 3-point field goals (39).

Overall on the Pac-12 charts, Wright was fourth in assists and minutes (34.9 mpg), fifth in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.7), 12th in free throw percentage (.792), 13th in defensive rebounding (4.5 drpg) and 15th in scoring and overall rebounding.

Wright led the Pac-12 in assists during conference games at 5.7 a contest and was third in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.9) during that span. Wright's 103 assists during the Pac-12 season tied his own school season record originally set in 2017-18.

Wright had six double-doubles on the season, split down the middle with three points-assists doubles and three of the points-rebounds variety. His six double-doubles were the most for any point guard in the Pac-12 and tied for eighth among all players.

Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year **Tyler Bey** won the conference rebounding title at 9.0 boards per game. He also paced the Buffaloes in shooting (.530), steals (1.5 spg) and blocks (1.2 bpg). Bey was second on the team in scoring at

13.7 points per game.

Bey held a share of the top rebounding game by a Pac-12 player this season. He had 19 rebounds against Wyoming, the most by a Buffalo since Andre Roberson had 20 against Stanford in Jan. 2013.

Along with leading the Pac-12 in overall rebounding, he was the top defensive rebounder in the conference at 7.0 per game. On other Pac-12 charts Bey ranked third in double-doubles (12), fifth in steals, seventh in blocks, eighth in offensive rebounds (2.0 orpg), ninth in field goal percentage and 17th in scoring.

Junior **D'Shawn Schwartz** was third on the team in scoring (9.8 ppg), assists (44) and steals (23). He led the Buffaloes with 51 3-point field goals, shooting 36.7 percent from long range.

Schwartz finished 14th in the Pac-12 in 3-point shooting. He made the "Shot of the Year" hitting a 3-pointer at the buzzer to knock off then No. 13 ranked Dayton in overtime on Dec. 21.

Sophomore **Evan Battey** led the Buffaloes in offensive rebounds (84) while ranking second in field goal percentage (.526) and overall rebounding (5.9 rpg) and fourth in scoring (9.1 ppg) and steals (17).

Battey's 84 offensive rebounds are 16 more than he had as a freshman (and in four fewer games) and the most by a Buffalo since Wesley Gordon had 100, and Josh Scott had 87, during the 2015-16 campaign (34 games).

On the Pac-12 leaderboard, he was fifth in offensive rebounds (2.6 orpg), 10th in field goal percentage and 13th in overall rebounding.

Senior **Lucas Siewert** was Colorado's top 3-point shooter at 38.6 percent, ranking eighth on the Pac-12 leaderboard. He was second on the team in overall 3-pointers



Tyler Bey

made with 49 and led the Buffaloes in that category during the Pac-12 season (29).

Senior guard **Shane Gatling** averaged 6.5 points and ranked fourth on the team in 3-point field goals (37) and assists (38).

TEAM AWARDS: **McKinley Wright IV** received the Chauncey Billups Award as the team's Most Valuable Player. The Chauncey Billups MVP Award is one of five voted on by Colorado men's basketball student-athletes. **Tyler Bey** won the Best Defender Award, **Eli Parquet** was named Most Improved, **Evan Battey** was voted Most Inspirational and **Alexander Strating** won the Tebo Family P.A.S.S. Award.

In addition, two statistical champion awards were handed out. Bey won the Stephane Pelle Rebounding Award while Wright earned the Jay Humphries Assist Award.

PAC-12 HONORS: **Tyler Bey** was named the 2019-20 Pac-12 Conference Defensive Player of the Year while **McKinley Wright IV** was tabbed first team all-conference for the second time by a vote of league coaches the conference announced on Monday.

In addition, Bey was selected to the All-Pac-12 Second Team while joining Wright on the Pac-12's five-member All-Defensive squad.

Bey is Colorado's second Defensive Player of the Year in any conference, joining Andre Roberson who earned the Pac-12's honor in 2012-13. He's the first Buffalo to win two different conference player of the year type awards. Bey was the Pac-12's Most Improved Player of the Year in 2018-19.

Wright is Colorado's third two-time All-Pac-12 First Team honoree, joining Josh Scott (2013-14, '15-16) and Roberson (2011-12, & '12-13) and the 13th Buffalo to achieve multiple first team all-league selections.

Colorado has had a first or second team All-Conference performer in all nine



Lucas Siewert



McKinley Wright IV

seasons as a member of the Pac-12. Bey is the fourth Buffalo to be named to the All-Pac-12 Second Team. In total, nine different CU players have accounted for 13 All-Pac-12 honors.

Bey and Wright represent Colorado's fifth and sixth Pac-12 All-Defensive Team members and the ninth and 10th including the program's Big Eight/Big 12 Conference era.

PAC-12 WINTER ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL: Juniors **Frank Ryder** and **Aidan McQuade** were named to the 2019-20 Winter Academic Honor Roll on Mar. 31.

The Pac-12 implemented its new honor roll in the fall on the recommendation of the Faculty Athletics Representatives (FARs). The conference changed the all-academic selection process to eliminate all-academic teams and honor anyone that has a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or greater and has served a year in residence at their institution.

Ryder also earned the Clancy A. Herbst, Jr., Student-Athlete Achievement Award presented to CU student-athletes who overcome personal, academic or emotional challenges difficulties to succeed both academically and athletically.

ALL DISTRICT: **McKinley Wright IV** was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District 19 First Team while classmate **Tyler Bey** was a second team selection.

A total of 10 individuals were honored on the two five-player All-District 19 teams which encompasses the Pac-12 Conference. Wright is Colorado's first NABC All-District First Team member since Alec Burks in 2010-11. Five Buffaloes in the Pac-12 era had previously been honored on second team squads, most recently Derrick White in 2016-17.

Wright was also one of 10 players named to the U.S. Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) All-District VIII Team.