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CU completes three interviews for men's basketball coaching job

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

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Tad Boyle (Denver Post file photo)

A source with direct knowledge of the situation confirmed today that Northern Colorado coach

Tad Boyle interviewed Friday for the CU men's basketball job.

The interview took place away from the Colorado campus.

Boyle was reached this morning by phone but declined comment.

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn and the search committee headed by associate AD Tom McGrath completed interviews in two days with the three known candidates for the position that was officially vacated on Wednesday when Jeff Bzdelik left for Wake Forest after three years in Boulder.

Former Wyoming head coach Steve McClain, who was Bzdelik's top CU assistant for all three years, interviewed on Thursday. Former Metro State head coach and Nuggets assistant Mike Dunlap interviewed Friday.

It is widely believed that Boyle, Dunlap and McClain are the only candidates. But Dunlap said there is always a possibility that another candidate could emerge.

"What's been my experience in these things is that there could be another person get involved," Dunlap said. "To think we know all the candidates can be naïve. But yes, there are probably three, or maybe four."

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CU fortunate to have three local candidates

By [TOM KENSLE](#) |  No Comments

[1]

CU assistant coach Steve McClain. (AP Photo/Eugene Tanner)

I have read comments wondering why Colorado athletic director [Mike Bohn](#) ^[2] is only considering candidates for the men's basketball job that, as one clever Internet poster wrote, can hit I-25 with a 5-iron.

I look at it differently. I think CU is fortunate to have three high-quality candidates with local ties in [Tad Boyle](#) ^[3] (Northern Colorado head coach, Greeley native), [Mike Dunlap](#) ^[4] (former Metro State head coach and Nuggets assistant) and Steve McClain ([Jeff Bzdelik](#) ^[5]'s top aide).

Remember, Bzdelik bolted after just three years. The last thing Bohn wants is for CU to gain the reputation as a "steppingstone" job. There are no guarantees, of course, but I have to believe that ranking high on Bohn's list of criteria is getting a coach that has a connection to the state and perhaps will stay for the long term. Anybody could see how excited Bohn became earlier this week while introducing a former Buff, 30-year-old [Linda Lappe](#) ^[6], as CU's new women's coach.

I have talked with the three candidates, and each was genuinely excited about interviewing for the job and perhaps getting an opportunity to coach the state's flagship school.

Boyle, a former high school All-American at Greeley Central, tells people every chance he gets that he's a proud Coloradan.

McClain, who coached nine years in Laramie, turned down an opportunity to accompany Bzdelik to Wake Forest because he wants this job.

Dunlap has coached Pac-10 teams the past two years in Tucson, Ariz., and Eugene, Ore. Both are nice places to live, but Dunlap kept his home in the Denver area.

As Bohn alluded earlier in the week, evaluating a coaching hire and judging whether it was “a fit” is about like rating a recruiting class – it’s best to wait a few years to see what happens.

But if I were in Bohn’s shoes, I’d be comfortable taking that chance on any of these three candidates.

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