

Here`s a peak into Santa`s sack of goodies for sports stars

Camera sports staff
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Yep, thanks to some inside sources, the Camera sports department has once again been given a look at the big guy`s list.

Yes, *THE* list. The list of what S. Claus left under the tree this morning for our favorite sports celebs -- the naughty, the nice and those in between.

Nobody received nine ladies dancing, four calling birds or a partridge in a pear tree. (Well, a certain very famous golfer apparently did receive a number of ladies dancing this year. But not for Christmas. We`ll put him on the "very naughty" list.)

There were also a few figurative lumps of coal (but not the real stuff. After all, Claus knows this is Boulder, and not even the jolly old elf himself would want the climate change crowd to get their underwear all bunched up over some stocking stuffers.)

Without further ado, the list:

A stepladder for top Bronco elf Josh McDaniels, so he can actually look his players in the eye when he`s chewing them out. And, a mute button for the moments when those sideline microphones get just a little too close to the action.

A Big 12 road victory-- or any road victory for that matter -- for the Colorado men`s basketball team.

A winning season and an NIT invitation for Buff senior Dwight Thorne, a class kid who deserves a little reward for his years here.

The next Nikki Marshall -- whoever she might be -- for CU soccer coach Bill Hempen.

The next Jenny Barringer ... oh, wait. There will never be another one of those. Never mind.

A third golden (Super Bowl) ring for Mike Shanahan in Washington with the Redskins (and a draft room big enough to hold both his ego and that of Redskins owner Dan Snyder).

Another shot at Kobe and the Lakers in the Western Conference Finals for Chauncey Billups.

The first NL West title in franchise history for the Rockies, which would mean another playoff run for Todd Helton.

Filled seats at the Pepsi Center for the Avs during a Stanley Cup playoffs run.

A solid recruiting class and a bowl game for Dan Hawkins.

A full season as a starter for QB Tyler Hansen.

A winning season in every one of his sports for Buff athletic director Mike Bohn.

Another run deep into the 5A hoops tournament for Frank Lee`s Fairview boys.

A strong U.S. team with some local flavor for the Bolder Boulder.

A postseason bid for Kathy McConnell-Miller`s CU women`s hoopsters.

A chance for Longmont QB Jake Johnson to continue his career in college.

A chance for former Fairview standout Kevin Russo to put on the pinstripes at Yankee Stadium.

More success for Taylor Phinney, and the opportunity for his parents to see him chase gold in the 2012 London Olympics.

A reminder for the entire CU football team that the season starts Sept. 4. In Denver. Against Colorado State. Might want to show up ready to play, fellas.

A season of woes for former Bronco spoiled brat Jay Cutler ... wait ... what's that? Oops, looks like Christmas came early for Jay this year. In that case, a pair of glasses for Jay, so he can see the difference between a Bears uniform and every other jersey in the league.

A contract for Brandon Marshall that will keep him happy for at least a few months.

An All-Big 12 season with at least five interceptions for Buff DB Jimmy Smith.

An All-Big 12 season with at least 1,000 yards for Buff RB Rodney Stewart.

A spoonful of maturity and a dose of stick-to-it-iveness for Darrell Scott.

One more shot for Gary Barnett.

No more shots for former Kentucky hoops coach Billy Gillispie.

And for all sports fans everywhere -- the reminder that it's just a game. If your kids are losing sleep because their favorite team is losing, you aren't teaching them what's important. If you are disappointed because your kid's favorite athlete isn't a good role model, teach your kid that role models are people who actually make a difference in their lives -- parents, teachers, coaches.

Happy holidays from the Camera sports staff.

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