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Hagan details CU's RB position

By Patrick Ridgell
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DENVER — Darian Hagan had lots of things to say Thursday about the four running backs Colorado signed Wednesday and what they'll mean to the offense in 2010. But here was his most interesting point.

"I think this year will be the first time since we've been here that defenses are going to have to play us honestly," Hagan said. "They can't pack the box. It'll be fun."

That ought to be nice to hear for CU fans who've watched opponents stack the line of scrimmage with defenders the past four years, daring the Buffs to pass. And it probably was a hint at what they plan in 2010, when a bundle of experienced receivers return with a veteran quarterback.

But Hagan's job will be interesting when spring drills open March 6. With Demetrius Sumler quitting the team in January and Darrell Scott in November, Hagan has only two running backs with experience: Rodney Stewart and Brian Lockridge. He also has a former walk-on in Cory Nabors, who he says is smart and can contribute, and a walk-on in Quentin Hildreth, who Hagan says can help, too.

The Buffs plan to be smart with Stewart. Hagan said Stewart is "the guy" and the others know that, so his carries in spring won't be excessive.

"We have to develop the other guys," Hagan said. "Lockridge is going to benefit from those other guys not being here."

Hagan said Thursday he still hasn't spoken with Scott since his sudden departure. Hagan said Scott is trying to open some lines of communication with CU.

"I haven't talked to him, but I've heard he's trying to get in touch with coach Hawk," Hagan said. "I do not know what he's doing or if he's enrolled in school anywhere."

"I called (Scott's mother) to ask how he was doing; I wanted to see if he landed somewhere. She said she didn't know what he had planned. He was going to let God work it out for him. I told her wherever he goes to let me know, so I can follow his path."

As for the new backs, Hagan said Tony Jones reminds him of Stewart in his mannerisms and that Jones will "be a good one for us."

Trea' Jones did not do a lot in his high school offense, but "the guy can flat-out run," Hagan said.

Hagan said CU received a recommendation on Trea' Jones from former CU wide receiver Charles Johnson, a high school coach in Raleigh, N.C. Hagan said Johnson coached against Jones and called him CU's "kind of guy."

Hagan added that North Carolina, North Carolina State and Wake Forest wanted Trea' Jones to play defensive back for them and were recruiting him as late as last week. Jones wants to play running back, and CU lists him as a running back.

Hagan said Cordary Clark-Allen, 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, is in the same mold as former Buff Chris Brown. Hagan said Alabama wanted Clark-Allen but chose to go with smaller backs. Hagan also said Auburn recruited him last week when it missed out on two other running backs it targeted, but was too late.

The fourth back is Justin Torres, who's 6-1, 215.

"The two bigger guys, they're just dogs. They like to get after you," Hagan said about Torres and Clark-Allen. "They're competitive, both 3.2 students.

"They're the type of guys we wanted. We wanted bigger backs. We got film on those two guys, and the next day I was out on the road going to talk to those two dudes."

Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog at www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell. He can be reached at pridgell@times-call.com.

Bufs to honor 1990 national champs

CU to celebrate 20th anniversary of title during Georgia game

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 02/04/2010 03:18:00 PM MST

DENVER --- The University of Colorado has invited members of the 1990 national championship football team back to campus this fall for a weekend commemorating the 20th anniversary season of the title.

The former Bufs will be in Boulder Oct. 2 to watch the current team take on Georgia at Folsom Field. Athletic director Mike Bohn said the athletic department is working with Nike to present each member of the 1990 team with a commemorative jersey and the 2010 Bufs will likely wear 1990 throwback uniforms throughout next season.

Former coach Bill McCartney, who built the school's only national title winner in football and is CU's most successful coach with 153 career victories at the school, made the announcement Thursday during the annual football recruiting luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel.

"You want to bring them back, you want to get them all here, if possible," McCartney said. "You want to honor and celebrate and laugh with them and enjoy that time. You want them to reconnect with the university and the experience that they had here.

"But there is another reason. It's so this year's team can feel the depth of the commitment and of the resolve that these guys had to achieve that high standard. I personally believe this year's team in that Georgia game, we will see Colorado play with all their hearts."

McCartney recalled how the 1990 team played what was later deemed to be the nation's toughest schedule on its way to the title that season. Part of that schedule was beating both Texas and Oklahoma on the road and beating Oklahoma and Nebraska in back-to-back weeks.

It was the second year in a row CU was able to beat both Oklahoma and Nebraska within an eight-day span of each other.

"Those teams that did that, it took a tremendous amount of resolve," McCartney said.

The Bufs beat Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl that season to capture their first championship. McCartney said he believes that was the most talented Notre Dame team in the past 20 seasons.

Several members of the 1990 team were on hand at the luncheon including running backs coach Darian Hagan, who quarterbacked the 1990 team, and his backup, Charles Johnson, who works in the athletic department and for KOA radio.

Hagan and Johnson closed the luncheon leading a group of about 500 in singing the school fight song.

"It's going to mean a lot," Hagan said. "To have all those guys back and see the guys that I played with for years and be honored and let this year's group be around them. I talk so much about the guys I played. For our guys to be able to meet them and understand where I'm coming from when I talk about those guys, it will be special."

Hagan said the 1990 team has remained close and many members of the team remain in the Denver-Boulder area. He said he recently reunited with former CU wide receiver Charles Johnson while recruiting Trea Jones, a running back in this year's recruiting class, in North Carolina.

Hagan said Johnson was recently named the head coach of a high school program in North Carolina.

"I had no idea he was living in Raleigh, North Carolina," Hagan said. "So you run into guys or you see guys all the time at games or see guys back in California. You just reconnect for a minute and it's awesome."

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FEBRUARY 4, 2010, 3:22 PM

Coach Mac remains optimistic

By **TOM KENSLE** |  2 Comments

Just returned from Thursday's 2010 Colorado Football Preview Luncheon, which is better known as CU's annual post signing-day review for donors and supporters. A crowd nearly filled a large ballroom at a downtown Denver hotel.

If there was any doubt whether former coach Bill McCartney remains optimistic about Dan Hawkins and his program, there shouldn't be any longer.

Raising his voice to fire-and-brimstone decibels, McCartney talked about how his record stood at 7-26 (actually 7-25-1) after his first four seasons. And just when he thought the program had turned around with a 7-5 record in 1985, the Buffs lost their first four games of the 1986 season.

But following an open date, Colorado won six of its last seven regular-season games and was selected for the Bluebonnet Bowl. The rest is history. McCartney's teams won seven or more games in each of his last eight seasons. Three times the Buffs reached 11 victories, including the 1990 national-championship season.

McCartney said he sees some parallels.

"I look at Hawk's record – his record is better than mine was," McCartney said. "I think there is a foundation ... we're going to come out of the wilderness.

"I believe this team (in 2010) is going to hunt you down, hit you in the mouth."

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cu football - briefs

Commemorative Jerseys a nod to CU's title team

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 02/05/2010 01:00:00 AM MST

Colorado will honor its 1990 national championship football team during the Oct. 2 home game against Georgia as part of a 20-year reunion weekend, and special commemorative "throwback" jerseys are planned for the 1990 team and for the current team.

The announcement was made Thursday by former Colorado coach Bill McCartney, a guest speaker during the annual CU recruiting review luncheon for boosters and supporters at a downtown Denver hotel. McCartney coached the 1990 Buffaloes to an 11-1-1 record, including a 10-9 victory over Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl.

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn said the 2010 Buffs could wear the commemorative jerseys for the game against Georgia, and perhaps for other games.

Colorado running backs coach Darian Hagan was a star quarterback during that 1990 run to the program's only national championship.

"It's going to mean a lot to have all of those guys back," Hagan said. "It will be great for our guys to be able to meet them and understand where I am coming from when I talk about those guys."

Ground-breaking.

Bohn said the go-ahead has been given for construction of the long-awaited basketball and volleyball practice facility to begin in early April.

The dual-sport complex, which also will house coaches offices for volleyball, will be adjacent to the Coors Events Center.

Construction is expected to take 11 months, with the cost estimated at between \$10 million and \$12 million, Bohn said.

"I can guarantee you, we're moving dirt in early April," Bohn said.

Details, details.

After a highlight video was shown of the newly signed football recruits in action, coach Dan Hawkins told the boosters that success is "fully in our grasp." Now that the overall roster is more experienced, it's time to "get out the microscope" and pay an even closer attention to the details, he said.

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"Any one of you that has forgotten your wife's birthday understands how (overlooking) those details can kill you," Hawkins said.

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