

## Bold new day for Buffs

Nebraska's departure could speed up CU's move to Pac-10

By **Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/12/2010 12:08:41 AM MDT



On the 30-year anniversary of one of the darkest days in its athletic department's history -- a day when seven sports were cut - the University of Colorado celebrated an inspiring new beginning Friday for its athletic programs.

Officials from the Pac-10 Conference and Rose Bowl came to town bearing roses in welcoming the Golden Buffaloes into the league, a move that was unanimously approved by the Board of Regents.

The Pac-10 contingent led by commissioner Larry Scott landed a small jet at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport just before 10 a.m. in Broomfield and was greeted there on the tarmac by a group of CU administrators and dignitaries in a white and gold Buff Bus.

Gov. Bill Ritter arrived shortly afterward demonstrating how significant the day was to the entire state, not just the school and its fans.

Former CU football coach Bill McCartney and newly elected College Football Hall of Fame member Alfred Williams were also on hand. McCartney aptly summed up the feelings of many.

"This is a Colorado day," he said beneath a sunny bluesky. "This is the greatest single thing that has happened to Colorado in many, many years. This is a bonanza for CU."

The entire group climbed aboard the bus and drove back into Boulder with athletic director Mike Bohn serving as tour guide along the way. Pac-10 officials stood together in the front of the bus as it rolled over the last hill on Highway 36 on its way into Boulder.

Like many before them, they were awestruck with the view of the town, the Flatirons and the beauty before them.

"What a special day," Scott said later during a press conference on the club level at Folsom Field. "This is an historic and landmark day for the Pac-10 Conference."

Scott thanked CU leaders for having the "courage" to take a bold first step in what is expected to be wide-ranging conference realignment in the coming days and weeks.

"I think history will recognize and reward that bold first step that we made together," Scott said.

But even as fans, faculty and alumni continue to celebrate Colorado joining the Pac-10, there are significant questions with uncertain answers, such as when CU will begin play in the Pac-10 and whether it will have to pay an exit fee to the Big 12.

The Buffs are scheduled to join the league in 2012 at this point, but developments around the nation could alter those plans dramatically. In fact, the process already appears to be underway.

Rival Nebraska announced on Friday it will leave the Big 12 for the Big Ten. The bombshell in Lincoln was that the Cornhuskers will only participate in the Big 12 for one more year, not two.

That development combined with pending decisions from other Big 12 schools about their futures could speed up the timetable for CU joining the Pac-10 by a year.

"I got to believe the Nebraska decision might be the first straw in a process that ultimately pushes our move up a year," Bohn said

Decisions from Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State about their future conference affiliation are expected early next week.

Several published reports Friday afternoon indicated four of those schools already had decided to join Colorado in the Pac-10.

Texas A&M is apparently considering a move to the Southeastern Conference instead of the Pac-10 because officials from the school are concerned about excessive travel time and costs in a league covering so much territory.

If the Aggies go to the SEC, the most likely school to replace them in the Pac-16 would be Utah of the Mountain West Conference. That league announced Friday it was adding Boise State.

If the five south division schools leave the Big 12, the conference could fold, leaving Colorado possibly in position to join the Pac-10 without paying an exit fee. It would be the cherry on top of a very sweet deal for the Buffs.

If the five south schools do join the Pac-10, it would expand the conference to 16 teams across three time zones and generate huge numbers in television revenue.

Colorado will receive about \$9 million this year from the Big 12 in conference distribution. In a new Pac-16, CU could be earning as much as \$25 million a year within three years.

## Hawkins on familiar ground

CU football coach grew up, began career, in Calif.

By **Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/12/2010 12:06:36 AM MDT



It took a few minutes once football coach Dan Hawkins sat down at a table Friday afternoon on the club level at Folsom Field and was surrounded by reporters, but the question eventually came.

What does he have to do to make sure he gets to be the man leading the Buffs on the field when they play their first game as members of the Pac-10 Conference either in 2011 or 2012?

Hawkins greeted the question with his trademark aw-shucks laugh that usually precedes an answer to an uncomfortable inquiry.

"I think we just have to keep moving in the same direction," Hawkins said. "I really do. I like what we're doing. I think Mike (Bohn) likes what we're doing. I think Phil (DiStefano) likes what we're doing. I just think we have to keep making progress."

It is common knowledge by now that Hawkins is on shaky ground in Boulder as he prepares for his fifth season at the helm of the athletic department's flagship program. He must win this season or he will probably be looking for a job.

Many viewed it as a reflection of the department's poor fiscal health when the school decided to retain him at the end of last season, rather than a vote of confidence in the job he is doing. It could have cost at least \$3 million to fire him after four seasons and a 16-33 record.

And now the road to success appears to be getting significantly more difficult for whomever heads the Colorado football program in the coming years. All signs are pointing to Colorado being in a division with both Texas and Oklahoma in a new

Pac-16 Conference.

The Buffs will probably also be in the same division with Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Arizona and Arizona State, too. The final team in the eight-team division could be Texas A&M or Utah.

All of those programs, with the exception of A&M, have enjoyed more success in the time Hawkins has been the coach at CU than the Buffs.

"You're up against some high-power teams," Hawkins said. "Now the other side of that depending on the revenue sharing deal and TV and all that, it might be part of the pop in a sense that helps you get back into that arena. I think it could be a positive effect that way."

When asked at the start of Friday's press conference with Pac-10 officials why he believes CU can be successful in the Pac-10, also known as the conference of champions, athletic director Mike Bohn had a simple answer.

"Why do I have confidence? Because the University of Colorado has demonstrated it before," Bohn said.

Hawkins said he was proud of Bohn and the other leaders of the university for being assertive in making the move. Even though CU could now face a more difficult path to division and conference championships, Hawkins said the change doesn't put extra pressure on him.

Hawkins grew up in California in the 1960s and 70s. He said in some respects, he feels like he's going home by joining the Pac-10. He generally watched the Pac-10 game of the week on television on Saturday afternoons

Hawkins also has extensive relationships on the West Coast having started his career in small colleges there after a playing career at Cal-Davis. He said he is very familiar with many of the coaches at current Pac-10 schools so the transition to the conference won't be as difficult as would be elsewhere.

"Any time you change there is a little bit of a discovery to some degree. Probably not as much for me and some of the guys on our staff because we've been around those guys and we know those guys. So probably not as much discovery as if you were to go into the SEC of Big Ten or something like that, or when we came here."

Hawkins said it will help in recruiting to be able to go into the homes of prospects on the West Coast, particularly in the talent-rich Southern California areas, and tell recruits they will be able to play in front of friends and family multiple times in their career if they come to CU.

He has only spent four years in the Big 12, a conference he wasn't very familiar with when he arrived. He said he will miss the traditions and the stadiums of the Big 12, but he is happy he got to see them all.

CU will need a new conference rival when it begins Pac-10 play. Nebraska has already announced its move to the Big Ten. Hawkins smiled at the idea of the two rivals possibly meeting down the road in the Rose Bowl.

"Maybe we'll have to designate a rivalry game and get after it," Hawkins said. "We'll see how that evolves. Nebraska had their rivalry with Oklahoma, too. So maybe we'll just have to horn in on one of them (Pac-10 teams).

"I think those are great, rivalries are great. That's part of what makes college football awesome. It's the passion and all of that and being able to say, 'Yeah, I remember when we played them 20 years ago or I remember when they had that player or that play.' That stuff is always part of the richness of the game."

#### **Notable**

Hawkins said the staff just completed youth camps for this year and the overall number of participants was down slightly but close to last year. Hawkins said camps involving high school players are beginning and enrollment also is down slightly, which he attributed to rules changes at the high school level. ...

Hawkins said about 15 new players are on campus and getting to know their way around the program and the campus. He said the incoming players are some of the biggest, strongest and fastest he has recruited to CU. "We can't see them do a whole lot, but our older guys like them, and I think they are very focused," Hawkins said. "I said this before on signing day but it's an athletic group."

# KU alums Boyle, Bohn look ahead

## California students excited to play in home state

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/12/2010 12:03:58 AM MDT

As a former Kansas player, Tad Boyle is interested in finding out where the Jayhawks will end up when all of the dust settles from the historic summer of conference realignment.

"I haven't concerned myself with that a lot," Boyle said when asked about KU's future. "This is one of those situation where you've got to worry about the things you can control. I think there are a lot of unanswered questions. Until everything settles out, you don't know who to be happy for and who to feel sorry for."

As the Colorado head coach, Boyle is both relieved and excited that the Buffs have found an attractive new home in the Pac-10.

"I think it's a great move, I really do. You're going from one great league to another great league. From that standpoint we need to recruit at the highest level," Boyle said on Friday as CU, Pac-10 and even Rose Bowl officials gathered at Folsom Field to celebrate the marriage. "I'm anxious to see where the rest of the dominoes fall, if there are more to fall. That will give us more guidance as far as where our recruiting base will be and if those need to change."

Two of CU's best players, Cory Higgins and Shannon Sharpe, are from California. Boyle landed a promising freshman-to-be in Andre Roberson last month out of Texas.

If the members of the Big 12 South Division who are reportedly set to join CU in moving to the Pac-10 -- Texas Tech, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and possibly Texas A&M -- are in the conference, that should help Boyle recruit more players like Higgins, Sharpe and Roberson.

Boyle will get a chance to coach the Buffs at Allen Fieldhouse, where he played along with Danny Manning in the 80s, at least once more before trading that tradition for trips to Pauley Pavilion.

"It's going to be an interesting period for the next couple years. I think the good thing is we know what's ahead for us and what's in front of us," Boyle said. "We've made some big strides, but we have a lot of work to do. There are a lot of challenges ahead and we're still in the building phase. But this is an exciting time because it takes a lot of the uncertainties and a lot of the rumors out of the equation."

The timing of the conference shift arrives just after major construction on a new practice facility began on the north side of the Coors Events Center.

These two events will only help Boyle and his staff as they prepare to hit the recruiting trail next month to put together a critical class which will be counted on to help the program make a name for itself in the Pac-10.

"Either one would help without the other. When you put them together it really makes a difference," said CU senior associate athletic director Tom McGrath. "We've been focused so long on the practice facility and we know it's going to get done and that it will have a huge impact on where we are as a program. And now we're in the Pac-10 mix ... the stars are lining up."

Reigning Big 12 freshman of the year Alec Burks, who grew up in Kansas City, Mo., in the heart of the KU-Missouri rivalry and was recruited by Kansas State, is also in favor of the Buffs bolting for the Pac-10.

"I feel like it's great, a change for the better," Burks said. "But it's going to be very strange not playing Kansas. I've only been here for one year, but I got a good taste of that rivalry."

Typically, the Jayhawk faithful make sure the Coors Events Center is packed at least once a year. CU, which finished

eighth in the Big 12 last season (the top seven teams in the standings went to the NCAA Tournament), gave No. 1 KU a scare before falling in overtime last season.

"Yeah, absolutely," CU athletic director Mike Bohn, a KU alum, said when asked if he will miss the Jayhawks series. "But I'm going to enjoy the UCLA series, and the Cal series, the Oregon series ...

"Being in the Big 12 Conference for (at least one more year) allows us to continue to feed off that, and I think the intensity of those games is going to ratchet up. We have a lot of work to do and this is going to be a big challenge."

CU's decision to leave the Big 12 for the Pac-10 means the Buffs will not be in the same conference as Kansas and Kansas State for the first time since 1947.

The Buffs are 87-137 (.388) in regular-season conference games since the formation of the Big 12. The program is 38-42 (.475) all-time against Pac-10 opponents.

"The first time we play a conference game at Pauley Pavilion, that's going to be pretty special," McGrath said. "I think we have more in common with all of the schools in the Pac-10 and we will be able to create some new rivalries."

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

## Woelk: Buffs' move becomes old news quickly

By Neill Woelk Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/12/2010 12:07:06 AM MDT

At 11 a.m. Friday, Colorado and Pac-10 officials held their first official get-together at Folsom Field. The mood was celebratory, and all the right things were said amidst a party-like atmosphere that trumpeted the dawning of a new era.

At 12:01 p.m., the party was over. The Buffs' acceptance of an invitation to join the Pac-10 became old news. Barely had the words from the press conference's participants stopped echoing through Folsom Field when reports of events elsewhere came filtering in.

Nebraska had voted to pursue membership in the Big Ten, an application that would be later accepted -- in time for the 2011 season. Texas' regents announced they would meet Tuesday to decide the Longhorns' future, a move that most Big 12 observers see as one more nail in the coffin of the once-proud conference.

When those news items began to drift through tables in the president's suite at Folsom, Pac-10 officials put down their forks, picked up their phones and went back to work. CU officials even made sure to provide work space for their new partners, turning empty stadium suites into temporary "war rooms" for confidential conversations.

Clearly, the process of expansion for CU's new friends is not finished. The situation that has changed hourly for the last week -- and it's not over for Colorado yet.

Not by a long shot.

As of Friday morning, the general consensus was that the "new" Pac-10 would begin play in 2012.

By Friday afternoon, it began to look like the "new" Pac-10 would begin a year sooner, meaning that one year from now, Colorado could be preparing to play in its new conference.

Such a scenario would put even more pressure on Colorado's athletic department to make the necessary changes in order to be ready for membership in their new conference.

Scheduling. Travel. A new set of conference by-laws to study. Tickets.

You name it, and Buff officials will likely have to reshape it to fit into the Pac-10. (The accelerated shift would also mean that Nebraska has already played its last game in Boulder.)

It will be the same scenario on campuses everywhere. If Friday's latest reports are true, Colorado will be joined by at least four -- and maybe five -- more Big 12 teams. Each of those schools will be jumping through the same set of hoops.

Nebraska, meanwhile, will be doing the same, only with the Big Ten in mind.

Then there are the schools in the Pac-10. Their schedules will have to be dramatically reworked in order to accommodate the new members, and they also will be preparing new travel plans as they get ready to head to unfamiliar places.

More chaos? Try television contracts.

Fox and ESPN, both of which have contracts with the Big 12, could suddenly find themselves with huge gaps in their future schedules. Meanwhile, the Pac-10 will find itself with a television deal designed to accommodate 10 teams -- not 16, which now appears to be the number.

The flip side, of course, is that it will mean a dramatic increase in the value of the Pac-10's next television deal, something that will funnel a significant amount of extra money in the direction of every conference member. The Pac-10 had planned to begin negotiations on a new deal next fall -- those negotiations could now begin next month or next week.

Want that first Texas-Southern Cal game on television? Like to have that Oklahoma-Oregon conference opener on your network? Step right up with your bid.

Then there are the schools likely to be left out of the major conference realignment.

If latest speculation comes true, that list could include Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Baylor and Iowa State.

(Kansas' name, however, did surface as a possible Pac-10 pick if Texas A&M opts to head east to the SEC. The other possibility to fill the sixth spot would be Utah).

Where do those schools go?

Kansas and Kansas State would be decent additions to the Mountain West, the conference that added Boise State on Friday. That would give the MWC 12 teams and make it a strong basketball conference and good football conference.

Missouri, however, might end up being the program left out in the cold -- and there is some irony there.

Missouri was the most vocal of any of the Big 12 schools about its plans to look elsewhere. While other schools -- including Colorado and Nebraska -- kept a positive public face about the Big 12, Missouri chirped loudly about being interested in the Big Ten. The Tigers trumpeted their worth, making it appear as if an invitation was theirs for the asking.

Now, the Big Ten has 12 schools and no need to add another. Today, Missouri appears to have talked itself into a lesser conference, at least for a couple of years.

Just 10 days ago, I wrote that this might be the week we remember as the beginning of the end of the Big 12. My prediction was somewhere between a wild guess and educated conjecture.

Today, however, it appears to be simply more and more of a certainty.

The landscape is changing -- far more rapidly than almost anyone could have envisioned. As one CU official put it Friday morning, "Buckle up. It's going to be a wild ride."

Indeed.

Close Window

Send To Printer



[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado  
Friday, June 18, 2010

Publish Date: 6/12/2010

## What about the Buffs' rivalries?

*By Brian Howell*  
© 2010 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — The University of Colorado has played Nebraska 68 times in football, including every year since 1948.

The Buffs have played Iowa State every year since 1946, and Kansas and Kansas State every year since 1948. CU has played Missouri 74 times, including every year since 1946.

With the Buffs set to begin Pac-10 play in 2012, those rivalries are likely to end.

Can you imagine a CU football season without Nebraska week?

“That will be a little bit weird,” said Colorado native Keenan Stevens, a senior on the Buffs football team.

When Bill McCartney took over as CU football coach in 1982, he made the Nebraska rivalry a point of emphasis.

Now that Nebraska is moving to the Big Ten and CU to the Pac-10, that rivalry is likely coming to a close. Nebraska is looking to begin Big Ten play in 2011, which means this year's game — scheduled for Nov. 26 in Lincoln, Neb. — could be the last meeting between the teams for a while.

That's a tough pill for some CU backers to swallow, but others are looking at the change in a positive light.

“Change is good,” said Darian Hagan, who played for the Buffs in the late 1980s and early 1990s and is currently an assistant coach with CU. “The only thing that stays the same is change. It's an opportunity to go play UCLA and start a rivalry with (former CU coach) Rick Neuheisel. That's going to be fun.”

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn isn't totally closing the door on the Nebraska rivalry, however. He was asked if he'd like to see the Buffs play Nebraska in non-conference games.

“Why not?” he said. “I haven't talked to (Nebraska AD Tom Osborne) about it, but I think from time to time that could be a marquee cross-section game.”

Of course, keeping rivalries going with all the Big 12 schools will be impossible. Instead, the Buffs are looking forward to seeing what rivalries emerge from the Pac-10.

“I think rivalries are nothing to take for granted,” Bohn said. “I anticipate that some new rivalries will emerge quickly in this league.”

“My gut is telling me that an event is going to happen that's going to create that. What that event is, I don't know, but I anticipate some type of development that will create that.”

Brian Howell can be reached at [bhowell@times-call.com](mailto:bhowell@times-call.com).



denverpost.com

Newsletter + Premium: Sign In | Register  
Commenting: Sign In | Register

Friday, June 18, 2010

Home | Media Kit

News Politics Sports Business Entertainment Lifestyles Opinion Travel Multimedia Shopping/Coupons Autos Real Estate Jobs Classifieds

62°

Home > Sports > Colleges > CU

CU FOOTBALL

## CU, Pac-10 have a certain ring to them

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

POSTED: 06/12/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — Saying everything that partners engaging in a new marriage will say and should say, dignitaries representing Colorado and the Pac-10 Conference took turns Friday on a temporary dais outside of the upper club level of Folsom Field and spoke of their mutual admiration.

They spoke of the "perfect fit" while the glistening Flatirons provided a glorious backdrop.

They talked about the whirlwind of events of the past week and how each side came together to make this joyous day possible. It was time to be glad and giddy, to celebrate and congratulate.

After all, this courtship had been going on for some time. Colorado and the Pac-10 had been chatting — perhaps flirting — for almost two months,

### CU IN PAC-10

[View slide show of CU and Pac-10 press conference.](#)

[All Things Buffs: The Post's Tom Kensler posts analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CU athletics](#)

[Watch video of the CU-Pac-10 press conference at Folsom Field.](#)

[Watch video of the CU Regents after a unanimous vote to join the Pac-10.](#)

soon after Kevin Weiberg was hired by Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott to be his deputy commissioner on April 12.

Weiberg had served as commissioner of the Big 12 Conference for almost 10 years before leaving for Chicago in June 2007 to get the Big Ten Network up and running.

"I had some casual conversation, at Larry's urging,

with Mike Bohn (CU athletic director)," Weiberg said. "So from that point, Mike and I were in communication with one another on and off. It picked up more steam in the last month."

On Friday, signed documents officially made CU the 11th member of the Pac-10, the first new addition to the league since Arizona and Arizona State arrived from the Western Athletic Conference in 1978.

The transition before CU actually competes in the Pac-10 could be two years, with the 2012-13 athletic year being the target, unless the Big 12 disintegrates sooner. But everyone at Friday's party, er, news conference, sounded ready to purchase a plane ticket for a West Coast road game right now. Ironically, 30 years ago to the day earlier, Colorado athletics suffered one of its darkest hours when several sports, including baseball and wrestling, were shuttered because of financial problems —

or, as some joked, so football coach Chuck Fairbanks could furnish

BOOKMARK PRINT EMAIL  
10 COMMENTS  
Share



Pac-10 officials, including commissioner Larry Scott, welcome Colorado to the conference, which could further expand. (Cyrus McCrimmon, The Denver Post )

### RELATED

#### College conference realignment

Jun 17:

[Utah to join Pac-10, be CU's traveling partner](#)

Jun 16:

[Utah headed toward joining Pac-10 with Colorado](#)

Jun 15:

[Paige: Nebraska rivalry isn't lost — McCartney's thinking roses](#)  
[Texas to stay in Big 12, others follow suit](#)

Jun 14:

[Texas, OU, OSU staying in Big 12](#)

Jun 13:

[Conferences' seismic shift a made-for-TV event](#)  
[BIG 12 OU, OSU huddle up with Pac-10](#)

Jun 12:

[Boise State joins Mountain West](#)  
[Big 12 hangs on desperately, waiting for Texas' decision](#)  
[Kiszla: Smart money says Hawkins had better win](#)

### COLORADO BUFFALOES

Fan Mail: Tad Boyle sees big promise in CU's jump to Pac-10

Utah accepts invitation to join Pac-10

Kiszla: CU's Hawkins is on the road to nowhere

Woody's Mailbag: Conference realignment at stop sign for now

Utah headed toward joining Pac-10 with Colorado

Colorado**AthleticClub**

Two 30-minute sessions  
with a Personal Trainer

ONLY \$49

Get Started Today

### NEWS FROM THE CU INDEPENDENT

CU alum arrested for protesting

Flash flooding could hit Boulder

Debate team wins nationals

RMLC tournament preview

Movie Buff: "Iron Man 2"

POPULAR TALKERS EMAILED VOTED YEAR AGO

Avs trade Hensick to Blues, sign three others

No day at the beach for U.S. Open players

Ubaldo, now 13-1, halts Rockies losing streak

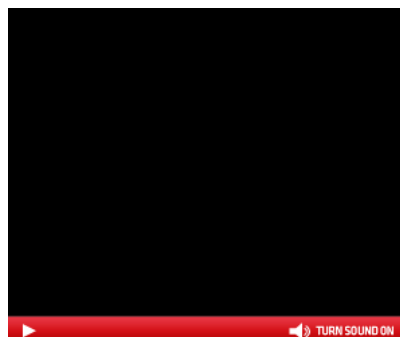
Broncos' pick Walton signs deal

Broncos sign 3rd-round pick J.D. Walton

Ubaldo wins 13th, Rockies snap skid with win over Twins

Wasting Ubaldo's year not an option for Rockies

MWC is done with expansion, for now; CU could to Pac-10 a year earlier



his office in mahogany.

"Three decades after 'Black Wednesday,' as bad a day as that was, this is going to go down as the most momentous day in CU athletics," said CU alumnus Richard Engel, who owns an Aurora tavern.

"Now, we can say to every football player we recruit, 'We want you to be on that CU team that goes to the Rose Bowl.' Our basketball teams will get to play at (UCLA's) Pauley Pavilion. Think about that."

Apparently CU administrators had — for months.

Bohn said Weiberg was indeed "integral and key" to the negotiations, if they can be called that. Colorado and the Pac-10 must have been smitten from the start. Weiberg said he told Scott that CU "is a very similar institution to the Pac-10 institutions."

Rumors began circulating in March that the Big Ten might soon expand from its 11 members to a "super conference" of 16 teams. Bohn took notice.

Widening the footprint for the stunningly successful Big Ten Network had convinced that conference to announce last December that it would evaluate the possibility of expansion. What would keep other conferences, Bohn said he wondered at the time, from doing the same?

"I thought this was something I really thought we'd better be on top of," Bohn recalled. "I was spending a lot of time working to ensure that if something like (Pac-10 expansion) came together, we could take advantage of it.

"I really had a gut feeling that something was going to happen this summer all along, with the way the TV contracts lined up with the Pac-10 and Big 12, and the opportunities for expansion around the country."

Months ago, rumors began flying that Missouri and Nebraska were Big Ten targets. Even so, Bohn said he went into the Big 12 meetings last week with an open mind of staying in the Big 12.

"To be honest, I went to Kansas City with the idea that it would be important for us to keep our league together," Bohn said Friday. "But when I was there, I was learning about different discussions that institutions were having with other leagues."

At last week's Pac-10 meetings in San Francisco, Scott got the go-ahead from the membership's CEOs to pursue Colorado, and other schools. Colorado President Bruce Benson hurriedly called a meeting of the school's board of regents Tuesday evening so they could be updated on an impending offer from the Pac-10. Along with Bohn, chancellor Phil DiStefano and the school's legal team, everybody gave a thumb's up for the Pac-10.

Scott applauded the "visionary" Colorado leadership Friday and said during his welcoming speech that "history will reward that first step."

Of course, the Pac-10 didn't have to twist the arm of anybody wearing black and gold. There has been a long history of courtship. CU has had eyes for the Pac-10 at least as far back as 1994, when the school rejected an offer from the conference because it had already begun work on a new league, the Big 12.

Boulder businessman Jim Martin, then a CU regent, believes the school really wanted to look westward then.

"I really think the board would have voted in favor of the Pac-10, even then, if we weren't told it would look bad," Martin recalled this week.

This week, Colorado finally got another chance.

"The college landscape has appeared to change almost hour by hour," Bohn said.

But the seed for this union had been planted months earlier.

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or [tkensler@denverpost.com](mailto:tkensler@denverpost.com)



The University of Colorado made it official that it will join the PAC-10 conference. They welcomed PAC-10 commissioner Larry Scott speaks on Friday, June 11, 2010 at Folsom Field after CU accepted the invitation.. Cyrus McCrimmon, The Denver Post (The Denver Post | CYRUS MCCRIMMON)

#### MOST COMMENTED

[Utah firing squad executes convicted killer: 25 comments](#)

[Ubaldo holding tough, Rockies leading Twins in Minnesota: 24 comments](#)

[Iowa Rep. King headlines Loveland immigration rally with Tancredo: 52 comments](#)

[Lawmakers confront BP CEO over Gulf oil disaster: 56 comments](#)

[Hawkins is a dead Buff walking: 22 comments](#)



[PRINT](#) [EMAIL](#)  
[RETURN TO TOP](#) [GET HOME DELIVERY](#)

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

## Pac-10 to look into scheduling

By Tom Kensler and Natalie Meisler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 06/12/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

**BOULDER** — Pac-10 deputy commissioner Kevin Weiberg, who attended Friday's news conference in Boulder, said the league is looking at various scheduling scenarios for its sports when the expanded league gets going.

Even if the Pac-10 ends up the Pac-16 with the addition of five more teams to join Colorado as newcomers, Weiberg said he foresees two eight-team divisions for football and men's and women's basketball, with no subdivisions or "pods" within the eight-team divisions.

He said a likely scenario would be for teams to play their seven divisional opponents each season plus two opponents from the other division. That would leave three nonconference games per year.

For men's and women's basketball, the Pac-10

would try to maintain the use of "travel partners" to minimize expenses, Weiberg said. Thus, if, say, CU and Texas Tech were designated as

travel partners, they would both play Oregon and Oregon State on the same road trip, with, for example, CU facing Oregon and Tech playing

[Blog: All Things Buffs](#)



The Post's Tom Kensler posts analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CU athletics.

Oregon State. Then two nights later they would swap opponents.

"In sports where not every Pac-10 member participates, there are opportunities to do some pod-like scheduling, with even more than two divisions that could make sense," Weiberg said.

### Boise thoughts.

Talking about his former school, Boise State, joining the Mountain West, CU football coach Dan Hawkins said: "I think that's great to get on a par with some of the teams from the Mountain West, and it probably strengthens the Mountain West. Who knows what will happen with the rest of the landscape?"

### First visit.

Advertisement

## PROTECT YOUR HOME

**FREE**

Home Security System!

\$850 Value!

CALL NOW and receive a **FREE** wireless remote control with **PANIC BUTTON!**

# 1-877-246-7519

Mon-Fri 9am - 10pm - Sat 9am-7pm - Sun 11am - 6pm EST

At no cost to you for parts and activation with only a \$99 installation fee and the purchase of alarm monitoring services. Terms & Conditions apply.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott, whose background had been in pro tennis, said he had visited the state of Colorado on several occasions. But he saw Boulder for the first time Friday.

"I was amazed by the beauty of it," Scott said. "I had heard that it is absolutely spectacular. I've read recent reports about the quality of life and healthy lifestyle here. That resonated with me."

Advertisement

**Own a new computer for just \$29.99\* per week!**



**And improve your credit score at the same time!**

**Give us a call today!**

**1-877-294-3988**

\*Prices start at  
\$29.99 but  
may vary by model.

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**





denverpost.com

Newsletter + Premium: Sign In | Register  
Commenting: Sign In | Register

Friday, June 18, 2010

Home | Media Kit

News Politics Sports Business Entertainment Lifestyles Opinion Travel Multimedia Shopping/Coupons Autos Real Estate Jobs Classifieds

62°

Home > Sports > Colleges > CU

## COLLEGE SPORTS

# California, here come the Buffs

By Natalie Meisler  
The Denver Post

POSTED: 06/12/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

to recruitBOULDER — Nearly every facet of the move to the Pac-10 would seem to benefit Colorado football. Now the Buffs just have to win on the field and prove they belong when they move over in 2012.

The intangibles of the move, particularly as it might help recruiting, were met with joy by CU football coach Dan Hawkins and his staff.

First and foremost, the move should solidify CU's California recruiting base. Now CU recruiters have another pitch: Come to Colorado, and we can take you home every year or two.

"Certainly those areas where you play (road) games a lot, that's always a big deal," Hawkins said Friday. "You end up going away from home but they also want their buddies to see them play."

For

## CU IN PAC-10

[View slide show of CU and Pac-10 press conference.](#)

[All Things Buffs The Post's Tom Kensler posts analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CU athletics](#)

[Watch video of the CU-Pac-10 press conference at Folsom Field.](#)

[Watch video of the CU Regents after a unanimous vote to join the Pac-10.](#)

into the Big Ten or SEC."

Another part of the satisfaction for CU coaches stemmed from the way CU sent out the message as the first to flee the dissolving Big 12.

"I'm really proud of Mike (Bohn) and the leaders," Hawkins said. "They are being assertive. There's no question there's a ton of instability going on (nationally). You are faced with: Sit back and be left out or do you get in on the front end of the deal and do something that is going to be beneficial for you?"

"It will be interesting to see what happens to the whole landscape of college football. . . . I give Mike and the presidents and the regents (a lot of credit). They are saying: 'The whole landscape is going to change, and we're not going to get left out. Let's be proactive on this deal.' "

Whether Big 12 South members eventually join the Buffs, as appears likely, Hawkins said: "I don't know what they are thinking or where they are at. We're taking care of the Buffs."

As for the potentially acrimonious two years before Big 12 divorces become final, Hawkins said: "Is there going to be extra chippiness? I think there's (already) a lot of that to go around."

BOOKMARK

PRINT EMAIL

1 COMMENT

Share

## RELATED

### College conference realignment

Jun 17:

[Utah to join Pac-10, be CU's traveling partner](#)

Jun 16:

[Utah headed toward joining Pac-10 with Colorado](#)

Jun 15:

[Paige: Nebraska rivalry isn't lost — McCartney's thinking roses](#)  
[Texas to stay in Big 12, others follow suit](#)

Jun 14:

[Texas, OU, OSU staying in Big 12](#)

Jun 13:

[Conferences' seismic shift a made-for-TV event](#)  
[BIG 12 OU, OSU huddle up with Pac-10](#)

Jun 12:

[Boise State joins Mountain West](#)  
[Big 12 hangs on desperately, waiting for Texas' decision](#)  
[Pac-10 to look into scheduling](#)

## COLORADO BUFFALOES

Fan Mail: Tad Boyle sees big promise in CU's jump to Pac-10

Utah accepts invitation to join Pac-10

Kiszla: CU's Hawkins is on the road to nowhere

Woody's Mailbag: Conference realignment at stop sign for now

Utah headed toward joining Pac-10 with Colorado



## NEWS FROM THE CU INDEPENDENT

CU alum arrested for protesting

Flash flooding could hit Boulder

Debate team wins nationals

RMLC tournament preview

Movie Buff: "Iron Man 2"

POPULAR TALKERS EMAILED VOTED YEAR AGO

Avs trade Hensick to Blues, sign three others

No day at the beach for U.S. Open players

Ubaldo, now 13-1, halts Rockies losing streak

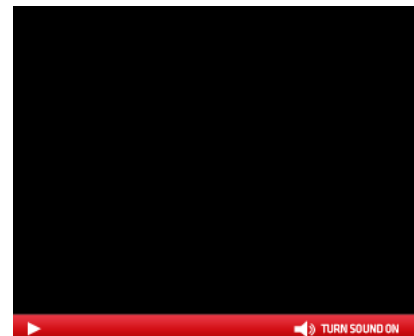
Broncos' pick Walton signs deal

Broncos sign 3rd-round pick J.D. Walton

Ubaldo wins 13th, Rockies snap skid with win over Twins

Wasting Ubaldo's year not an option for Rockies

MWC is done with expansion, for now; CU could to Pac-10 a year earlier







Hawkins, coming off a 3-9 season, with ongoing quarterback issues heading into this fall, said the new league doesn't present any more pressure than what exists.

Despite the joy of the moment, there was still time to reflect. Brian Cabral, the dean of the CU staff, and Hagan won Big Eight titles back in the day.

"You can reminisce about all the great competitions and great games in the Big 12," Cabral said. "That is hard to let go of that. We have to adjust and move on."

Added Hagan: "My thing is I'm an old-school guy. It's all driven by money."


Natalie Meisler: 303-954-1295 or [nmeisler@denverpost.com](mailto:nmeisler@denverpost.com)

 PRINT  EMAIL  
 RETURN TO TOP  GET  
 HOME DELIVERY

LIKE THIS ARTICLE?  RECOMMEND IT ( 0 REC'S) [ALL READER-RECOMMENDED NEWS](#)

Be the first of your friends to like this.

0 tweets

OR  

tweet

#### MOST COMMENTED

Utah firing squad executes convicted killer: 25 comments

Ubaldo holding tough, Rockies leading Twins in Minnesota: 24 comments

Iowa Rep. King headlines Loveland immigration rally with Tancredo: 52 comments

Lawmakers confront BP CEO over Gulf oil disaster: 56 comments

Hawkins is a dead Buff walking: 22 comments

Division of State  
& Veterans Nursing  
Homes is hiring for a  
Business Office  
Manager, permanent  
full-time position.

For details click here.


[ESPN.com: College Football](#)
[\[Print without images\]](#)


Friday, June 11, 2010

## Colorado, Pac-10 ride into the sunset

By Graham Watson  
ESPN.com

BOULDER, Colo. -- It's 9 a.m. and the Pac-10's chariot has arrived.

It's a white bus, much like a city bus, with a gold stripe and a Colorado logo. It's not the typical ride an institution would provide for its new conference, but it's Colorado's way of cutting through the tension that has overrun college athletics recently.

"It's been a very structured process and a lot of business and a lot of serious discussion, so it was an opportunity to really show what makes college sports so great," Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn said. "It's the mascots, coaches, student-athletes. That's what it's about. So we wanted to blend all that together and let them know that we take our business very, very seriously, but there are also some fun things about the University of Colorado that we're very proud of."

The hydraulics are released and the bus sinks slowly to the ground. Bohn stands at the door, ushering in chancellor Philip P. DiStefano and his wife, senior associate athletic director Tom McGrath, senior women's administrator Ceal Barry, a few other members of the athletic department, some media members, photographers and two-time national champion Colorado mascot, Chip.

Bohn hops on last and smiles: "This is going to be fun."

The bus heads 13 miles down US-36 to the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport where Colorado president Bruce Benson and former football coach Bill McCartney are waiting. The members of the bus unload and file into the terminal, where they anxiously await the arrival of the Pac-10 plane.

"This is the greatest single thing to happen to Colorado in many, many years," McCartney remarked.

McGrath compares tail numbers of parked planes to a folded piece of paper with an "N" and an "11" on it. No matches. The waiting continues.

"I think they're here," someone finally says, as all eyes shift to a plane rolling across the tarmac.



The Flatirons provided a scenic background for Friday's press conference.

The group leaves the terminal and files onto the CU bus, which drives out to the tarmac to greet the plane. Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott shields his eyes for a second to adjust to the sun on a perfect Colorado day. Consultant and former Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg smiles at some familiar faces, and the rest of the Pac-10 contingent mill around, shaking hands and exchanging greetings with their new conference brethren.

Almost immediately after the Pac-10 arrives, Alfred Williams, a College Football Hall of Famer, came walking across the tarmac wearing a bright gold suit and a smile, and he promptly shook Scott's hand and thanked him for Colorado's invitation into the Pac-10.

But the moment Scott couldn't stop mentioning came a few minutes later when a dark SUV rolled up and Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter stepped out to shake Scott's hand, too.

"That was an amazing reception and it blew us away," Scott said. "To see the support that was there and then to see the



governor change his schedule at the last minute to greet us really was overwhelming. Just to see the level of importance that decisions like this have. We tend to focus on athletics and I know there's a lot of media focus on the commercial side of this, but being here, talking to the governor, makes you realize the implications of these types of affiliations. They go way beyond the athletics and certainly the commercial side. It's what this means academically, what it means to economic development, what it means for the long-term prospects of the state and the image of the state. It's fascinating. It really gives me a great feeling of what we're doing."

After more handshakes, the group got on the bus and headed to Boulder to formalize a partnership that many believe was nearly two decades in the making.

Approaching the hill that leads into Boulder, Bohn invited Scott to stand at the front of the bus and see the university set against a backdrop of The Flatirons, Boulder's signature mountains, and a sky that looked as though it was taken from a postcard. It was the perfect setting for a new beginning for both Colorado and the Pac-10.

"I think it's a great opportunity to reinvent ourselves," said Barry, who was CU's women's basketball coach when the school was in the Big Eight and Big 12. "We've had some good and some bad in the last 13 years, and I think it's a great opportunity to set our standards a little bit higher; a standard of excellence, and to have that expectation from the top down. From the governor to the [university] president to the chancellor to the athletic director, our standards are high, that's where we expect to go and this gives us an opportunity and just a fresh start."

As the bus pulled up to Folsom Field on the Colorado campus, people stared. On the club level of the stadium suites, Scott was overwhelmed by the handshakes, pats on the back and thank yous. The CU Board of Regents unanimously voted Colorado's entrance into the Pac-10, tentatively scheduled for 2012, and then the entire room -- some 300 people -- sang the fight song as they snapped pictures with Scott and the signed resolution.

All Scott could do was laugh. He didn't know the words.

It was a historic moment that was sealed by Libby Wright, the chairman of the Rose Bowl Committee, who passed out roses to Bohn, DiStefano, Benson and CU Regent Steve Bosley to officially welcome them to the Conference of Champions.

"I think it's a great step for Colorado because they took their fate in their own hands," said Joel Klatt, a former Colorado quarterback who played for the Buffaloes from 2002-05. "Now, instead of the status quo, instead of saying that middle-of-the-road Big 12 play is what we're going to aspire to, now they have a chance to repaint that vision with the leadership of the athletic department. So, my hope is that that's what happens and that this gives them the opportunity and the momentum to make the changes both philosophically and infrastructure-wise that they have to make to be competitive.

"The school can be successful and it's been proven out in the past, it's just not successful right now. So, I believe that this gives them the kind of shot in the arm that it takes to go and really get something going."

"I think after 13 years of living in the Big 12 world and experiencing the competition, there were great things about the Big 12, but I think the timing for us now is possibly better," Barry said. "I think it will be a better match for us now."

*Graham Watson covers college football for ESPN.com.*



## Lappe sees landscape changing

Linda Lappe has been back at her alma mater barely long enough to warm up the chair in her office, but already the landscape is changing drastically.

Lappe, a former all-state basketball player for Winfield-Mount Union High School, took over as head women's basketball coach at the University of Colorado on April 12.

On Friday, Lappe's world turned upside down when Colorado decided to leave the Big 12 Conference for the Pacific-10 Conference. The move is scheduled to happen before the 2012-13 academic year, if not sooner.

The move left Lappe surprised and looking at new areas to begin recruiting.

"We are excited," Lappe said. "I did like the Big 12 Conference. It's a really tough conference and I felt like we could recruit well in the Midwest. Plus, we got to play near where I grew up playing basketball and watching basketball. It's sad in a way, but we are excited to be moving forward. The Pac-10 is more in line with us as far as academics and where we want to go athletics-wise."

Lappe, who just rounded out her coaching staff this past week, could sense change was in the air for the last week. Rumors of Colorado's move to the Pac-10 began swirling around the Boulder campus last week. Lappe knew the possibility for a change was there. It became reality on Friday.

"The last week or so, it started to really become a reality," Lappe said. "It's like our chancellor and president both said. They tried to get us in the Pac-10 15 years ago, but we stayed in the Big 8. The time was just right to make the move. We are happy we have a place to go, a conference to be in."

Lappe said the move changes her recruiting base. Currently, she has five players from California on her roster. She does a lot of her recruiting in the Midwest, but that will change when the Buffaloes head west. Her recruiting will now be done mostly in the west and south. That also could change, depending on what Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State do. All five are rumored to be heading to the Pac-10 conference to form a new 16 school conference.

"It changes the areas we will be targeting for recruiting," Lappe said. "A lot of depends on whether it will be the Pac-12 or the Pac-16. We will continue to recruit the west, but depending on what Texas does, it may be hard to recruit the state of Texas."

Lappe said one of the reasons for the move west is because much of the Colorado alumni base is located on the Pacific coast. The alumni have been trying for years to get the Buffaloes to move west. They finally got their wish on Friday.

"We will lose some long-time rivals, but we will build new ones, I'm sure," Lappe said. "The Big 12 is a very, very tough athletic conference. It's been at the top in a number of sports for many years."

Lappe said the decision to join the Pac-10 Conference leaves Colorado in a state of flux for the next two or three years.

"We are excited, but it leaves us with two different mindsets," Lappe said. "We are still in the Big 12, but we are headed to the Pac-10. We are looking to the future, but we still have to play in the present."