

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

fan mail

Tad Boyle: Big basketball promise in CU's jump to Pac-10

By The Denver Post

Posted: 06/18/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT



Tad Boyle. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

Ever wanted to ask a sports personality a question? Now's your chance. They answer readers' questions in The Denver Post's "Fan Mail" feature.

In this installment, Tad Boyle, new basketball coach at Colorado, talks about the Buffaloes' big jump to the Pac-10, why his team needs to get tough inside and how CU can build up basketball fans on the Front Range.

Keep an eye out for the next installment. Suggest a subject and send questions in an email to fanmail@denverpost.com.

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.

ADT Security Services

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

How do you feel about CU moving to the Pac-10? Do you think this will be good for recruiting? I am very pleased with the move to the Pac-10 for so many reasons. One of them is I'm looking forward to traveling to all of the college towns in the Pac-10. They are all beautiful locations. I definitely will not miss traveling to Stillwater or Ames!

--J.R., Colorado

Tad Boyle: I think it's a great move for our institution and a great move for our basketball program. And those two aren't always the same. But in this case it is good, for the school and the team.

Academically, we line up much better with the Pac-10 schools than the Big 12 schools.

From a basketball standpoint, we're going from one great league to another great league. But it'll allow us to recruit deeper into California, which was important for us to begin with. But now we'll be able to go deeper.

It's a great move for a lot of different reasons. But it doesn't change our approach. We still need to prepare at the highest level. Instead of having to beat Kansas, now we have to beat UCLA and Arizona.

The Pac-10 is a heck of a league, top to bottom. It might be a little bit different, with where we recruit and how many, but it's not gonna change a whole lot.

Hey coach, glad you're aboard. And good luck. For several decades, Colorado has trailed other Big 12 schools

--Bob, Windsor

TB: It baffles me too. That's why I'm here. Hopefully we can do something like that as a staff. I'm a Colorado guy. I believe in Colorado. There's nobody who wants to see this program succeed more than I do.

Back then, Colorado did recruit me. There's a long story behind it. There was no coach at CU at that point.

And that was a long time ago. But I've always loved the University of Colorado.

Advertisement

Identity Theft Protection

ENROLL TODAY AND GET:

30 DAY RISK-FREE* TRIAL

USE PROMO CODE:

ID

CALL NOW: **1-877-670-1746**



LifeLock.

#1 In Identity Theft Protection*

*At the end of the 30-day free period your card will be billed automatically (\$10.00 monthly/\$110.00 annually) unless you cancel within the 30-day period. You can cancel anytime without penalty by calling 1-800-LifeLock. Offer is for new LifeLock members only.

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST



As a prep star, Tad Boyle led Greeley Central to a state championship. (The Denver Post)

Over the years, CU has had some great teams and some great players. The problem has been, the successful teams and players they've had, they haven't sustained it. That's our goal.

Building a team is different than building a program. You have to be consistent in recruiting, you have to coach and build up the players you do have, and you have to layer the classes, from

freshmen to seniors. There are a lot of challenges to building a program.

Tad, there was one (1, uno, one more than none) Colorado prep player who signed to a Division I school for next year (Regis' Bud Thomas, to Mercer). Did you recruit Bud when you were at UNC, and would you have considered him at CU? What is lacking in Colorado prep basketball? Is it just one of those weird things that doesn't have a reason? Or is there something different about the state hoops now compared to when you were playing? Why can't anybody have 50-point, 20-rebound games like the old days?

--Ryan, Boulder

TB: We did recruit him at Northern Colorado. I'll leave it at that.

For us, we are going to recruit Colorado kids if we believe they can help us compete for a conference championship and an NCAA Tournament berth. I'd love to have as many Colorado kids as we can, if they fit that criteria.

We have great high school coaches in this state and great high school programs. It's a cyclical state. Sometimes

up, sometimes down. There are a lot of states like that, in fact most are. A few states produce year-in and year-out, like California and Texas. But Colorado is not one of those states. I'm not sure it ever will be.

Advertisement

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST



Tad Boyle spent four seasons as head coach at Northern Colorado. (Andy Cross, The Denver Post)

We just have to be prepared for when a player does come along and try to keep him at home.

What is your early assessment of next year's freshman point guard Shannon Sharpe? Former coach Bzdelik had commented that Shannon Sharpe was the best athlete on the team prior to his injury last season. Also, could you discuss the skill levels of your two new recruits, Ben Mills (center) and Andre Roberson (small forward) and explain how they will help the team next year especially in rebounding and inside scoring.

--Jack, Boulder

TB: We've had one week to work Shannon out. Three 40-minute sessions. I was impressed with his body, with his explosiveness, especially because he's coming of a pretty big knee injury.

From what I've heard, he's back to his level. He'll bring a toughness and a grit that will help us win some basketball games that maybe we didn't win last year. We're excited.

Mills and Roberson will be very good players at this level - eventually. Physically, they have some adjustments to make. They're here this summer, playing pick-up ball and working out in the weight room. We're gonna need both those kids to help shore up some areas of deficiency.

You never want to count on freshman, but you hope you can get some production from them to help win a few games. But Andre will help us on the defensive end and rebounding. Mills, at 7-foot-1, will give us a presence down low. Both those guys will be tremendous players at Colorado.

The last couple of years in the Big 12, CU's biggest drawback has been the lack of an inside game. Does the impending move to the Pac-10 change your philosophy at all, do you need to bulk up in the middle? And good luck with the Buffs, coach.

--Jim, Colorado Springs

Coach Boyle, I wish you much success in your new position. I think that you are poised to take the CU basketball program to levels that it has not seen in a long time. Question: The team still seems to be lacking an effective interior player on either side of the ball. Do you feel the need to still address this?

Advertisement

Help people in need.

Donate your car, boat or RV

Free Towing ■ Tax Deductible

FREE
3 day vacation to over
80 destinations.

Call Toll-Free

1-877-225-9384



 **Heritage**
for the Blind

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

--Eric, New York City

TB: Looking at last year's team at Colorado and looking where we need to get better -- it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure it out.

We have to get better on the defensive side of the ball and rebounding the ball. Period.

That won't get better with one player. It's a mindset we need to have every possession. And we need five guys rebounding the ball on the defensive end and we need four guys rebounding the ball on the offensive end.

We need to make that commitment. If we do that we'll be fine, in either league.

Do you plan on scheduling Air Force on a regular basis? What about Northern Colorado?

--Phillip, Colorado

TB: I hope so, absolutely. (Air Force coach) Jeff Reynolds and I have talked. We talked about the importance of the Front Range match-ups, letting fans have some interest. That might be a little different philosophy than with previous coaches at CU.

I'd like to play all the local schools. We won't play them all in one year. But a few each year would be great. We have a duty as college coaches in this state to get people interested in local basketball.

For UNC, I'd like to wait for the kids I recruited to leave the program before we play them. I have an emotional attachment to them and their families. It wouldn't be right. But in time, yes, let's play.

Coach Boyle, how much are you looking forward to playing your alma mater next season? I mean Kansas. CU doesn't have a good record against them, but the Buffs seem to always play Kansas tough, especially in Boulder. And good luck next season!

--Jackie, San Francisco

TB: I look forward to playing everybody in the Big 12. It'll be special for me to go back to Allen Fieldhouse (in Kansas). But I haven't thought about it a lot, to be honest. There are a lot of tough games coming up in the Big 12 next season.

The thing about preparing for Kansas, you don't need to do a lot as a coach. The players get up for the game on their own.

I want to get to a point where they're up for every game, mentally and emotionally. That might be a pipe dream. But over 30 games, 35 games, I think you ought to be able to do it. That's our challenge.

Right now, I couldn't be happier. I want the season to start tomorrow. I don't think a lot of coaches in the country would say that with a straight face. But I can't wait.

Advertisement

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Tad Boyle, 47, became Colorado's 18th men's basketball coach when he replaced Jeff Bzdelik in April. The former four-year coach at Northern Colorado has also been an assistant at Oregon, Tennessee, Jacksonville State and Wichita State.

As one of the best high school players this state has produced, Boyle helped lead Greeley Central to a state championship in 1981. That year, he also recorded a 50-point, 20-rebound game against Rocky Mountain. He went on to play at Kansas under coach Larry Brown and was team captain his senior year.

high school kid rather play in Ames than Boulder? Did CU recruit you when you were a high school star? What did you think of the Buffs and Boulder back then, before you picked Kansas?

Sports Fan Mail

Ever wanted to go behind the scenes to ask a question? Now's your chance. Players, coaches and the gambit of sports figures will answer readers' questions in The Denver Post's "Fan Mail" feature.

[Keep an eye out for the next installment.](#)

[Suggest the next subject and send Q's in an email to fanmail@denverpost.com.](#)

[See more photos from the world of sports.](#)

in basketball. And it's always baffled me. I know why Kansas is consistently good, they have a great history. But how can Iowa State and Baylor and Oklahoma State recruit so well, compared to Colorado? Why would a

Advertisement

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™