

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

Longmont, Colorado
Thursday, July 15, 2010

Publish Date: 6/29/2010

CU basketball will still recruit nationally

By Brian Howell
© 2010 Longmont Times-Call

No matter where or who the University of Colorado plays in basketball, Tad Boyle wants the same thing from his players.

"I've had a philosophy in recruiting ever since I became a college coach," said Boyle, who played his college ball at Kansas under Larry Brown. "You want guys that can pass, dribble and shoot. I learned a lot from coach Brown. The thing I learned the most is that he makes the game simple. We want guys that are well-rounded players."

Boyle and the other men's basketball coaches in the Big 12 held their annual summer teleconference on Monday.

Ten of the league's coaches talked quite a bit about the future of the Big 12 and what it holds after the 2010-11 season.

For Boyle and Nebraska's Doc Sadler — coaches for the two schools leaving the Big 12 after this season — the focus was on what changes they expect as they join their new conferences.

Nebraska is joining the Big Ten in 2011-12. CU is scheduled to join the Pac-10 in 2012-13, but could move that up to 2011-12.

Both Boyle and Sadler addressed how the conference change will impact their recruiting.

"It's not going to change the type of player we recruit," Boyle said. "We're going from one great league to another great league."

"We're probably putting a little more emphasis on California. We were going to recruit California anyway, so it's not like we're changing direction."

Boyle said the Buffs still plan to recruit nationally, including in Texas, where the Buffs will lose exposure when they begin Pac-10 play.

"We still need to recruit at the highest level," Boyle said. "We need to get great players, whatever league we're in, whether it's the Big 12 or the Pac-10."

Boyle said that while the move to the Pac-10 won't impact recruiting too much, it could have a big impact in the Buffs' national appeal.

"If anything, I think it's brought Colorado basketball to people's minds that maybe it wasn't on their minds before this change occurred," he said.

NU's Sadler said the impact on the Cornhuskers in terms of recruiting will be a shift in focus. He said there will be more of a priority in recruiting players from midwest states such as Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

NEW LEAGUE SCHEDULE: The 10 coaches who are staying in the Big 12 addressed the possibility of the league

going to an 18-game basketball schedule in 2011-12.

Currently, the league plays a 16-game schedule. An 18-game schedule would have teams playing each other twice each season.

Kansas' Bill Self and Texas A&M's Mark Turgeon both said they'd rather have a 16-game schedule because adding two more difficult league games, in place of two potentially easy non-conference games, makes the season tougher.

Others, such as Travis Ford at Oklahoma State and Scott Drew at Baylor, are looking forward to a possible 18-game schedule.

"I think it's a great thing because you have a true champion," Drew said.

Regardless of how many games the Big 12 schedule will feature, Self said he's looking forward to the 10-team Big 12.

"I feel better about the league today than I've felt over the last seven years that I've been in the league," he said.

AROUND THE BIG 12

Aside from an 18-game schedule, a common topic for the 10 remaining Big 12 coaches was the fact that basketball took a back seat to football during conference realignment talk. That was no surprise to the coaches. "It's always been that way," Turgeon said. "I know who makes the money for the university."

When asked about conversations he has had with Nebraska athletic director Tom Osborne about the move to the Big Ten, Sadler said, "We haven't talked about it."

KU's Self said incoming freshman Josh Selby is "just three or four weeks away from being full speed, full contact." Selby broke his left hand during a pickup game in Kansas three weeks ago. Selby averaged 32 points per game as a senior in high school last year and was ranked the No. 1 overall high school prospect by Rivals.com.

Missouri's Justin Safford, who tore his ACL against CU in February, will be ready for practice in October, head coach Mike Anderson said. "His progress thus far from the ACL surgery has been good," Anderson said. Safford will be the Tigers' lone senior.

Texas A&M recruit Tobi Oyedepi died from injuries suffered in a car accident in May. That left a major void for the Aggies, and Turgeon said the only positive news out of the situation is that the Aggies did "oversign" some big players last year. He envisions Kourtney Roberson and Bryan Davis, among others, to fill the void left by Oyedepi, who was a 6-foot-9 power forward.

Oklahoma State guard Ray Penn is "100 percent," according to Ford. Penn missed the end of the 2009-10 season with a knee injury.

During last week's NBA Draft, seven Big 12 players were among the 30 first-round picks. In all, 10 Big 12 players were among the 60 picks. Leading the way was Baylor's Ekpe Udoh at No. 6.

"After draft day, it showed just why the Big 12 has been so successful and was so successful this year," Drew said.

Brian Howell can be reached at bhowell@times-call.com.