

# Barry says interest strong for Buffs' job

## Former CU coach to head search for K-Mac's replacement

**By Joshua Linden** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

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Coal Barry could barely hang up the phone before the next call was coming in on Tuesday.

One day after Colorado announced the firing of women's basketball coach Kathy McConnell-Miller, inquiries about the job were already flowing in to CU's associate athletic director for academics and student services.

Barry -- the legendary CU coach who led the Buffs for 22 seasons before stepping down after the 2004-05 campaign -- is chairing the search committee that will hire the seventh coach in program history.

Barry said the combination of CU's membership in the Big 12, the school's location and its academic standing are all selling points in attracting the program's next coach.

A new practice facility and locker rooms don't hurt either.

"A lot of people are attracted to Colorado and want to move to Colorado," the school's senior woman administrator said. "They look at it as a great job."

Barry will be joined on the search committee by a high-ranking group of administrators: David Clough, CU's faculty representative to the Big 12; senior associate athletic director Tom McGrath; associate athletic director for compliance Kris Livingston; associate athletic trainer Leila Almahdy; and Andy Horowitz of CU's human resources department.

Once the group convenes, they will post the job to solicit online applications. After phone interviews and then campus visits for finalists, athletic director Mike Bohn will have ultimate say on whom to hire.

"Obviously this is an important hire for our athletic department," Barry said. "It's one of our marquee sports, and we want to make sure we have a broad range of opinions."

Barry was hardly surprised by the interest shown in the job on Tuesday.

She was a member of the search committee that sought out her own replacement in 2005. That search ended with then-Wisconsin-Green Bay coach Kevin Borseth being offered the job only to have him change his mind on the morning he was to be introduced as head coach. Two weeks later, CU hired McConnell-Miller.

Barry learned during that search just how attractive the CU job -- which hadn't come open in more than two decades thanks to her run of success -- was to other coaches around the country.

Candidates came from all levels of the coaching ranks -- from prep coaches to those with WNBA credentials. Between the selection of Borseth and McConnell-Miller's eventual hiring, finalists ranged from head coaches at major-conference schools to head coaches at mid-majors like McConnell-Miller to assistants at Big 12 programs.

"People want to work in this environment," Barry said.

Barry said she will be heading to San Antonio this weekend for the women's Final Four -- an event where schools and coaches often come together to discuss job openings.

Barry said she couldn't discuss specific coaches who might be candidates.

One name with CU ties that did surface this week in a San Diego Union-Tribune story, though, was that of San Diego State coach Beth Burns.

While she has expressed no public interest in leaving SDSU, Burns was a candidate for the CU job in 2005 before Bohn hired her for a second stint with the Aztecs in one of his final acts as athletic director there. Burns has twice resurrected a floundering SDSU program and turned it into a winner. The Aztecs tied for the Mountain West title last season and this year made it to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament after going winless in league play in 2005-06.

Barry said there is no specific timeline for making a hire. The most important thing, she said, is finding the right fit for the program.

One thing Barry was sure of Monday was that she had no plans to resume her former role.

"I won't be appointing myself," she said.

### **Smith to compete**

### **in 3-point contest**

CU senior guard Bianca Smith was selected to participate in Thursday's 3-point contest at the women's Final Four festivities in Indianapolis.

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women's basketball

## Former CU coach Barry leads search committee

**By Tom Kensler**  
*The Denver Post*

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**BOULDER** — In Colorado's search for a women's basketball coach, it appears preference will be given to those with head coaching experience.

That's the feeling of former CU coach Ceal Barry, who was selected Tuesday to chair the search committee. Barry has remained at the school since retiring after the 2004-05 season and is an associate athletic director.

"My personal feeling is that if you're going to coach in the Big 12 Conference, you need to have coached a game," Barry said. "I think it's really important to have someone that has managed a program before — called timeouts, run players' meetings, run a bench. The jobs of head coach and assistant coach are very different."

The position opened officially Monday when Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn announced the firing of Kathy McConnell-Miller.

**Blog: All Things Buffs**



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

McConnell-Miller, a former Tulsa head coach, compiled a record of 65-88 in five seasons at CU. Her last two teams went 11-18 and 13-17 overall, each going 3-13 in Big 12.

All seven members of the search committee are employed by CU and will report to Bohn. Among those joining Barry on the committee are senior athletic director Tom McGrath, faculty representative David Clough, compliance director Julie Manning and Kris Livingston, director of academic services for athletes. The school's training staff and human resources department also are represented.

CU has not given a timetable for the hire.

Barry, the program's all-time leader in coaching victories with a record of 427-242, said she already has received dozens of phone calls, texts or e-mails from prospective candidates.

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"It's a very desirable job because of location with Boulder, the academic reputation of CU and because of the Big 12," Barry said. "There were seven Big 12 teams in the top 25 of the polls. If you're in this conference, you know that you have a chance to make a name for yourself every week."

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