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cu men's basketball

It's official: Boyle names assistants

By Tom Kensler
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Tad Boyle (Denver Post file photo)

Their names had been known for weeks but new Colorado men's basketball coach Tad Boyle officially announced his assistant coaches Tuesday, with Tom Abatemarco, who was retained from Jeff Bzdelik's staff, being joined by Jean Prioleau and Mike Rohn.

Prioleau, who recently completed his second year on the staff at Texas Christian, and Rohn, formerly director of operations at Texas A&M, both previously served with Boyle on Wichita State under current Texas A&M coach Mark

Turgeon.

"Basically, three of the four coaches that were at Wichita State are back together," Prioleau said in a CU news release. "Colorado's a great place to recruit, and I'm glad to be part of it."

Said Boyle of the trio: "(Abatemarco) is a tireless recruiter, and that's something we're going to need. ... (Prioleau) is not only a good recruiter, a good basketball coach, he has a great basketball mind. ... (Rohn is) the ultimate grinder, loves to work."

Boyle said he will name a director of operations at a later date.

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

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Boyle's CU staff strong in recruiting

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Good move, methinks, for Colorado men's basketball coach Tad Boyle to retain assistant coach Tom Abatemarco and make the wily veteran part of CU's new staff.

Abatemarco, it seems, can get around any corner of the country without a road map. His coaching credentials – and recruiting contacts – stretch from coast to coast, having served as an assistant under Jim Valvano on North Carolina State's 1983 national championship team and as a head coach at Sacramento State.

Abatemarco also knows his way around Boulder, having coached the Buffs under Joe Harrington from 1991-94. Other career stops included head-coaching gigs at Lamar and Drake, and various duties with the NBA's Sacramento Kings and WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs.

An acquaintance once told me that if there is somebody in the basketball world that Abatemarco doesn't know personally, rest assured that he will soon. He likes to chat almost as much as he loves to work, attributes that make a recruiter successful.

I always give the head coach the credit in recruiting. But the AAU coach of recent CU signee Andre Roberson said Abatemarco kept the lines of communication open with the 6-foot-7 all-state forward from suburban San Antonio during the coaching change.

Not that Boyle should have necessarily made this a consideration, but anybody should feel good that Abatemarco caught a break. After all, he accepted the CU assistant's job on March 17. And the moving van with his belongings was on its way from Sacramento to Boulder while Bzdelik negotiated with Wake Forest.

Boyle has not announced his staff hires. But it's no secret that joining Abatemarco (the only assistant retained from Bzdelik's staff) as full-time assistants are two of Boyle's coaching pals from his days at Wichita State, as predicted by the Denver Post three weeks ago. Jean Prioleau recently completed his second season at TCU, after having also worked at Iowa State and Marquette. Mike Rohn left his job as director of basketball operations at Texas A&M under Mark Turgeon, who was Boyle's boss at Wichita State.

Prioleau and Rohn also are considered strong recruiters. The trio of hires should serve Boyle – and Colorado – well.

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