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CU's addition of 7-footer official

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

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If 7-foot-1 Ben Mills turns out to be as effective as Colorado's last 7-footer, new CU men's basketball coach Tad Boyle will have landed a keeper.

With the necessary paperwork having been completed Wednesday, Boyle officially announced the signing of the towering Mills, an all-state player from Arrowhead High School in Hartland, Wis. He will be CU's first 7-footer since David Harrison (2001-04), who became an NBA first-round draft choice.

Mills picked CU over Georgia Tech and Oregon State. He averaged 17.1 points, 11.2 rebounds and 1.4 blocks per game this season in leading Arrowhead to its first-ever state championship in boys basketball. Hartland is a suburb of Milwaukee.

Mills originally signed with Boise State in November. But he was released from that letter of intent this spring after Boise State made a coaching change. Mills went on to have a big senior year and more suitors came calling after

he went back on the market. Other schools to offer Mills in the spring included Northwestern, Iowa State and Xavier.

At 215 pounds, Mills needs to add bulk and strength. But Boyle loves his potential.

"Ben has all the tools and skills of a big man to play in the Big 12," Boyle said in a CU news release. "He has a tremendous upside, loves the game of basketball and wants to get better every day. We are pleased to get someone of Ben's drive, skill and talent this late in the recruiting period."

Mills became the third addition to CU's roster since Boyle arrived as coach on April 19. The center joined 6-7 forward Andre Roberson, an all-state forward at Converse (Texas) Wagner High School, and 6-5 guard Carlon Brown, who played three years at the University of Utah. Brown must sit out the 2010-2011 season as a transfer and then will have one year of eligibility at CU.

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

MAY 12, 2010, 9:42 AM

CU hoops attendance increase sixth-best

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Attendance figures for men's basketball were released today by the NCAA. The Big 12 Conference deserves a high-five.

Establishing its all-time high for average home attendance with 11,214 fans per game during the 2009-2010 season, the Big 12 ranked third behind the Big Ten (12,591) and Southeastern Conference (11,770).

According to the Big 12 office, for the first time all dozen members ranked among the top 100.

Colorado still ranked last among Big 12 teams, at No. 86. But CU's average of 6,267 was up from 4,637 the previous season, an increase of 1,630 fans that ranked sixth-best nationally.

Kansas State led the nation in average attendance increase with a jump of 2,943 to 11,884.

The nation's top three were Kentucky (24,111), Syracuse (22,152) and Louisville (19,397). Big 12 leader Kansas ranked ninth with 16,433 fans per game.

Attendance figures for other conferences of Colorado-based teams had the Mountain West (8,176) ranking sixth (one spot ahead of the Pac-10), the Sun Belt (2,451) ranking 17th, and the Big Sky (2,401) at No. 19. There are 31 Division I conferences for men's basketball.

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ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS COLORADO SPORTS

CU Buffs Milewski, Esposito named All-Big 12

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 05/12/2010 11:57:47 PM MDT

Colorado seniors Monica Milewski and Melisa Esposito were both named to the All-Big 12 Conference tennis team on Wednesday.

Milewski was honored for singles play, while both were honored in doubles.

Milewski's honors make her the most decorated CU player by the Big 12. She has been honored by the league in singles three times (2007, 2008, 2010) and doubles twice (2008, 2010).

No other CU player -- on the men's or women's side -- has ever been recognized more than twice in doubles or four times total.

Esposito's doubles honor is her second after being recognized with Camila Belassi last season.

Milewski went 8-1 in Big 12 No. 1 singles play this season. She and Esposito leave CU with a share of the school record for doubles victories with 77.

Bufs ink Mills

Colorado's men's basketball team officially signed 7-foot-1 center Ben Mills on Wednesday, making him the third recruit to join the team in the past two weeks.

Mills, a Wisconsin prep star the past two seasons, originally signed with Boise State in November but was granted a release by the school after the Broncos made a coaching change. He gave a verbal commitment to CU coaches last week.

Mills averaged 17.1 points, 11.2 rebounds and 1.4 blocks per game as a senior in leading Arrowhead to a 25-3 record and the WIAA Division 1 state championship.

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Colorado Springs Independent

COLUMNS » END ZONE

May

Hope for CU hoops

End Zone

by Ralph Routon

As soon as the University of Colorado discovered that **Jeff Bzdelik** would be departing as head men's basketball coach, the first thought must have been: What a great opportunity. Surely, CU athletic director **Mike Bohn** would be able to make a big-name hire, a new coach who could attract recruits from everywhere. And the timing couldn't be better, especially if Colorado does move to the conference now known as the Pac-10.

Anyway, amid all the fixation on the Denver Broncos' draft and the Colorado Rockies' turbulent first month, the outcome of CU's coach search slipped by without fanfare. So this week we need to play catch-up because the Buffaloes' new head man definitely warrants the attention.

Most likely, unless you're from Greeley or happen to be a longtime follower of Colorado high school basketball, you haven't heard the name of **Tad Boyle**.

That's OK. Because Colorado's new head coach doesn't have to live in his past, as successful as it might have been.

Boyle grew up in Greeley, led Greeley Central to a state basketball championship in 1981, and earned high school All-American honors. He played college ball at Kansas under coach **Larry Brown**, but that didn't automatically catapult Boyle into coaching himself. Instead, he took his education into the financial world and was a highly successful stockbroker — ironically, living in Boulder — making big money in the 1990s even before turning 30.

He could have stayed on that track, but Boyle decided to try coaching. He worked his way up as an assistant, then four years ago took what many saw as a career-killing challenge: to be head coach back in his hometown at the University of Northern Colorado. How bad was UNC? Arguably the worst in all of the NCAA's Division I, ranked at the very bottom of the national RPI index that rates nearly 350 teams.

This past season, Boyle guided Northern Colorado to a 25–8 record, second place in the reputable Big Sky Conference, and with a real shot at the NCAA Tournament until the Bears lost in their league tournament. Still, UNC could call itself the state champion, with victories against Air Force, Colorado State and the University of Denver. Boyle's team even had a private preseason scrimmage against Colorado, and various reports indicated UNC was the better team.

At the end of the 2009–10 season, UNC ranked 118th on that RPI index, just ahead of CSU and CU. That's a long climb from the bottom.

And when Bzdelik bolted for Wake Forest, Boyle applied. The other two finalists were **Steve McClain**, Bzdelik's top assistant and the choice of Colorado's players, and **Mike Dunlap**, who coached Metro State to a pair of NCAA Division II national titles and more recently was well-regarded as an assistant at Oregon.

Boyle and Bohn did share one trait, having both been athletes at Kansas. (Bohn played football.) But in the end, Boyle's love for Colorado got him the CU job.

He also has made a very smart move, retaining veteran assistant **Tom Abatemarco**, whom Bzdelik had hired just before leaving (and didn't ask to join the Wake Forest staff). Whether or not pity had anything to do with it, Boyle embraced Abatemarco, known nationally as a tireless and productive recruiter. That's already paying off with some late signees to give the Buffs depth, beginning with 6-foot-7 power forward **Andre Roberson** of San Antonio and 7-foot-1 center **Ben Mills** of Wisconsin. Mills had planned to go to Boise State but asked to be released after a coaching change there.

Boyle already has won another more important victory: He convinced **Alec Burks**, the Big 12 Freshman of the Year last season (17 points and five rebounds a game), to remain at Colorado. And a big part of that sales pitch was Boyle immediately telling Burks that CU would run opponents to death, taking full advantage of the altitude. Needless to say, that went over well.

With Burks, the other returnees and those recruits, Tad Boyle already has injected new energy into Colorado basketball, along with a brighter future.

And unlike his predecessor, Boyle isn't going anywhere.

— routon@csindy.com

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