

## Tad Boyle returns, delights fans

### CU NOTES

LOBATO UPDATE: CU coach Dan Hawkins was asked by a fan whether he planned on having former Eaton standout Seth Lobato play quarterback or wide receiver this season. Hawkins said the team was moving Lobato to safety to start fall camp, but if that didn't work out, he may play a "slash role" as a quarterback and receiver.

BUSTIN' A MOVE: The star of the show Thursday was Boyle's son, Pete, 7, who danced to the CU fight song at the end of the event. UNC fans will remember Pete as the boy whose dance routines while mopping the floors between timeouts at his UNC basketball games were a crowd favorite.

"He's got the personality. He's got the rhythm," Boyle said. "In both those categories, he's better than his dad already."

QUOTE OF THE DAY: Boyle's opening comments to the crowd at the Greeley Country Club: "The problem with speaking to this group is you guys have heard all my bad jokes before, so I can't go there," Boyle said.

[MATT SCHUMAN](#),

The people who seemed to know the least about University of Colorado men's basketball coach Tad Boyle on Thursday in the packed banquet room at the Greeley Country Club were his fellow CU coaches.

Even CU football coach Dan Hawkins joked with the crowd filled with loyal Boyle supporters that he wouldn't have known who Boyle was if he ran into him at a Starbucks before last week.

However, Hawkins and the rest of the coaches at CU are getting to know a lot about Boyle, the former University of Northern Colorado coach, as they tour the state on a bus this week to promote the CU athletic department.

The tour brought Boyle, a Greeley native, back to his hometown to speak publicly for the first time since he was named the new CU men's coach in April.

For Boyle, it was more like a family reunion as the country club was filled with his loyal supporters in Greeley, many of whom are CU alumni.

One of those was Dan Trevino, a former classmate of Boyle's at Greeley Central and a CU alum, who brought his entire family to the event. Trevino has been a fan of Boyle's since he saw him play as a high school standout with the Wildcats.

Trevino admits he was disappointed when Boyle chose to play college basketball at the University of Kansas instead of for his beloved Buffs, but is now ecstatic Boyle is finally a member of the CU family.

"Once the position came up at CU, I know I was one of many who said (get) Tad Boyle," Trevino said.

Still, like a lot of Boyle's local supporters, Trevino admitted it was a bittersweet moment when Boyle was hired. He enjoyed taking his family to UNC games and bragging to his kids about how he once knew Boyle, calling him "the pride of Greeley Central."

Boyle's former high school coach Larry Hicks also enjoyed having Boyle close by at UNC. Hicks, who still lives in Greeley, was a frequent visitor at UNC practices and games when Boyle was there and became close with the UNC team.

However, Hicks is now a big Buffs fan.

"We kind of became attached to the players (at UNC), too," Hicks said. "So we will try to get to there games, but we'll go to Boulder, too."

Boyle is hoping his Greeley fans will become Buff supporters. Boyle knows they'll be some loyal UNC who are disappointed that he left, but he believes there is no reason they can't be supporters of both teams.

"The people who care about Tad Boyle understand," Boyle said. "I'm sure there are some that may have some hard feelings, and I think that is understandable because anytime you leave something and there is change, it is unsettling. But I will forever be thankful to Northern Colorado for giving me the first opportunity to be a Division I head coach."

George Hill has been a Greeley resident for 52 years and has known the Boyle family since his high school days at Greeley Central where his daughter, Lori Masi, was a classmate of Boyle's.

A graduate of CU, Hill has been a fan of the Buffs for more than 50 years and is also a longtime UNC fan. He knows Boyle still cares about the players and the program he left behind at UNC.

"I am sure the hardest thing for him was leaving these kids," Hill said. "He is the type of coach where they are not just a commodity to him. He cherishes every one of them. Knowing him, the hardest part of this whole thing was leaving those kids."

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