

# Roar of Folsom draws in ex-Buffs for Bolder Boulder

## Former CU standouts hope to lead challenge for team titles

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Here ... comes ... Ralphie!

Only Colorado football players get to experience the thrill of running out onto the field behind the great buffalo mascot as 50,000 fans are rocking under the Flatirons on fall Saturdays.

But Bolder Boulder professional runners typically enjoy a similar adrenaline rush at the end of the annual Memorial Day 10K, which finishes inside Folsom Field.

In 2009, James Carney -- the top American finisher -- was taken aback by the roar of the crowd as he entered the stadium. He can only imagine what the scene will be like for ex-CU standouts Brent Vaughn and Renee Metivier-Bailee on Monday.

"I'm more excited about that than any other race this year," Metivier-Bailee, who will run for Team USA in the International Team Challenge, said during Saturday's Bolder Boulder luncheon at the Harvest House. "I talked to Carney about it last year and he said there's nothing better than coming in there and they're chanting USA and yourname. And I'm a CU alum, so on top of everything else I have that going for me."

Vaughn, a former Class 5A state cross country champion at Smoky Hill, ran the Bolder Boulder in high school before a stellar career with the Buffs.

"James Carney, who isn't even a CU grad, told me last year he has never seen anything like it when he entered the stadium," Vaughn said. "So many people were there screaming, and he said it was unbelievable. That's a big reason I wanted to do this. The main thing is to go out there and just have fun."

Vaughn headlines an impressive Team Colorado lineup on the men's side that also includes Carney and Aaron Braun. This group should challenge Team USA -- made up of Jorge Torres, Jason Hartmann and Andrew Carlson -- and perhaps be in contention for the International Team Challenge title if all three members have a good day on the 6.2-mile point-to-point course.

"We're friends, so of course we're going to be talking amongst each other, little jabs here and there," said Torres, another former CU standout. "It's all in good fun. They're a pretty good team themselves, and I wouldn't be surprised if they're challenging us. We have two pretty good teams and it will be interesting to see which team prevails."

The Bolder Boulder will welcome back all four champions from the 2009 professional races, which makes Ethiopia the favorite to sweep the International Team Challenge again.

Last year Tilahun Regassa ran the fastest time (28:17) in the men's race since the Bolder Boulder record was set in ideal conditions in 1995 to lead Ethiopia its third consecutive International Team Challenge title. Runner-up Tadesse Tola (28:36) also returns with Lelisa Desisa rounding out the team to beat.

Ethiopia is just as strong on the women's side with defending champion Mamita Daska returning looking for more Memorial Day glory at Folsom Field. She will run with Amane Gobena and Belianesh Zemedkun.

"Last year their third guy didn't have a very good day and our third guy kind of messed up a little bit," said Carney, who was fourth individually and a member of Team USA, the runner-up to Ethiopia. "If our third guy would have ran well we would have won the whole thing. I think we have maybe a little bit of a stronger team this year. You never know, if it plays out like it did last year we can sneak in there."

On the women's side, Team USA should be a major factor considering Metivier-Bailee is teaming up with Amy Hastings

and Magdalena Lewy-Boulet, the same trio coming off a bronze medal performance at the World Championships in Poland.

"Huge," Metivier-Bailee, an 11-time All-American at CU, said of the built-in chemistry Team USA brings to the Bolder Boulder. "We've been excited about this ever since it got solidified with all the members. It gives us more synergy than we would have had if we were just people running together that didn't know each other. We're a team who celebrated and went after it together and really worked as a team (at the World Championships). Hopefully, that's what we can do on Monday."

And if any of the CU runners need some extra motivation they will get a loud dose of it as soon as they enter Folsom Field.

"If there's anybody near me in that last quarter-mile, they're going down," Metivier-Bailee said. "It's hard to say how I'm going to feel, but there's definitely going to be a big smile."

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