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Steele's college football preview bullish on Buffs

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Phil Steele's "College Football Preview" magazine claims to be the most accurate yearly preview of its kind for the past 11 years. That could be good news for Colorado fans because Steele remains bullish on the Buffaloes.

I received an advance copy of Steele's 2010 magazine, which should hit newsstands soon. He picks CU to finish third in the Big 12 North, behind favorite Nebraska and Missouri, and expects fifth-year Buffs coach Dan Hawkins to post his first winning season.

"(Colorado) did not catch a lot of breaks last season and figures to be much stronger on both sides of the ball," writes Steele. "The Buffs made my (preseason) 'Most Improved List' last year and disappointed. They are one of the rare teams to make my Most Improved List for the second straight year and have a lot of factors in their favor."

Steele's preseason all-Big 12 teams include Colorado offensive linemen Ryan Miller (guard) and Nate Solder (tackle) on the first team; wide receiver Scotty McKnight and tight end Ryan Deehan on the second team; cornerback Jimmy Smith on the third team; and defensive tackle Will Pericak and returner Brian Lockridge on the fourth team.

Nationally, Steele projects Solder, the 6-foot-9, 300-pounder from Buena Vista, to be a second-team All-American.

Steele's preseason top 40 starts with 1. Oklahoma, 2. Ohio State, 3. Alabama, 4. TCU, 5. Nebraska. Other Big 12 teams are No. 11 Texas, No. 39 Texas A&M and No. 40 Missouri.

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