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Timing right for CU's Boyle to take Utes transfer

By [TOM KENSLER](#) |  No Comments

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CSU guard Jesse Woodard tries to drive around Utah guard [Carlton Brown](#) ^[2] last season (AP).

A friend of mine that's a proud Colorado alumnus wondered out loud why in the world would new CU men's basketball coach [Tad Boyle](#) ^[3] use a scholarship on a player with only one year of eligibility remaining?

Assuming that [Carlton Brown](#) ^[2] is – and remains – a solid citizen, good teammate and solid student, I believe bringing in the Utah transfer was a no-brainer.

CU finally announced today that Brown, a sturdy 6-foot-5, 200-pound guard, is officially on board. Brown, from Riverside, Calif., led the Utes in scoring for 2009-10 with 12.6 points per game and tied as the team's top rebounder (4.1).

Those numbers suggest that he will be a contributor. But, as they say, timing is everything. Brown must sit out the 2010-11 season under transfer rules and will be a fifth-year senior for the Buffs in 2011-12. That's the season that Boyle for sure will have to replace [Cory Higgins](#) ^[4] and Marcus Relphorde, and also may be looking to fill the void left by [Alec Burks](#) ^[5], who, if those NBA Draft-related websites are close to being accurate, will be pro-ready following his sophomore season.

In fact, at least one early 2011 NBA mock draft has projected Burks to be a lottery pick after next season.

So the timing of Brown's one year of eligibility at CU may be perfect. His athleticism and experience should, for a season, lessen the sting of losing Higgins, Relphorde and possibly Burks. Colorado could be in for a good first year under Boyle, perhaps challenging for an NCAA berth next spring. But in looking over the roster he inherited, Boyle must have cringed at the thought of 2011-12. At least with Brown – and the earlier signing of promising 6-7 forward Andre Roberson from San Antonio – the cupboard won't be as bare.

Two other benefits from signing Brown:

- 1) He does get to practice with the team while "sitting out" his transfer year. And in going against Higgins and Burks, Brown ought to help improve their games, as well as his.
- 2) As a monster dunker, Brown figures to become a crowd favorite. As a junior, he made ESPN's nightly "top plays" in sports on three occasions. One of those top plays was a dunk over Oklahoma's 6-10 Blake Griffin, who would become the national player of the year and the NBA's top overall draft choice.

Yes, there are rumblings that Brown did his own thing at Utah and that his departure did not cause Utes coaches to shed any tears. But Brown did lead the team in assists as a junior. And I assume CU's Boyle did his homework before determining that Brown would be a good fit in Boulder.

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