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## CU issues no official word on Hawkins' future

*By Patrick Ridgell*  
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STILLWATER, Okla. — The Colorado Buffaloes have one game left in what's been a disappointing 2009. They have no shot at a bowl or postseason contention. But at least things aren't dull.

While the Internet and sports talk radio buzzed with speculation over the coaching situation Friday, CU issued no official word on Dan Hawkins' future. Athletic director Mike Bohn said once again, following Thursday's 31-28 loss at Oklahoma State, that no decision has been made on the coaching situation and no timeline exists for one.

Bohn said he'll leave today for Maui to watch the Buffs men's basketball team play Monday through Wednesday.

Quarterback Tyler Hansen raised some eyebrows Thursday when he said, "We always get told that coach Hawkins is solid right now. His job is pretty certain, and he's going to be here." But Bohn declined to say anything about Hansen's comment, only reiterating that there's no timeline for a decision.

CU announced Friday there will be no media availability for the players or coaches until Sunday. It also announced it'll cut off media availability following Monday afternoon's practice, as it usually does during Nebraska week to limit distractions. The Cornhuskers visit CU on Friday (1:30 p.m., ABC).

Nebraska (7-3, 4-2 Big 12) will meet Kansas State today to try to clinch the Big 12 North title. If the Wildcats upset the Cornhuskers, Nebraska still can clinch the division title with a win when it visits CU. Nebraska is a 16 1/2-point favorite against the Wildcats.

For the Buffs, there will be several story lines to follow next week. The coaching situation is the big one. How the coaches and players are handling the disappointment of a year gone bad is another. Thursday's loss, to some, added to it.

"I know, me, individually, I'm very frustrated," receiver Markques Simas said. "I know we played very well. We just had some big-time turnovers. That always seems to be the case."

CU also is welcoming to town the program it calls one of its biggest rivals. The Buffs will have two extra days to prepare for Nebraska, something that should provide an edge.

Despite the frustration of 2009, Thursday's performance on the road against the nation's 12th-ranked team may have given the Buffs some confidence.

Asked if the performance gives CU momentum, Hawkins said, "You'd love to come up with a W, but we're just trying to keep focusing every day on the process and keep banging away and chipping away and stay after it. ... There's a lot of love in (CU's locker room), and those guys will continue to bring it, I know that."

Said tailback Brian Lockridge: "Even though we're not getting the wins, we definitely have pride. We still want to go out there and perform at a high (level) and try to do our best. We're not going to let anything distract us or get us down."

Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog at [www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell](http://www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell). He can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).

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## Bohn mum on Hawk

CU's AD says evaluation has begun, but no decision till after season

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

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Dan Hawkins has not agreed to a buyout, AD Mike Bohn says.

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn said the evaluation process regarding the football program and the future of head coach Dan Hawkins already has begun, but no decision will be announced until after the season ends. The Buffaloes (3-8, 2-5 Big 12) finish with a home game against Nebraska on Friday.

"Evaluation is always ongoing," Bohn said Friday, when asked about Hawkins' job status.

Speculation that Hawkins is on his way out is rampant. Rumors that he has agreed to a buyout are inaccurate, Bohn said. The athletic director emphasized he has not made a decision on whether Hawkins will be retained.

It would cost Colorado approximately \$3.1 million to buy out Hawkins' contract. Asked if his cash-strapped athletic department can pay for that, Bohn said it was premature to address specifics of a buyout because no decision on Hawkins' future has been made. In the past, Bohn has used the words "doable but challenging" when talking in general terms about securing the resources to cover such a settlement.

Bohn is scheduled to leave this morning for a flight to Hawaii, where he will join the CU men's basketball team for the Maui Invitational. He is scheduled to return to Boulder on Thanksgiving, a day before the football season finale.

Bohn reiterated that no decision will be announced while he is out of town. "I can guarantee you that," he said.

Bohn would not say if he has met with university chancellor Phil DiStefano regarding Hawkins' future. DiStefano was a strong defender of Hawkins earlier this season when the Buffs were struggling.

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"At this point, we're trying to put all our efforts in beating Nebraska," Bohn said. "I don't think it's appropriate to discuss any nuances associated with conversations or activities with anyone, because I don't want to mislead or insinuate something that isn't accurate."

University spokesman Bronson Hilliard said Friday that DiStefano would have no comment regarding questions related to Hawkins' future as CU coach. Hawkins' four-year record dropped to 16-32 with Thursday night's 31-28 loss at No. 12 Oklahoma State, a Big 12 Conference game telecast nationally by ESPN.

"The administration is well-aware of the dimensions of the decision-making process," Hilliard said, "and it will not be a reaction to the result of a big game and which opponent our football team should have beaten."

"Any decision, if one were made, would be in the context of what's best for the university."

In October 2008, Hawkins signed a contract extension through the 2012 season. If Hawkins were to be terminated following this season, his current contract would allow him to recover the three-year income totals from his base salary (\$518,773 for 2010-12), income from radio, TV and other appearances (\$1,729,572), summer camp revenues (\$173,965) and supplemental income from sponsorship support (\$704,902). That totals \$3,127,212.

Bohn fired Hawkins' predecessor, Gary Barnett,

whom the university paid \$3 million to buy out. Money to cover that settlement was borrowed from university resources apart from the school's General Fund, and thus did not involve any taxpayer-supplied revenues, Bohn said. The athletic department is responsible for repaying that loan, with interest, Bohn said.

A similar arrangement could be made to cover a buyout of Hawkins' contract. Money raised behind the scenes by boosters would reduce or defray that financial obligation.

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