

Departing RB Scott meets with CU's Bohn

A.D. tells radio station Buffs won't 'lower bar'

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Former Colorado running back Darrell Scott met Wednesday with athletic director Mike Bohn to discuss his reasons for deciding to leave the program this week with a month remaining in the regular season.

Scott told coaches Tuesday he had decided to transfer to UCLA to join his uncle and former CU teammate, Josh Smith, in former CU coach Rick Neuheisel's program. Smith transferred to UCLA last spring.

Bohn said he could not discuss any details of his conversation with Scott because of student privacy rights, but he said he couldn't have been more impressed with how the sophomore from Ventura, Calif., handled himself in the 30-minute session.

Bohn was vague when asked if he granted Scott a release from his scholarship.

"I think that's an unknown at this point," Bohn said.

He was also unclear when asked if Scott had asked for a release or permission to contact other programs. Bohn said Scott plans to finish the semester at Colorado.

Scott spent plenty of time in the Dal Ward Center in the early afternoon Wednesday after meeting with Bohn completing the separation process. He spoke for several minutes with reporters but insisted the entire conversation be off the record. He completed the discussion by thanking each person and shaking hands.

Scott is the second player to leave the program this fall, joining defensive end Lagrone Shields. He is the sixth scholarship player to transfer out of the program since the start of the year.

Later in the afternoon, Bohn was interviewed by former CU quarterback Joel Klatt and Nate Kreckman on 1510 AM radio, which broadcast live from the University Memorial Center on campus.

Bohn acknowledged the football team is not meeting expectations in terms of wins and losses. He urged CU fans to focus their energy on supporting the program through a tough time. Bohn clearly outlined the goals for the football program and every other CU athletic program. He said they include finishing each year in the top half of the Big 12 Conference, playing in a bowl game, occasionally playing in the Big 12 Championship game and periodically having an opportunity to play for national championships.

"By no means are we willing to lower the bar," he said.

A caller posed the question through the hosts to Bohn: Can Dan Hawkins be the coach who turns the program around?

"Obviously that's our belief, at this point," Bohn said. "That's what we're trying to pull together. We've got a lot invested in Dan, a lot invested in many, many ways. And he has a lot invested in this institution as well.

"Obviously there is a lot of football to be played and a lot of different things to come together. We're expecting he and his staff to bring this football team into Folsom Field on Saturday ready to play."

Sign language

Klatt met with coach Dan Hawkins early Wednesday afternoon after the Camera published a story Wednesday detailing Klatt's concerns

over a sign that had been painted over the in the team room.

The sign was first painted on the wall during the coaching tenure of Bill McCartney and read, "The pride and tradition of Colorado football will not be entrusted to the timid or the weak." It was painted over to facilitate a new video system on the wall the sign once occupied.

Klatt said coaches showed him they have a stencil of the sign saved in the coaching offices and have plans to put the sign up again in another place in the Dal Ward Center. Klatt said he was happy to hear the news and enjoyed a productive conversation with Hawkins.

Notable

For the second week in a row, Hawkins was forced to deal with some tough questions during his Wednesday evening radio show on KOA (850 AM) from the Draft House in downtown Boulder. One man asking a question to Hawkins live in the restaurant referred to the CU offensive line as one of the worst in the nation. Hawkins politely answered the question but said he disagreed with several points the questioner had made. The caller also wanted to know how the loss of Scott would affect future recruiting. "Kids are sometimes a little bit more perceptive than you give them credit for," Hawkins said. "I think they all want to be in a program where they`re going to get treated right. The parents want them to be around a program where things are going to be emphasized correctly and their coaches understand that, too.

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cu football

Darrell Scott has good exit interview with CU athletic director Mike Bohn

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 11/05/2009 01:00:00 AM MST



Former CU top recruit Darrell Scott never lived up to the hype and plans to transfer. (David Zalubowski, The AP)

Wednesday with departing sophomore tailback Darrell Scott will remain private. But Scott's smile was enough for acquaintances to believe that the conversation went well, was amicable and that Scott got his release.

Scott declined interview requests but did say some goodbyes. A former five-star recruit and nation's No. 1 high school running back prospect in 2007 from Ventura, Calif., Scott said Tuesday that he hoped to join his uncle, former CU receiver Josh Smith, at UCLA.

Elements concerning the release of any student-athlete are not addressed until after the end of the semester, Bohn said Wednesday. Bohn said he was assured that

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BOULDER — Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn said the exit interview he conducted

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Scott will complete the semester in good academic standing, which is important for CU's Academic Progress Rate, as charted by the school and the NCAA.

"It's also important for Darrell to maintain his academic progress (in order to transfer)," Bohn said. "We're also committed to helping him complete the rehabilitation from all his injuries (including arthroscopic knee surgery on Oct. 22).

"We will do everything we can to help Darrell reach his long-term goals. We wish him the best."

300 and counting.

In Saturday's game against Texas A&M, linebackers coach Brian Cabral will be celebrating his 300th game as a CU Buff, either as a player or as an assistant coach. Cabral's love for the school is what senior linebacker Marcus Burton said he will remember most.

"When we're walking up the hill (from the practice fields to the locker room in the Dal Ward Center), he's picking up trash," Burton said. "He loves this place."

Cabral arrived at CU in 1974 and was a middle guard, before playing his last three years as a linebacker, including on the 1976 Orange Bowl team. He played from 1978-86 in the NFL and was special- teams captain of the Chicago Bears' 1985 Super Bowl championship team. After his playing days, Cabral spent two seasons at Purdue as a grad assistant before returning to his alma

mater in 1989.

"You have to respect what he's done," Burton said. "He played with Mike Singletary. He played in the biggest game of all. He's seen it all. That's one of the great things about him as a coach."

Kasa looking forward.

Although the medical condition has ended his season, freshman defensive end Nick Kasa was relieved, in one regard, to be diagnosed with an enlarged spleen, a complication of mononucleosis.

"At least now I know it wasn't just me playing bad," he said. "It was definitely a relief to find out that was why."

The former five-star prospect from Broomfield's Legacy High plans to apply to the NCAA for a medical hardship ruling so that he can recover the year of eligibility.

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CU's Bohn, Scott meet; details remain private

By Patrick Ridgell

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BOULDER — The day after Darrell Scott announced his plan to leave Colorado and its football program, the fuss hadn't subsided.

Scott met with athletic director Mike Bohn on Wednesday to discuss his plan, which he revealed Tuesday. Scott met with reporters inside the Dal Ward Center on Wednesday afternoon, but he didn't want to answer questions, and he asked that anything discussed remain private.

Bohn said the meeting's details won't be divulged, as is the case in all exit interviews with student athletes. Bohn added he could not discuss releasing an athlete from his or her scholarship because releases only happen at the end of a semester.

"We are committed to helping Darrell with his rehabilitation from his knee injury and support him in his academic interests, and we will do all we can to ensure his success," Bohn said.

Also on Wednesday, sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen shot down talk he might be next to transfer.

"I haven't thought about it," he said. "I'm comfortable here, it's a good school.

"You're a student-athlete. The whole point is you're a student first. If you don't like the school, maybe there's a reason. But our family, our biggest thing is once you commit to something, you stick with it. So I made a commitment, I signed a letter of intent to go to school here and I'm going to ride it out."

Bohn said the program's attrition is "a gap we want to close. ...But there are different nuances associated with each student. We are committed to minimizing attrition in all sports."

Attrition is one reason fans are voicing their discontent with the program. Scott's departure means five of the 21 players CU signed in 2008, a top-20 rated class, are gone. Thirteen of the 28 signed in 2007 have left or never enrolled.

The main problem is its record, which is 2-6 in 2009, 15-30 under fourth-year coach Dan Hawkins. Following CU's loss at Toledo on Sept. 11, Bohn said the program was "under attack" from fans. On Wednesday, Bohn said the current feedback is "running the full gamut of disillusionment to strong support."

Asked if some disillusioned fans are threatening to withhold donations and/or ticket purchases if the school does not make a coaching change, Bohn said: "I take the time to hear their feedback and take great effort to express the importance of continued support of the program. The program is not more important than any one individual."

During Hawkins' Wednesday night KOA radio show, a fan asked about the possibility of shrinking donations if he stays.

"True Buffs fans are going to support Colorado and Colorado football," he answered. "Taking it out on Dan Hawkins will not help the young men who bleed for this place."

Former players voiced opinions Wednesday. Former CU tight end and current Denver Bronco Daniel Graham said he was "very disappointed" to learn of Scott's transfer. Graham said watching CU struggle is "frustrating."

"It is very difficult, knowing that before I was there and when I was there, our program was up there with the rest of them," Graham said. "To see now, it's almost like we're on the bottom of the Big 12. It's frustrating seeing that."

Graham didn't detail what kind of change should be made, but he said something must be done.

"It starts somewhere, and it always starts at the top," he said.

"I mean, how long are we going to give somebody a chance to do something?"

Former CU quarterback Joel Klatt has also been outspoken. Klatt co-hosts "The Klatt and Kreckman Show" on Mile High Sports Radio. Klatt told the Times-Call he's "the biggest CU fan you'll find; I'm as frustrated as anyone." He said full support, including financial, is needed to help turn things around.

"Do I think the relationship (between CU's coaching staff and its former players) is what it should be? Probably no," he said. "But there's a huge caveat there. ... It's very much a two-way street."

Bohn said other former players are asking questions. He said he wants to do a better job of informing them.

"I'm not engaged with too many of them, but I believe I have to do a better job of engaging them so they have accurate information, rather than just hearsay and Internet chatter," Bohn said.

Brian Howell and Justin Williams contributed to this story.

Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog at www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell. He can be reached at pridgell@times-call.com.

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Darrell Scott talks with Mike Bohn, other players

Athletic director disappointed, team moving on

By Michael Krumholtz on November 5, 2009

Former Buff George Hypolite once said Darrell Scott could win a Heisman Trophy. Now, Scott's just another name in the laundry list of Colorado Buffaloes football transfers.

Scott met with Athletic Director Mike Bohn Wednesday, presumably to discuss the running back's release from his scholarship. On Tuesday, Scott quit the team and announced his intention to transfer. He is expected to join his uncle, former CU wide receiver Josh Smith, at UCLA after the fall semester.

In a phone interview, Bohn chose to keep the matters of his discussion with Scott private. Bohn did, however, give his reaction to the transfer of the football player.

"It's disappointing," Bohn said. "I always respect each player's decision to transfer and we wish them best on their future endeavors."

Scott is the fifth CU player to leave the team since April. Colorado could be considered the Western Union of college football: it is where all their riches get wired to other schools.

Despite the attrition, Bohn said he is still optimistic even though the situation has worsened.

"It could be a real positive situation in terms of people knowing they can get playing time, or looking for the right fit," Bohn said.

After Scott chatted with Bohn, he was seen around campus talking on the phone. Some players said they were able to contact him Wednesday.

"He said he made the best decision for him and he's praying about it," junior running back Demetrius Sumler said.

Contrary to popular belief, there are still good players on this team, many said. Sophomore running back Rodney Stewart is one, and Stewart said he's not worried about the recent departures.

"There's a lot of teams [that have] players transferring," Stewart said. "It can't affect anybody that's still playing on this team."



Darrell Scott views the field during the Sept. 1 matchup against CSU. Scott announced Tuesday that he is leaving the CU football program. (CU Independent file/Danielle Alberti)

Though it may not affect anyone playing, it may concern the person coaching the team. With this latest transfer, head coach Dan Hawkins' seat may have gotten hotter.

Scott, the nation's top high school running back prospect in 2008, was Hawkins' most ballyhooed recruit in his tenure at Boulder. The running back was supposed to bring CU back to national relevance or at least help them win the Big 12 North.

They have done neither and now at 2-6, CU is currently last in the division. Yet, some see Scott's transfer as a good thing.

"It makes us stronger," said sophomore offensive lineman Ryan Miller. "You have the kids who are going to live through it, and you've got those that aren't."

In this case, addition by subtraction seems true. For whatever reason, Scott in a black and gold uniform never quite worked out.

Scott ends his Colorado career with 438 rushing yards, only one touchdown and most notably a 7-13 record in almost two seasons of play. Those are numbers very few expected from a former five-star recruit.

But if this team is going to count on numbers, it won't be concerning how many stars a guy got coming out of high school.

"We've got 120 guys on this team, that's 120 different personalities," Sumler said. "A guy leaving is going to happen."

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Michael Krumholtz at Michael.Krumholtz@colorado.edu.

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Texas A&M-Colorado at a glance

11/05/2009

Associated Press

Line: Texas A&M by 5 1/2.

Series Record: Colorado leads 5-3.

Last Meeting: 2008, Texas A&M 24-17.

What's at Stake

Colorado's season went from bad to worse this week when sophomore RB Darrell Scott decided to leave the program. Scott was the crown jewel recruit for coach Dan Hawkins, who is 15-30 in his fourth season and piling up more votes of confidence than wins. The Buffs need to win out to become bowl eligible in a season where Hawkins had talked about 10 victories. The Aggies' confidence is soaring as they have hit their stride under coach Mike Sherman with back-to-back wins over Texas Tech and Iowa State.

Key Matchup

Colorado QB Tyler Hansen vs. Texas A&M's Garrick Williams, who has 55 tackles, 34 of them solo, and Von Miller, who has 13 1/2 sacks. Against the Aggies last year, Hansen set a school record for most single-season rushing yards by a true freshman QB with 216. And the Aggies have struggled defensively this season, allowing 400 yards and 30 points per game.

Players to watch

Texas A&M: Miller, who ranks No. 1 in the nation with 13 1/2 sacks, and RB Cyrus Gray, who has consecutive 100-yard rushing games, giving him 567 yards and five TD runs. He is a dynamic addition to an offense that ranks third in the nation in total offense at 490.5 yards per game while averaging more than 35 points.

Colorado: RB Rodney Stewart, the Buffs' short and speedy tailback who's stunning emergence played a role in Scott not getting as many snaps as he would have liked. Stewart will be counted on to take some heat off Hansen, who was sacked eight times against Missouri last week, including once for a safety, and had three fumbles and an interception.



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CU Buffs host South Jeffco football teams

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Article Contributed on: 11/3/2009 9:43:07 PM

The University of Colorado athletic department played host to a group of South Jeffco Sports Association youth football players on Saturday October 31. The entire 2nd grade Grizzlies team attended the homecoming game against the Missouri Tigers, along with members of the 3rd grade Falcons and 8th grade Storm teams. The groups were hosted as part of CU's Ralphie's Kids Roundup organization, which provided game tickets, hot dogs, cookies and drinks for every child.

While CU lost 36-17, one of highlights of the day for the young athletes was watching South Jeffco Football alumns, Ryan Miller and Curtis Cunningham in action for the Buffs. Both CU players participated in South Jeffco Sports Association programs, where they developed a solid football foundation before becoming NCAA Division I scholarship athletes.

The Grizzlies and the Storm are preparing for the first round of the JMFA playoffs, scheduled for Saturday, November 7.

SJSA offers year round opportunities for children ages 4 - 17 to compete in youth sports. Currently, SJSA is accepting registrations for baseball, and the organization is gearing up for the JMFA football playoffs, and the start of the upcoming basketball season. Detailed information and registrations can be found on the SJSA website at www.southjeff.org.

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