

CU to replace hoops assistant from within

Bzdelik plans to rearrange responsibilities on his staff

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Jeff Bzdelik will not continue the search to fill the vacant position on his staff.

Colorado's head coach plans to replace assistant coach Charles Baker, who left the program after the 2008-09 season, from within the offices at the Coors Events Center.

"I am going to rearrange the responsibilities on my staff," Bzdelik said Friday during an interview with the Camera. "And I'm not going to hire anybody new."

Bzdelik did not want to get into specifics until an official CU release is prepared.

Drew Long -- recently promoted to CU's coordinator of operations -- is the likely candidate to replace Baker, the only member of Bzdelik's original CU staff to leave the program.

Long, 28, is a very capable young basketball mind who paid his dues as a volunteer assistant the past two seasons. He is a 2004 Northwestern graduate who played for the Wildcats under Bill Carmody and modernized the Buffs' video coordination upon his arrival in Boulder.

Steve McClain, who won two Mountain West Conference championships at Wyoming, remains the associate head coach. Derrick Clark is entering his third season as a CU assistant.

Jody Bailey is the program's director of operations. Bzdelik was finally able to hire an administrative assistant, Marge Marcy, this offseason.

Bzdelik has been pleased with the way his staff has recruited and developed the young roster entering the 2009-10 season.

"We've improved athletically, we've improved our skill, we've improved our strength," Bzdelik said. "It's a great group, it really is. They feel good about themselves collectively and individually, and so do I."

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