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## Q&A: CU's McKnight unlikely to get drafted, but that could change

By Jeff Legwold  
The Denver Post

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Today's question comes from Mary Patrick. Send your questions via e-mail to [jlegwold@denverpost.com](mailto:jlegwold@denverpost.com).

**Q:** I live in Southern California and I'm a longtime Colorado Buffaloes fan. I have followed Scotty McKnight since he walked on at CU. Any chance of him getting picked in the NFL draft this year?

**A:** For players, the draft mantra has always been that you only need one team to love you to get drafted.

McKnight, a wide receiver, needs one team to believe in him to be selected in the seven-round draft, which is April 28-30. He's unlikely to be drafted at this point, despite finishing his CU career as the Buffs' all-time leader in receptions

(215) and touchdown catches (22).

McKnight was one of CU's go-to players. It can be difficult for players with that status to suddenly discover they still have a lot to prove to NFL scouts.

McKnight was listed as a 5-foot-11, 185-pound wideout by CU. He could measure out slightly smaller than that at his pro-day workout in early March. Even if he's able to put on quality weight with intensive workouts the next few weeks, his size is not what NFL teams are looking for these days at wide receiver.

McKnight needs to show scouts that he has enough speed to contribute in an NFL offense and enough strength to create some space so he can get to the ball. Difficult? Yes, but not impossible.

A wideout with McKnight's size usually has to play in the slot in an NFL offense as the No. 3 guy. He has to be quick in a short area, without much room to work, and strong enough to get off the jam at the line of scrimmage when the defensive back engages him after the snap.

It's a tough combination to find in a small player. The Broncos used a second-round pick to draft Virginia Tech's Eddie Royal, who was a 5-9-1/4, 184-pound wideout at the NFL scouting combine in 2008, partly because of Royal's ability to break free from man-to-man coverage and get into his route without losing any momentum.

Mike Shanahan was Denver's coach at the time,

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and Shanahan said Royal was the best wideout in that draft in getting off man-to-man coverage.

Also, Royal ran the 40-yard dash on the electronic clock at the scouting combine in 4.39 seconds. So he was one of the fastest players at his position at the combine that year.

McKnight missed out on an opportunity to showcase himself when he wasn't invited to any of the big three all-star games — Senior Bowl, East-West Shrine Classic and NFLPA (Texas vs. the Nation). That robbed him of an opportunity to practice for NFL scouts, as well as meet with team representatives.

That makes McKnight's pro day, March 9 in Boulder, a big deal for him. He has to show explosiveness and speed in that workout to go with the hands that allowed him to catch at least one pass in all 49 games of his CU career.

McKnight has been working out in California with top-tier prospects such as CU offensive tackle Nate Solder, Washington quarterback Jake Locker and Texas A&M linebacker Von Miller. He will continue to do that until his pro-day workout.

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