



CU Athletic Director Mike Bohn (left) and veteran KOA radio announcer Larry Zimmer  
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



07/19/2010 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

## Brooks: CU Working On 'Either-Or' Scheduling Scenarios

**WINDSOR** - With exit and entry details possibly requiring more time to finalize than originally expected, the University of Colorado is building scenarios for a departure from the Big 12 Conference in 2011 as well as one in 2012 if the earlier exit can't be accomplished.

"We'll be prepared with a significant change in our schedule for 2011 in the event we're in the Pac-10, and we'll be prepared for a schedule in the event we're (still) in the Big 12," Athletic Director Mike Bohn said Monday at the conclusion of the 16th Count Casotti Classic, a CU-sponsored golf outing at the Pelican Lakes Golf and Country Club.

Bohn said there is "a big swing there . . . it'll be just whichever one we can get put together when we have our marching orders from our chancellor and our campus leadership team that's working on that.

"It's a challenge but that's why we've been very, very busy this summer. We've been focused on trying to be prepared for both scenarios."

Utah, which is leaving the Mountain West Conference to join the Pacific-10 Conference, hopes to begin football competition in its new league in 2011 - the same season Nebraska wants to open play in the Big Ten. A 2011 start likely would be the best-case scenario for CU, the Big 12 and the Pac-10, but particulars - including any monies owed the Big 12 by CU - are yet to be resolved.

"We have an idea of a range, but it's inappropriate to comment and have the wrong number out there and have that viewed by either league representatives as some type of posturing as we're working through that process," Bohn said. "It's complex, extremely complex."

He said a "financing model" associated with Pac-10 membership could be "part of the solution, but again that's unresolved as well . . . it's going to take us some time to get that right."

Bohn and Utah Athletic Director Dr. Chris Hill will attend a Pac-10 ADs meeting on July 30 at the Rose Bowl. More details associated with their schools' impending dates for Pac-10 competition could be forthcoming then, although Bohn has tempered his hopes in that regard.

Earlier this summer, he said he believed that key element of the conference switch could be resolved by the end of July. But Monday, he called that "just a personal goal" and conceded he might have been overly optimistic.

A "soft" drop-dead date for deciding those issues has been mentioned, but Bohn noted he hasn't had recent contact with the Big 12 leadership mainly because Commissioner Dan Beebe has been out of his office.

"I think I have an idea of where the Pac-10 would like to be, but in fairness to the Big 12, I think I have to wait (to disclose the date)," Bohn said.

Beebe and the Big 12 staff "could not be more professional, more engaging and more focused on this," Bohn said. "They've been terrific (in) ensuring that our last year or years in the conference are well-coordinated."

Bohn said he maintains confidence that the timing issues surrounding CU's departure for the Pac-10 will be handled smoothly.

In the meantime, CU is trying to maintain flexibility with its football scheduling for 2011 and 2012. Two future Pac-10 opponents already appear on CU's schedule over the next three seasons. A return game with California - the Buffs visit Berkeley on Sept. 11 - is scheduled for Sept. 10, 2011 in Boulder and a two-year home-and-home series with Utah is set for 2012-13.

CU is working around those games, as well as the Buffs' 2011 trip to Hawaii. Regardless of when the conference switch takes place, Bohn said CU is committed to opening the 2011 season at Hawaii (Sept. 3). Plus, the island trip gives CU the flexibility of adding a 13th football game in 2011 if necessary.

"We don't know how many league games we're playing - in either league," Bohn said.

But he is a proponent of playing nine conference games in the Pac-10 - a scheduling model that seems agreeable to most of the league's athletic directors.

"There is some positive traction associated with a nine-game schedule," Bohn said. "That's a big challenge for us because we're building scenarios for both leagues across the board in all sports. But it's one we're committed to putting together."

Also still to be determined by the Pac-10 leadership and membership are how or if the 12-team league will work a divisional format and if it will hold a championship football game.

"I know our fans and media are hungry to know what division we're in, who we're playing, who's our rival, how many basketball games, how many football games," Bohn said, adding that ironing out those details simply isn't possible yet.

Bohn characterized conversations among the Pac-10 ADs on a number of possible divisional alignment scenarios as personable and informative. "It's really refreshing to be part of that type of exercise," he said.

Like most of his Pac-10 peers, Bohn is in favor of playing one of the Southern California schools - USC or UCLA - every season. CU has a strong alumni base in Southern California and also heavily recruits that area.

**PROFITABLE YEAR, SMALLER BUDGET:** Bohn said his department ended the last fiscal year with a profit, but his budget for the new fiscal year likely will be smaller. Last year's athletic department budget was about \$47 million.

"We closed the books with a profit, which is obviously very important to us," he said. "I really have to credit our coaches and our staff for doing a great job of staying within their budgets. But more importantly, our donors, corporate sponsors and season-ticket holders helped make that possible, too. That was a very positive end for a very challenging year in many, many ways for us."

Bohn said the 2010-11 budget still is being "pulled together . . . we had a couple of late issues that we were dealing with. . . . we don't have a final number to announce what our budget will be this year, but it'll probably be down a little bit from last year."

Bohn said some "strategic cuts" continue to be made in the program to cope with on-going fiscal challenges, "But ending the fiscal year with a profit is a significant accomplishment."

**SEASON TICKET UPDATE:** Season ticket sales for the 2010 football season have dropped slightly compared to mid-July 2009, but CU athletic department officials remain hopeful of a sales uptick that usually occurs at month's end and runs through August. The biggest reason offered ticket office personnel by fans choosing not to renew season tickets was cost, Bohn said.

Tom McGann, director of game management and operations, said 18,152 season tickets for 2010 have been sold to the public - about 1,000 below the 2009 total at this time last summer. The current total reaches 20,352 when allotments "for various constituencies" is added, McGann said. That number for 2009 was 22,020.

The 2010 season-ticket total is expected to reach at least 30,000 when students return for the fall semester. CU put 12,000 student tickets on sale this spring during registration for fall classes. Incoming students are able to purchase season football tickets when they register and obtain a Buff Card number.

With Folsom Field seating 53,613, McGann said the school will be "trying to move about 20,000 tickets every (home) game - which is doable. We're probably down a little bit (overall), but I would say from four years ago, we're way up.

"You have to remember (in 2006) in our season ticket number was just over 15,000. So in the ebb and flow of the ticket world, we're kind of right in the middle. We're not at our high, but we're above our low."

In 2009, CU averaged over 50,000 (50,088, six games) for the 14th time in school history. The Buffs remained the second-largest per game draw in the state, trailing only the Denver Broncos.

McGann said he still senses "a lot of passion out there among our supporters. Every year we see (some attrition) . . . we're always constantly rebuilding the season ticket model. There's a lot of passion for Colorado football (but) getting people to buy early is always the problem - especially in this economy.

"Right now, not many people are thinking football. As the season approaches, they say, 'Oh, my gosh, it's here.'"

Historically, said Bohn, "Our fans and season ticket holders have showed some attrition, then a rebound as camps across the NFL open and college football excitement grows. We certainly anticipate that again."

Added Will Simpson, director of ticket operations, "In August, in the ticket world, we call that 'go time.'"

Bohn said he expects Folsom Field's 41 suites (one suite is a double) to sell out while a slight attrition rate that matches the rest of the stadium is expected in the sale of Folsom's 1,903 East side club seats and the 951 Flatirons seats on the stadium's West side.

"Right now, we're down about 12-18 percent, but we're hoping to make that up," Bohn said. "That's not good for us (but) we still anticipate an opportunity for an uptick in ticket sales down the stretch."

A slight bump in ticket sales was experienced in June when CU's acceptance of an invitation to join the Pac-10 was

announced, Bohn said, adding that the increase was noted "in the premium seat area and virtually every category in the stadium.

"It's not significant but it's certainly an uptick, and that is appreciated. It's something that we think is an indication of the excitement people have for the long-term excitement associated with the conference move."

CU's 2010 schedule features games in Folsom Field against Hawaii (Sept. 18), Georgia (Oct. 2), Baylor (Oct. 16), Texas Tech (Oct. 23), Iowa State (Nov. 13) and Kansas State (Nov. 20). The Buffs open against Colorado State on Sept. 4 at Denver's Invesco Field.

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PACKAGE:** CU will honor the 20th anniversary of the 1990 consensus national championship team on the weekend Georgia visits (Oct. 1-2). That game will be part of a National Championship Package that also includes tickets for the Hawaii and K-State games.

Season-ticket holders, including suite and club seat ticket holders, can purchase single-game Georgia tickets, but Bohn said CU does not anticipate a large number of single tickets being available. The Southeastern Conference school asked for 9,000 tickets but was given 5,000, according to Bohn.

However, a "three-pack" (Hawaii, Georgia and K-State) is being offered, starting at \$130, "exclusively to our fans, starting on July 26 through August 1," Bohn said. On Aug. 2, the National Championship Package will go on sale to the general public.

"We want to reward our fans who have been good to us, our former season ticket holders . . . people that have bought tickets before. We want Buffs fans to have the first access to that," Bohn said.

At the home opener against Hawaii, former Buffs defensive end Alfred Williams will be honored for his upcoming induction into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame.

The K-State game could be CU's final Big 12 home game if entry into the Pac-10 is approved for the 2011 football season. In any event, the game against the Wildcats will mark Senior Day for the 2010 Buffs.

Former season ticket holders can get more details concerning the National Championship Package "three pack" at [CUtix@Colorado.EDU](mailto:CUtix@Colorado.EDU).

**CEC CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:** Four "fly-away" baskets have been installed - two on each side - of the basketball court at the Coors Events Center. Tests currently are being conducted for the installation of the same type of baskets at each end of the court for game-day purposes.

"We believe that helps our sidelines . . . our intimacy on the end lines," Bohn said.

Also, video boards adjacent to the CEC scoreboards and ribbon boards are scheduled to be up by the end of this month or the first of August. New facades for concession stands and additional graphics inside the arena also are planned for the upcoming season.

"The arena is going to appear to our fans to be, in essence, brand new . . . it's going to be a lot of fun," Bohn said. "We're really excited about that."

He said construction of the basketball/volleyball practice facility alongside the CEC "is on target." Completion of the \$10.8 million project is scheduled for August 2011.

**TREE IT UP:** Six or seven pine trees growing on the site of the new basketball/volleyball facility have been moved elsewhere on campus.

"We've gone out of our way to save as many trees as possible," McGann said. "It helps beautify campus; you don't get mature trees like that very often. Let's respect them."

Mature trees such as the ones moved are worth "anywhere from \$15,000 to \$30,000," he said, adding that relocating the trees is best done in the spring or fall and that tree specialists have made monthly trips to campus to give the transplanted trees vitamins to ensure their survival.

**BZDELIK BUYOUT RESOLUTION:** Former men's basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik's contract with CU mandated a \$500,000 buyout when he left this spring for Wake Forest.

Asked the status of CU's collection of that buyout, Bohn answered, "We do not have any outstanding challenges or issues associated with Jeff Bzdelik's contract."

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# CU's Bohn to trim 2010-11 budget

## Bufs to offer special ticket package for Hawaii, Georgia, KSU

**By Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 07/20/2010 10:18:32 AM MDT

WINDSOR -- The Colorado athletic department turned a small profit for the 2009-10 school year but will make some minor strategic cuts for the coming year and decrease the overall budget.

Athletic director Mike Bohn said the department operated on about \$47 million last year and will likely drop below that number slightly for the coming school year to "adjust to fiscal challenges."

Bohn met with media members after the 16th annual Count Casotti Classic at Pelican Lakes Country Club, a summertime golf tournament hosted by the athletic department honoring former long-time sports information director Fred Casotti.

Bohn said the budget cuts aren't necessarily related to CU's coming move to the Pac-10 and the school's responsibility to pay exit fees to the Big 12. He said it is more an attempt to be more efficient.

### 3-game package

Bohn said the department is "headed toward a sold out situation" with suites in Folsom Field, but club seats sales are lagging along with season-ticket sales.

"It's a trend I would like to really work hard to try to change, which is we have too much attrition each year and then we build it back up through the course of the sales campaign," he said.

CU is offering a three-game National Championship ticket package available only to previous ticket buyers until Aug. 2 at \$130. It will be available to the general public. The package includes tickets to the Sept. 18 Hawaii game, the Georgia game and the final home game of the season against Kansas State. That game could be the final Big 12 Conference game in school history.

Fans interested in the offer should email [CUtix@colorado.edu](mailto:CUtix@colorado.edu).

Bohn said the price of tickets has been the top reason given by those who have not renewed season ticket orders.

### Georgia on the mind

Bohn said the Georgia athletic department requested 9,000 tickets for the Oct. 2 game in Folsom Field and received 5,000 tickets. The game is already designated as the centerpiece of a weekend dedicated to saluting the 1990 national championship team.

"We anticipate a large throng of Georgia fans coming in for the game," Bohn said.

When the Buffs played at Georgia in 2006, Ralphie made the trip to run between the hedges in Athens, Ga. Georgia officials pledged at that time to bring Uga the bulldog to Buffalo for this year's game, but Bohn said he has not been able to verify with Georgia officials if that will still happen.

The game will feature some odd moments because the fight songs for both schools use different words but the same music.

### Bzdelik paying buyout

Bohn said former basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik is in the process of fulfilling his obligation in his CU contract requiring him to pay CU \$500,000 for leaving prior to his fourth season.

**Free throws**

Workers have installed four fly-away baskets in the Coors Events Center for use during practices and will experiment with using fly-away baskets for games.

Fly-away baskets are attached to polls that drop from the ceiling. Bohn said he believes using the fly-away baskets will help improve sight lines for fans at games.

Video boards and digital ribbon boards are being installed in the arena in the next few weeks and signage on the floor in front of the scorer's table will be digital boards as well next season.

A rectangular button with a light blue gradient and a thin border, containing the text "Close Window".A rectangular button with a light blue gradient and a thin border, containing the text "Send To Printer".



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colleges

## Bohn hopes to have Pac-10 answers by month's end

By Natalie Meisler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/20/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 07/20/2010 07:16:23 AM MDT

WINDSOR — North vs. South? East vs. West? Pac-10 entry moved up to 2011 or remain as planned for 2012?

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn said Monday he hopes to have the answers by the end of the month to the summer's biggest questions surrounding CU's move to the Pac-10 from the Big 12. He may learn more at the Pac-10 meetings July 30 at the Rose Bowl.

"I'm disappointed I don't have details to share," Bohn said during his annual summer roundtable with the media after the 16th Count Casotti Classic at Pelican Lakes Golf and Country Club.

Regardless of whether the bigger Pac-10 splits into divisions, Bohn anticipates a nine-game conference football schedule in the Pac-10 — one more than the Big 12. Several division

configurations have been tossed around, but current Pac-10 schools don't want their existing rivalries to end.

"I understand people want to know, but we don't have that yet," Bohn said.

Originally announced in June as a 2012 Pac-10 addition, there is more impetus for CU to move in 2011 with Nebraska joining the Big Ten and Utah joining the Pac-10. As a result of the uncertainty, Bohn said CU is preparing two sets of scenarios for 2011 depending on its conference affiliation.

### Fiscal year just fine.

CU's athletic department finished the recently completed fiscal year in the black, Bohn said. Final numbers are still coming in.

"It was a very positive way to end what was a very challenging year in many ways," said Bohn, who doesn't anticipate being able to plan another \$47 million budget.

Those projections do not include any money owed the Big 12 or deduction from Big 12 distribution as CU works to extricate itself from the conference.

Those issues, Bohn said, remain under negotiation.

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Despite being down on renewals overall, Bohn said the luxury sky boxes at Folsom Field are nearing a sellout. Those not renewing seats told the Buffs that economic conditions were the primary motivation for canceling.

CU is offering a three-game "National Championship" ticket package — the Buffs' Sept. 18 home opener against Hawaii, the 1990 team reunion at the Oct. 2 Georgia game, and Nov. 20 senior day against Kansas State (possibly the final Big 12 game at Folsom Field). Package prices start at \$130.

## Footnotes.

Besides construction of CU's new basketball-volleyball practice facilities being on schedule, Bohn said new video boards will be installed at the Coors Events Center.

Also, the \$500,000 buyout by former men's basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik appears resolved, though Bohn was not specific.

"There are no outstanding challenges or issues with Jeff Bzdelik," Bohn said.

Bzdelik left the Buffs in April to be Wake Forest's coach.

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**All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post**

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JULY 20, 2010, 2:04 PM

## Hagan hears good things about frosh RBs

By **NATALIE MEISLER** |  2 Comments

Give running backs coach Darian Hagan some credit. He's the only member of the football staff brave enough to take his golf game public in Colorado's annual Count Casotti Classic golf tournament at Pelican Lakes.

Head coach Dan Hawkins was spotted riding a golf cart but, unlike Hagan, didn't post a score for all to see. Hagan's score was better left unposted. (In the interest of full disclosure my triple digit outcomes was also best left left off the board)

I did hear, however, that Hawkins was rocking out at the Paul McCartney concert last week.

So I asked Hagan if was aware of any progress reports about the newcomers in Boulder. Coaches aren't permitted to watch the off season workouts but they can hear updates from the strength and conditioning staff.

Apparently two of the new running backs are doing well — Cordary Allen of Phenix City, Ala, and Trea' Jones of Wake Forest, N.C.

If there's a trend here, maybe freshmen do well out of the humidity for the first time. So much for the altitude worries.

Other than golf coach Roy Edwards and his assistant, Jim Grady, breaking par, the CU department staffer with the best score was athletic director Mike Bohn at 81.

He wasn't even the best in his family. Bohn's son, Brandon, a recent CU-Denver graduate, had one of the better rounds of the day at 75 on the water hazard-filled course in Windsor.

"I got the old man by six," said the younger Bohn.

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JULY 20, 2010, 11:35 AM

# RIP media guides

By **NATALIE MEISLER** |  No Comments

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It's a sore subject for media traditionalists. It's a touchier point for sports information directors.

A victim of budget cuts and NCAA rules covering recruiting publications, media guides are going the way of manual typewriters in press boxes.

Media's guide elimination was one of the first budget cuts mentioned Monday by Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn.

Many other schools will do the same. The trees are thankful. I'm not and I'm a "hug-a-tree" person.

Shifting between online press guides and writing a story on deadline is a recipe for laptop disaster. Beyond immediate deadlines, every local press guide is saved for future reference. About 20 years of Colorado State, CU, Mountain West and WAC press guides take up a lot of home office space.

The arrival of football press guides were a rite of the fall. Some covers were artwork such as last year's CU front piece showing snow covered Flatirons in a computer generated reflection off a player's helmet visor.

As CU's Dave Plati explained to me, printed versions (limited for several years to 208 pages) must be the same size as guides sent to recruits. If there's no printed guide, the digital versions are unlimited in size.

Especially with the advent of Photoshop and similar programs, press guides have become an arms race of graphic design. The sports media wants historical facts and for in game trends \_ biggest win or loss since (fill in the year). Athletic departments want recruits to see facilities and pictures of team and individual awards.

The biggest use sometimes comes years later, looking up games and former players in old press guides.

CSU is producing a hard copy press guide. CU, Wyoming and Air Force are moving online.

Then there's so much money at Oklahoma. State they mail the media guides out first class packages at \$5.38 a pop when Priority Mail would save a few cents.

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## Season for CU's move to Pac-10 still unsure

*By Brian Howell*  
© 2010 Longmont Times-Call

WINDSOR — Exactly when the University of Colorado will begin playing in the Pac-10 Conference is still unknown.

"We want to provide those answers, but we just don't have them," CU athletic director Mike Bohn said Monday at a media roundtable following the 16th annual Count Casotti Classic golf tournament at Pelican Lakes Golf and Country Club.

When the Buffaloes left the Big 12 and joined the Pac-10 last month, they announced a plan to begin Pac-10 play in 2012. Since then, however, Nebraska announced plans to leave the Big 12 for the Big Ten in 2011, and Utah announced it will leave the Mountain West for the Pac-10 in 2011.

Moves by Nebraska and Utah have made it a natural fit for CU to begin Pac-10 play in 2011, but moving its timetable up a year isn't so simple.

"I had a personal goal of trying to have our timing resolved by the end of the month, but I'm always a little optimistic," Bohn said. "I may miss that (goal)."

CU is working on details of the conference shift with both the Big 12 and Pac-10. A major issue is the financial penalty CU will incur for leaving the Big 12.

Big 12 bylaws state that a school that withdraws from the conference will have to give up a certain percentage of revenue during its remaining time in the Big 12. The bylaws require schools to give a two-year notice of withdrawal, which CU did. The penalty is more severe if a school leaves earlier, but CU is trying to get around that because it did give the proper notice.

The penalty, however, is not as simple as giving up revenue, Bohn said.

"It's extremely complex," he said.

Asked if any revenue CU has already received is subject to being paid back, Bohn said, "That's part of the complexities that (are) unresolved. I wouldn't say yes. It's an unknown."

Because the Buffs don't know the conference in which they'll be a member in 2011, they are making sure they're ready for either scenario.

"We will be prepared with a significant change in our schedule for 2011, in the event we are in the Pac-10," Bohn said. "And we will be prepared with a schedule in the event we are in the Big 12."

**DIVISIONAL PLAY:** When the Buffs do start playing in the Pac-10, the conference will have 12 teams.

Whether or not the league will be split into two six-team divisions — and what teams will be in those divisions — is still up for debate.

"I will be at the Pac-10 meetings at the Rose Bowl on July 30, where we will know more about some different scenarios associated with divisional play potentially, potentially no divisions — all those different options that exist," Bohn said.

One divisional scenario has CU playing in the Pac-10 South, with Arizona, Arizona State, Southern Cal, UCLA and Utah. However, the Oregon and Washington schools do not want to be separated from USC and UCLA, because that could limit recruiting possibilities.

Bohn said that whether or not the Pac-10 is split into divisions, there is "positive traction" toward a nine-game conference schedule.

**THE BUZZ ON BZ:** Bohn was asked for an update on the \$500,000 buyout that former men's basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik has been required to pay for leaving CU for Wake Forest.

Bohn simply said, "We do not have any outstanding issues or challenges associated with Jeff Bzdelik's contract." He repeated that statement several times and wouldn't say more.

**UPGRADES AT COORS:** At the Coors Events Center, four new fly-away baskets have been installed on the sides of the arena, and the school is testing the installation of two more fly-aways at the ends of the court. New video boards and ribbon boards will also be installed in the next few weeks.

"The arena is going to appear to our fans to be, in essence, brand new," Bohn said.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Bohn said construction on CU's new basketball and volleyball practice facility is "on target." ... Bohn said season ticket sales for football are down a bit. ... The school is offering a "National Championship Pack," which includes tickets for games against Hawaii, Georgia and Kansas State. The package starts at \$130, and will be open exclusively to CU fans from July 26-Aug. 1, Bohn said. The pack will go on sale for the general public on Aug. 2. ... Bohn said the athletic department ended the fiscal year with a profit. The budget for the next fiscal year will be slightly down from last year, he said.

Brian Howell can be reached at [bhowell@times-call.com](mailto:bhowell@times-call.com).