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colorado classics

Colorado Classics: Martin Trotsky, 93, had a ball playing University of Colorado baseball 70 years ago

By Irv Moss
The Denver Post

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Martin Trotsky hasn't forgotten the impact a coach can have on a young athlete's life.

Trotsky played shortstop on the University of Colorado baseball team that won 25 consecutive games from 1940 to 1942.

The winning streak and 25 victories in a row by the 1994-95 women's basketball team are the most consecutive wins compiled in CU history. Trotsky was an all-Mountain States Conference player for the Buffaloes, who had a lot of memorable moments on the diamond.

What hasn't dimmed a bit over the decades are Trotsky's fond memories of Harry Carlson.

"I still think of Coach Carlson every day," Trotsky said. "I have to thank Harry Carlson for everything. He gave me my start."

Trotsky met Carlson when Trotsky was a freshman at CU in 1938. A friend of Carlson's recommended Trotsky and two other players from West Haven, Conn., for the CU baseball

team.

All three — Trotsky, pitcher Ray Hartman and center fielder Ed Hennessy — ended up playing for the Carlson-coached Buffaloes. Hennessy left Boulder and went home after his sophomore year, but Hartman and Trotsky stayed and contributed to the winning streak.

"It didn't surprise me that we won 25 straight games," Trotsky said. "We played some good teams. The University of Denver always had a good team."

"I think our pitcher, Pete Atkins, had major-league potential. He got a tryout with the New York Yankees, but it wasn't until after he came back from World War II."

Trotsky's time at CU was much different from today's routine of scholarships for varsity athletes, dorm rooms and fancy facilities. The three newcomers from Connecticut were housed in an apartment and given some meal money.

"None of us had any experience at baking," Trotsky said. "We bought a gallon of skim milk and we ate spaghetti every night. That's how we got started in Boulder. Our first year was difficult."

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A little ingenuity helped them survive. Trotsky invited



(Courtesy of CU)

Carlson and Kayo Lam, a CU football star in the 1930s and an administrator in the athletic department at the time, to dinner. After one helping of skim milk and spaghetti, Carlson decided to offer a helping hand.

"Harry called me a few days later and said he had made arrangements for us to get the leftover food from the women's dormitory," Trotsky said. "We'd go over every second or third day for a different entree."

Carlson was a driving force in the CU athletic department. He was the school's first athletic director and held the position 38 years starting in 1927. He coached the baseball team 18 years, winning 11 league championships from 1928 to 1945.

In 1946, Carlson talked about some of the players he had coached. When it came to infielders, he said: "No one who ever played shortstop at CU compared to Marty Trotsky, who scintillated in that position in 1941 and 1942."

When CU joined the Big Seven Conference in 1948, it was Carlson who led the charge. And in 1934, he approved "Buffaloes" as the official nickname for CU teams.

Trotsky also played basketball at CU for coach Frosty Cox. But baseball gave him the most joy.

"I loved baseball and aspired to make a career in baseball," Trotsky said. "But after college, I went into the Marine Corps. I knew if I was lucky enough to get out of the war OK, I'd be too old to



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play baseball."

Trotsky became a successful Denver businessman in paint manufacturing and scaffolding. He retired in 1983.

CU dropped baseball in 1980, but it has a grateful alumnus who played 70 years ago for the Buffs.

"When I got out of high school, I was just playing in independent leagues in the New Haven area," Trotsky said. "I had just about decided I was going to be an uneducated person."

A telephone call from Harry Carlson changed everything, and it has never been forgotten.

Trotsky bio

Born: April 3, 1918, in New Haven, Conn.

High school: West Haven (Conn.)

College: University of Colorado

Family: Wife Gloria, daughter Linda, son Jim

Hobbies: Reading, cribbage, golf



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The Salt Lake Tribune

Alec Burks, Klay Thompson work out in Jazz's final audition

By Steve Luhm

The Salt Lake Tribune

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Colorado's Alec Burks and Washington State's Klay Thompson are projected lottery picks in the NBA Draft.

They play the same position and will likely be taken in the 7-14 range of the first round.

And Burks and Thompson both worked out for the Jazz on Monday, though neither apparently dominated.

Asked who won their head-to-head battle, Burks said, "He's going to say himself, and I'm going to say myself. So that question, I don't know how to answer."

Burks is a slashing-type guard who has spent his workouts trying to prove he can consistently make jumpers.

Thompson is a shooter trying to show teams he is athletic enough to put the ball on the floor and defend.

Jazz coach Tyrone Corbin was impressed with both players.

"They are very talented kids that can handle the ball for their position, make plays for other people or can create shots for themselves," Corbin said. "... They can get the ball in a tight space and make something happen."

For Thompson, another workout meant more questions about his arrest for marijuana possession in March.

Two hours after Thompson scored 22 points in a win over USC, a Pullman, Wash., police officer stopped him for having one headlight.

When the officer smelled marijuana, a search warrant was obtained and 1.95 grams was found in the car.

Thompson said the situation has impacted his workouts because NBA teams "are concerned."

He has tried to address the concerns honestly because "if I'm not honest, NBA teams are smart and they'll find out whatever they need to find out. So I thought I did a good job of that, and I'm just leaving that behind me."

Said Corbin: "We always look at a guy's character, and I think he's done a great job of stepping up and taking responsibility."

The Jazz own the Nos. 3 and 12 picks in Thursday's draft. They are finished working out players, general manager Kevin O'Connor said.

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