

woody paige

Paige: Bring on the CU-Utah rivalry

By Woody Paige The Denver Post

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The Buffaloes once again will circle the annual big game on the day after Thanksgiving in RED.

The opposition's primary color will be virtually the same, but the "N" on the helmet will be replaced by a "U."

The Buffs' old rival will become their new rival when the universities of Colorado and Utah meet this season for the first time in a year short of half a century.

They originally were scheduled to meet at Rice-Eccles Stadium in Salt Lake City on Saturday, Nov. 26, but athletic directors Mike Bohn of Colorado and Chris Hill of Utah asked the Pac-12 to move the game up to Friday, Nov. 25 to jump-start their rivalry.

The conference office's initial reaction was that the Buffs or the Utes might have an advantage with an extra day's preparation if they advanced to the Pac-12 championship game, slotted for the following Friday night.

However, the Pac-12 agreed Tuesday to change the game's date.

As you may recall, CU used to play some school named "Nebraska" the day after Thanksgiving. But the Buffaloes and the Cornhuskers no longer belong to the Big 12.

That rivalry has vanished — although the

Huskers never would admit the Buffs were rivals.

Utah has its rivalry with BYU, and they used to meet in the last Mountain West Conference game of the season. But Utah is gone and BYU, in football, has become a conference unto itself. They will meet this year Sept. 17, and there will be nothing but bragging rights. Colorado will have the same situation on the same day with Colorado State in the "Rocky Mountain Showdown" in Denver.

But Colorado and Utah each need a true rumblein-the- grass conference rival. Oregon- Oregon State, USC-UCLA, Stanford-Cal bands, Washington-Washington State and Arizona-Arizona State already are taken.

Welcome to the fray, CU & UU.

It's not as if the Buffaloes and Utes don't have a natural rivalry on so many different fronts.

To wit:



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Post Poll - Buffs rivals



The Colorado Buffaloes are moving to the Pac-12 and they're going to need a rival to replace Nebraska. What school should CU target as a rival?

- Utah. Neighboring state west of the Rockies is a natural.
- UCLA. Former CU coach Rick Neuheisel a good target.
- USC. Why not single out a football powerhouse?
- Cal. Boulder vs. Berkley. Need we say more?
- Colorado State. Rams should always be rival No.
- None of them. The Buffs' new rival should be...
- Colorado and Utah are bordering states, with major metropolitan centers (Denver and Salt Lake City) separated by 534 miles over the Rocky Mountains.
- They vie as destinations for winter and summer tourists and conventions — and as airline hubs.
 The states' ski industries have a fierce rivalry.
- CU has won 18 NCAA team ski titles, Utah nine. The Buffs finished first again in March, with the Utes second.
- There's the Nuggets-Jazz thing that has bubbled over in several NBA playoffs.
- Colorado reneged on a deal to host the Winter

Olympics. Utah did host the Winter Olympics.

- The authentic Utes used to hunt buffaloes in what became southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah (the state is named for the Utes). Buffaloes lost that rivalry. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe, which eventually was squeezed by the government from its vast homeland of thousands of square miles into a small, 15-by-110- mile section, is headquartered in Ignacio. The real Utes may have divided loyalties at game time.
- And from 1903-62, Colorado and Utah met in football 57 times. They played together in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference from 1910-36. A season later both joined the Mountain States Conference, and they met yearly through 1958.

There was a genuine football rivalry before, and can be once more.

CU has a 30-24-3 record in the series.

In 1936, Byron "Whizzer" White — the most famous Colorado player of all time — gave, as a f reshman, his greatest college performance, running for one touchdown and throwing for another, and returning one kickoff and two punts for touchdowns as CU upset UU 31-7.



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The next season the (then) Frontiersmen, who were undefeated, led 7-0 at halftime. But White kicked a field goal, returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown, kicked the extra point and, finally, ran 57 yards for a score and added the conversion. The future Supreme Court justice accounted for all of CU's points in the 17-7 victory.

Utah got even in 1961. Colorado was unbeaten and ranked No. 8 in the country, but Utah prevailed 21-12. The Buffs didn't lose another game, won the Big Eight Conference and were invited to the Orange Bowl.

After the Utes won again in 1962, they vanished from the Buffs' schedule.

A Friday night post-Thanksgiving, season-ending Pac-12 game is a good start to the rivalry revival of CU-UU.

Dean Singleton, publisher of The Denver Post and The Salt Lake Tribune, should donate a cup that annually would be presented to the winner.

Husker who?

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Colorado-Utah football game moved to Thanksgiving Friday

By The Denver Post

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Colorado's football game this fall at Utah has been moved to Friday, Nov. 25, which is the day after Thanksgiving.

The Pac-12 approved the move today. Kickoff has not been announced. The game was originally scheduled for the next day (Nov. 26). It will be the first time since 1962 that the teams will face off in football.

According to a release issued by Colorado, CU athletic director Mike Bohn and Utah AD Chris Hill requested the date change. Bohn wanted to keep Colorado's run of games played the Friday after the Thanksgiving holiday continue for a 16th straight year.

"The (Nebraska) game was extremely popular being played on that particular Friday," Bohn said in the release. "We recognize how supportive and

instrumental our fans were and the role they played in creating a premium event that also turned into quality family time. We want to maintain that connectivity. The one constant with our schedule every year is that our fans

knew we would be playing Nebraska the day after Thanksgiving."

Colorado opens the season Sept. 3 at Hawaii. That kickoff has been set for 8:15 p.m. MDT and will be on ESPN2.

The Pac-12 also announced today the 20 games that will be aired on ABC or ESPN.

Included in that list is Colorado's game against USC, which last week was moved to Friday, Nov. 4 and will be on ESPN2. There are some open dates that the Pac-12 will pick either six or 12 days ahead.

Here is the list of ESPN/ABC games that was released by the Pac-12 (all times are mountain):

Sept. 3: Minnesota at USC 1:30 p.m., ABC; Oregon vs. LSU 6 p.m., ABC; Colorado at Hawaii, 8:15 p.m., ESPN2

Sept. 8: Arizona at Oklahoma State 6 p.m., ESPN

Sept. 9: Missouri at Arizona State 8:30 p.m., ESPN

Sept. 17: Texas at UCLA 1:30 p.m., ABC; Utah at BYU 7:15 p.m., ESPN2; Stanford at Arizona 8:45 p. m., ESPN





Sept. 24: Oregon at Arizona 8:15 p.m., ESPN or ESPN2; USC at Arizona State 8:15 p.m., ESPN or ESPN2

Oct. 6: California at Oregon 7 p.m., ESPN

Oct. 13: USC at California 7 p.m., ESPN

Oct. 15: TBD 8:15 p.m., ESPN

Oct. 20: UCLA at Arizona 7 p.m., ESPN

Oct. 22: Washington at Stanford 6 p.m., ABC or ESPN or ESPN2

Oct. 29: Stanford at USC 6 p.m., ABC

Nov. 4: USC at Colorado 7 p.m., ESPN2

Nov. 5: TBD 1:30 p.m., ABC

Nov. 12: TBD 1:30 p.m. or 6 p.m., ABC or ESPN or ESPN2

Nov. 19: TBD 1:30 p.m., ABC; USC at Oregon 6 p. m., ABC

Nov. 25: California at Arizona State 8:15 p.m., ESPN

Nov. 26: TBD 1:30 p.m., ABC; Notre Dame at Stanford 6 p.m., ABC or ESPN or ESPN2



All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

MAY 10, 2011, 11:34 AM

Three CU football opponents ranked highly

By TOM KENSLER | No Comments

I just returned from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival (Sonny Rolllins, Irma Thomas, Marcia Ball, Henry Butler and Willie Nelson were among the highlights), and you know you're in the Deep South when you see a local newspaper top its sports section in early May with a college football post-spring national top 25 list.

While acknowledging that he will put out another preseason top 25 after August drills, New Orleans Times-Picayune writer Ted Lewis ranked LSU as his current preseason No. 1, followed in order by Alabama and Oklahoma.

Three 2011 Colorado opponents made his top 12: Oregon (4), Stanford (9) and Arizona State (12). No other Pac-12 schools made Lewis' top 25.

Oregon (Oct. 22) comes to Folsom Field. The Buffaloes play at Stanford (Oct. 8) and at ASU (Oct. 29).

Big Ten-bound Nebraska is No. 16.

In addition to Oklahoma, other Big 12 schools making Lewis' list are Oklahoma State (5), Texas A&M (14) and Texas (17).

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CU Buffs to play Utah day after Thanksgiving

Schedule change keeps tradition alive at CU

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 05/10/2011 03:54:53 PM MDT

The annual day-after-Thanksgiving college football tradition in Boulder will continue in 2011 and possibly into the future.

The Pac-12 announced today that Colorado's football game at Utah originally slated for Saturday, Nov. 26, has been moved to Friday, Nov. 25, keeping alive the Buffs' streak of playing the day after Thanksgiving every year since 1996.

The Colorado-Nebraska game each year had become a staple of the holiday weekend, going hand-in-hand with Black Friday -- the kickoff of the holiday shopping season.

The series with the Cornhuskers ended in 2010 when both schools announced they were leaving the Big 12 for other leagues.

Colorado will begin play in the Pac-12 in 2011 along with Utah. The league's two new members have pitted against each other on that last weekend of the regular season when other traditional rivals usually meet, such as UCLA-USC and Stanford-Cal.

Colorado is now scheduled to play two Friday games in November next fall. The program had previously announced it will host USC at Folsom Field on Friday, Nov. 4.

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