

## CU Buffs' Jon Embree handcuffed by spring recruiting rule

**Inability to meet recruits off campus has been adjustment for Buffs coach**

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

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In his previous jobs as an assistant coach in college football, Colorado head coach Jon Embree built a reputation as a strong recruiter.

Embree played a significant role in bringing some of the most successful players of the 1990s and early 2000s to Boulder when he served as an assistant under Bill McCartney, Rick Neuheisel and Gary Barnett. He continued to produce results under Karl Dorrell for three years at UCLA.

One of his largest frustrations and most significant adjustments during his first six months as a head coach has been not being allowed to participate in off-campus recruiting during the spring evaluation period, which runs from the middle of April to the end of May.

"That has been harder than what I thought it would have been because I feel like if I can get around kids and see kids that it's been one of my strong suits," Embree said. "If we get a kid on campus, being able to talk with them and understand what they're looking for and them understanding what I'm about. That's a little harder over the phone."

The NCAA prohibited headcoaches from off-campus recruiting during the spring several years ago because some coaches allegedly brought too much star power and became a big distraction when they visited high schools.

Embree is doing his best to remain an integral part of the Buffs' recruiting efforts this spring despite not being allowed to recruit off campus. In fact, he has identified a handful of the program's key recruits and is giving them his full attention.

"There are about 15 kids who I tell them I'm personally recruiting you," Embree said. "I'm going to be the one. Yeah, you might hear from position coaches, but I want you to understand when this spring evaluation period is over, I want you to sit there and look at if this school really wanted you, how come the head coach didn't call you?"

One of his goals in assembling a coaching staff in December and January was finding a group of coaches who would flourish on the recruiting trail and work well together to find the best talent and bring it to Boulder.

Embree said all indications are his assistants are being well received and many recruits are excited about the future of the program under the new staff and in the Pac-12 Conference.

However, Embree acknowledged that recruiting is still very much an uphill fight right now because of the level of uncertainty surrounding the Buffs.

Recruits know what to expect from Oregon and coach Chip Kelly or USC and coach Lane Kiffin or Arizona and coach Mike Stoops. Those programs and coaches have a recent track record to show prospects.

Embree and the Buffs are more of an unknown. Recruits might like the history of success in Boulder or the fact that there is a plethora of NFL coaching experience on Embree's staff, but until the Buffs actually begin taking snaps on game days under those coaches, some mysteries remain.

"That issue has reared its head a couple times, but not as much as you might think," Embree said. "There are some guys who are jersey chasers. They just want to go be on the team and then you've got guys who want to go make something happen and be a part of something special. Those are the kids you kind of get a feel for as you go through this process. They're waiting to see how many offers they get and then go to the highest ranked school at the end. What they don't understand is college football is cyclical. Where was Wisconsin three years ago?"

Answer: The Badgers were 3-5 in the Big Ten and 7-6 overall. Last season, Wisconsin finished the year in the Rose Bowl and was ranked No. 7 in the final Associated Press poll and No. 8 in the coaches poll.

Embree believes CU could make a similar leap in three years with three recruiting classes.

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## CU Buffs' McCartney, Bieniemy and Garten miss Hall of Fame

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

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Two Colorado football legends and former Buffs coach Bill McCartney were passed over today in voting for the College Football Hall of Fame.

The National Football Foundation announced a 16-member class, including 14 players and two coaches.

Colorado's all-time leading rusher and current offensive coordinator, Eric Bieniemy, and former center Joe Garten were advanced to the final ballot of 79 players earlier this year but did not receive enough votes to earn induction.

It was the second year on the ballot for McCartney and Bieniemy and the first for Garten. All three were integral to the rise of the Colorado program in the late 1980s and each was a part of the 1990 national championship team.

All three will be eligible again next year.

Former Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry joined former Michigan coach Lloyd Carr in being selected this year.

The most notable players to be selected this year included former Florida State defensive back Deion Sanders, former Ohio State running back Eddie George and Miami defensive lineman Russell Maryland.

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Tuesday, May 17, 2011

## Hope & concern: Colorado

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By Ted Miller  
ESPN.com

Every team has hope heading into the offseason. And every team has concerns.

Ergo, we're going to run through the conference and look at the chief matters -- on the up and downside -- for each Pac-12 team.

Next up:

### Colorado

**Biggest reason for hope:** Plenty of guys back from a team that just missed bowl eligibility.



Why exactly are so many folks so sure that the Buffaloes are going to get pushed around in the Pac-12 next year? Sure, they got pummelled at California, 52-7, but use schizophrenic California as a measuring stick at your own risk. Colorado also beat some good teams -- Hawaii, Georgia and Kansas State -- and finished one win short of bowl eligibility. Two losses were by a total of nine points, and, of course, there was that epic collapse against Kansas. So things could have been different in 2010, a season that cost Dan Hawkins his job. The Buffaloes have 14 starters back in 2011, including a veteran QB ([Tyler Hansen](#)) and a 1,000-yard rusher ([Rodney Stewart](#)). They also have an impressive young receiver ([Paul Richardson](#)), an NFL prospect on an experienced offensive line (guard Ryan Miller) and a key starter returning from injury (linebacker Jon Major). Further, they figure to be highly motivated for three reasons: 1. They will seethe over a lack of respect; 2. They will be energized by new coach Jon Embree; 3. They will be fired up for playing in the new Pac-12.

**Biggest reason for concern:** The secondary looks shaky.

Colorado started two cornerbacks last fall, Jimmy Smith and Jalil Brown, who were NFL draft picks, yet they somehow were terrible against the pass. They ranked 112th in the nation in pass-efficiency defense, with opponents throwing 27 TD passes, which would have ranked ninth in the Pac-10 in 2010. Even more stunning: Opponents completed 68 percent of their passes against Colorado. That would have ranked last in the conference. Injuries were an issue, but that doesn't obscure the fact that Smith and Brown are now gone and it's unclear who will replace them. Two players listed No. 1 on the post-spring depth chart, cornerback Parker Orms -- a safety last year before blowing out his knee -- and strong safety Anthony Perkins, missed spring with knee injuries. Toss in the quality of quarterbacks in the Pac-12, and questions in the secondary are grounds for concern.

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