

Boyle wants to see Buffs kick it in gear

New CU coach has about three weeks to prepare for opener

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Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn recently described the last six months as a "whirlwind."

Since the athletic director flew back to Boulder from Kansas City, Mo., after a disappointing Big 12 Tournament for the Buffs in March, CU has hired two new head basketball coaches and announced it will be leaving the Big 12 for the Pac-10.

Right now there is a lot of attention on CU's 3-3 football team in the middle of an inconsistent season that will likely end with more major changes.

"It just continues to move by so quickly," Bohn said. "We really feel like we're in Vegas, there's no clocks. We just keep going."

Tad Boyle understands the feeling.

The new men's basketball coach can't believe he has already been on the job for six months, or that he only has a little over three weeks of practice left to get the Buffs ready for the 2010-11 season.

"We just have so much to do between now and the first game. That's a little bit unsettling as a coach," Boyle said. "As long as our half-court defense and our half-court offense is in good shape by Nov. 12, I'll feel good about that. But we have a long ways to go."

Boyle will be running an up-tempo style of offense and a more aggressive defense than Jeff Bzdelik, who implemented a Princeton-style offense and relied on zone defenses while rebuilding the program from the ground up.

"We're still trying to figure out the pace we want to play at," Boyle said. "It's not natural yet. We've got to kick it in gear a little bit."

At the end of Tuesday's session at the Coors Events Center there were some tongues dragging on the Sox Walseth Court.

"We have to be in better shape, there's no doubt. But that's what practice is for," Boyle said. "We'll play ourselves into shape and, quite frankly, you don't want to be in tip-top shape Oct. 15. I just want them in good enough shape to limit injuries and so their bodies won't go into shock. I think we've done that."

The best news so far is Shannon Sharpe's knee is in good shape. The athletic point guard Bzdelik was so excited about, who was injured in the first practice a year ago, is dunking again with ease and making life miserable for teammates with his defense.

"I congratulated him with about two minutes to go in the first practice. We were doing some shooting drills and I said, 'You have two minutes not to get hurt,'" Boyle said with a smile. "It's a milestone. I'm really happy for him."

Alec Burks, Cory Higgins and Marcus Relphorde look as good as ever. Boyle said the most improved player is sophomore center Shane Harris-Tunks.

"I had a lot to improve on," the 6-11 Harris-Tunks noted. "For the most part this offseason was about getting my body right. I put on about 25 pounds and that's helping me a lot. In the post I can hold myself a lot easier."

First-year CU women's basketball coach Linda Lappe and Boyle will participate in the Big 12's media days today and Thursday in Kansas City along with select players.

The Buffs will open the season with a double-header on Nov. 12 at the Coors Events Center with the women facing Regis and the men taking on Idaho



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