

CU Buffs coach walking for son, March of Dimes

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KUSA - On Saturday, April 28th, thousands of Coloradans will lace up their shoes and walk in March of Dimes March for Babies. Among them will be the Tuiasosopo family and the entire defensive line of the CU Buffs.

Mike Tuiasosopo (AKA "Tuey") is not only the Buffs Assistant Coach, he's also the father of Luke, a happy and spirited two-year-old boy.

Luke is the reason Team Tuiasosopo is walking on Saturday. Luke was born full term and healthy, but within hours of his birth, he developed pneumonia. Soon after, he was diagnosed with a very rare illness called persistent pulmonary hypertension in a neonate or PPHN. Basically, Luke's heart was pumping his blood in reverse and sending it out to his body without oxygen.

The doctors began using every machine, medicine and technique available. Luke was put into an induced coma and the machines were keeping him alive. His oxygen levels continued to decrease and twice, the lung bypass team prepared to put our son on the ECMO bypass machine.

The Tuiasosopos watched as the sweet babies to Luke's left and right passed away and they knew that if Luke had to go on the bypass machine, his chances of survival were very low. The doctors decided to try nitric oxide therapy. Dr. John Kinsella, whose research was funded by the March of Dimes, developed this relatively new treatment in Colorado.

Luke started to get well. His lungs began to clear and eventually his blood flow reversed and his oxygen level improved dramatically. He was healed.

Today, Luke is a typical 2 year old and while the Tuiasosopo family is so thankful Luke is happy and healthy, their hearts are heavy for those families who lost their little

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ones and for those were struggling with the challenges premature and ill babies face. This is why they have built a team to walk in honor of Luke and the March of Dimes.

The March of Dimes March for Babies is a 5K fitness walk taking place in various cities throughout Colorado, including Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Fort Collins and Greeley. The walks all take place on Saturday, April 28th.

The minimum donation to participate is \$25/walker. Participants win prizes (such as store gift cards) when they fundraise and collect \$200 or more in donations. To find out more information, visit marchforbabies.org or call 303-692-0011.

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

APRIL 27, 2012, 11:53 AM

CU Buffs' Orms happily recovering from hamstring injury

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Colorado safety Parker Orms, the junior-to-be from Wheat Ridge, told me Thursday that this week he was cleared to begin “re-habbing” the hamstring problem that caused him to miss most of spring drills.

“It’s doing good,” Orms said. “There isn’t too much pain. Actually, it’s more sore in other places, like my hips, because I hadn’t been working out.”

A former high school standout, Orms has been dogged by injuries at Colorado. He suffered a season-ending knee injury on his first series as a college player, as a redshirt freshman against Colorado State. A hamstring injury limited him to six games last fall.

Orms said he hopes to be ready for full-speed work well before the start of August drills.

“We want to take it slow,” he said. “(Medical personnel) think one of the problems last year was rushing it too fast. Every time I feel like I’m ready to start (to have a breakout season), I get hurt and go backwards. But I’m using that as motivation. I want to finish my career at full strength.”

CU defensive coordinator Greg Brown told me a couple of weeks ago that Orms, if fully recovered, will be a strong contender for a starting job.

“He’s a winner,” Brown said. “In the games he played last season, we either won or had a chance to win. He can do so many things on the field. We figured out that we could do more things (regarding defensive calls) with Parker in there.”

Told of Brown’s comments, Orms said, “That’s good to hear that Coach Brown is behind me. I want to prove him right. And people that have given up on me, I want to prove them wrong.”

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2012/04/27/cu-buffs-orms-happily-recovering-hamstring-injury/23681/>

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CU Buffs enjoy brush with President Barack Obama

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

President Barack Obama stepped off Air Force One, saluted the military personnel at Buckley Air Force Base, and then headed right for a University of Colorado welcome committee that included football coach Jon Embree and offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy.

But the president's favorite pastime is basketball.

Even though Tad Boyle wasn't on the tarmac, Obama recognized assistants Jean Prioleau, Rodney Billups and Bill Cartun.

"It was almost like he knew us," Billups said. "He walked right over and shook hands with coach Prioleau and said, 'I know who you are. You guys beat up on my brother-in-law.'"

That would be Michelle Obama's brother, Craig Robinson, who is the head coach at Oregon State.

The Buffs did cruise to an 82-60 victory over the Beavers on Feb. 2 in Boulder. However, Oregon State returned the favor with an 83-69 win in the regular-season finale on March 3 in Corvallis.

CU rebounded in remarkable fashion with four consecutive wins in Los Angeles to capture the Pac-12 Tournament title. That wasn't enough for Obama to get on the bandwagon; the presidential NCAA Tournament bracket had UNLV advancing.

"We knew that from the jump," freshman guard Askia Booker said with a laugh. "If I ever got a chance to talk to Obama I would confront him about that. I'm happy that we did come out on top against UNLV, and hopefully the president's eyes opened up for next time."

If there is a next time. This is an election year after all.

Booker, Andre Roberson and Spencer Dinwiddie all stood in the crowd behind Obama during his address on Tuesday night at the Coors Events Center. Boyle took his mom to the speech instead of joining the other coaches at Buckley Air Force Base.

"I never thought I'd get a chance to see the president in person," Booker said. "It was a good experience."

Dinwiddie appeared to faint during the speech inside the stifling-hot arena. The 6-5 freshman guard had to be helped off the stage by Secret Service agents.

On his Twitter account, Dinwiddie posted: "dehydrated and it was hot up there and I blacked out." CU senior forward Trey Eckloff posted a picture of a mock Daily Camera headline on the timeline that read: "Obama too hot for Dinwiddie."

Dinwiddie walked into the Coors Events Center on Thursday for a workout carrying a gallon jug of water.

Javon Coney, a senior on the 2010-11 Buffs team that made it to the NIT semifinals at Madison Square Garden, can top that story.

During Memorial Day weekend two years ago, Coney had a chance to play in the presidential pick-up game in Chicago. His father, Lester, served on Obama's national finance committee during the 2008 campaign.

"You don't think about it. You're very cautious about not banging him too hard," Coney told the Daily Camera when asked what it's like guarding the most powerful man in the free world. "At the same time, you're comfortable that everyone is playing like normal guys in a normal pick-up game at a health club or whatever."

About 24 hours after CU athletic director Mike Bohn hosted a reunion for the C-Unit at The Sink, the president grabbed a bite at the popular eatery on University Hill.

"I was nervous at first," Billups said of meeting Obama. "But when he started speaking it was almost like I'd known him for years."