

## CU Buffs quarterback Nick Hirschman announces plans to transfer via Twitter

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Nick Hirschman's decision to leave the Colorado football program Friday will go down as one of the most unusual transfers in the program's history.

Hirschman will transfer from CU to an undisclosed school at the end of the semester despite being tied atop the depth chart at quarterback with possibly the best opportunity of his career to earn the starting job this fall.

Hirschman, who is very popular among his teammates, announced his decision on his Twitter account. CU coach Mike MacIntyre has given him a release from his scholarship to any school other than those in the Pac-12 Conference or any non-conference opponent in 2013 or 2014.

Hirschman, a fourth-year junior with two seasons of playing eligibility remaining, is on schedule to graduate this spring with a degree in communications. Doing so would allow him to transfer without having to sit out next season under NCAA rules.

"Wednesday I decided to move on from CU and continue my graduate education and football career elsewhere," Hirschman said via Twitter.

He added, "I loved my time here and the relationships I've had with my fellow teammates I wouldn't trade for anything. Part of me will always be a Buff and thank you to Buffnation for all the support."

Hirschman and fellow junior-to-be Connor Wood were tied atop the depth chart at quarterback at the end of spring ball on Tuesday. MacIntyre confirmed coaches have not established a post-spring depth chart and there was no change in Hirschman's status as a co-starter. Hirschman actually led his team to a win in the spring game over Wood's team after MacIntyre awarded Hirschman's team the final possession and a chance to drive for the winning field goal.

"Nick's a phenomenal young man, a great team player, and I was looking forward to watching him mature this fall and to see how he would do in the battle for starting quarterback job," MacIntyre said in a press release from the school. "We hate to lose him, but we do wish him the best."

Hirschman has twice lost quarterback battles in August camp. He was beaten out by Tyler Hansen in 2011 and Jordan Webb last year. Webb transferred to CU last summer after starting for two seasons at Kansas and earning his degree there. Webb suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his knee this spring and his career could be over if he doesn't receive a sixth season of eligibility from the NCAA.

In the school's press release, Hirschman seemed to indicate some concern about there being no decision on a starter at the end of spring ball.

"I felt at this time that it has been three years, a great three years, but with no decision made at the end of spring ball, it was a personal choice that it was time for me to move on," Hirschman said.

Hirschman started two games last season and was prevented from starting a third when he suffered a concussion. He played in eight games and completed 55 of 93 passes for 589 yards. He threw two touchdowns and seven interceptions. All of those statistics came in a completely different offensive system than the one he had been practicing in this spring.

MacIntyre and offensive coordinator Brian Lindgren each said at different points this spring that they wouldn't be surprised if one or more quarterbacks decided to transfer after the spring. Practices began in March with six quarterbacks sharing equal repetitions in practice. The program is adding a seventh quarterback this summer and has been actively recruiting a junior college quarterback, Nelson Fishback, who could join the program.

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## Buff's say goodbye to Hirschman

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By Kevin Gemmell

The [Colorado Buffaloes](#) started spring ball on March 7 with six quarterbacks competing for one starting job. Since then, two of their most experienced have been taken off the depth chart.

[Nick Hirschman](#) announced via twitter Friday that [he intends to transfer after he graduates this semester](#). Coupled with [Jordan Webb](#)'s ACL tear that will keep him out of the 2013 season, the Buffs two most experienced quarterbacks are no longer an option for new head coach Mike MacIntyre.

MacIntyre said Hirschman and [Connor Wood](#) were tied atop the depth chart when the Buffs broke camp earlier this week and a source close to the program said that there had been no change in Hirschman's status before he met with MacIntyre mid-morning on Friday to tell the coach his plans.

Both had separated themselves from the pack this spring. In four main scrimmages, Hirschman was 32-of-50 for 433 yards with seven touchdowns and one interception. Wood was 36-of-56 for 589 yards with five touchdowns and no interceptions.

However, it was ultimately that lack of separation between the two that led to Hirschman's decision.

"I felt at this time that it has been three years, a great three years, but with no decision made at the end of spring ball, it was personal choice that it was time for me to move on," Hirschman said in a statement released by the school Friday afternoon. "I am hoping for the best for each and every teammate, and each and every coach. It's been a wonderful experience here, I'm still really happy about my choice to come to Colorado and I made a lot of good friends here. I will never regret my decision coming out of high school to become a Buff and I'm hoping everything will work out for everyone."

Last year the bulk of the snaps went to Webb, but Hirschman also made two starts and eight appearances. He completed 55 of 93 passes for 589 yards with two touchdowns and seven interceptions. The junior will have two years of eligibility left.

"Nick's a phenomenal young man, a great team player, and I was looking forward to watching him mature this fall and to see how he would do in the battle for starting quarterback job," MacIntyre said. "We hate to lose him, but we do wish him the best."

MacIntyre granted him a release from his scholarship to all schools other than any other Pac-12 Conference school or an opponent on CU's 2013 or 2014 schedules.

With Hirschman's departure, Wood becomes the lone frontrunner. He appeared in six games last year and was 21-of-42 for 265 yards with one touchdown and four interceptions.

Chasing him will be redshirt freshman [Shane Dillon](#) -- a highly-touted recruit who was hit-and-miss during the spring as the Buffs adjust to the pistol offense. Another highly-ranked recruit, Sefo Liufau, is also to compete immediately when he arrives in the fall. ESPN.com ranked Liufau, from Tacoma, Wash., as the No. 19 dual-threat quarterback nationally.

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