

Pac-12 Networks mean more access for fans

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BOULDER -- Colorado fans will have a lot more opportunities than ever before to see the Buffaloes play.

With the launch of the Pac-12 Networks on Aug. 15, Colorado and other member schools will receive more exposure than they have in the past.

The conference plans to air 35 football games, 140 men's basketball games, 90 women's basketball games and 850 events of all sports this school year. There will be a 50/50 divide between men's and women's sports.

In addition, the networks will air studio shows and other content.

"It's hard to overstate the significance of this for our schools for their athletic programs, for the student athletes, for their families for their fans around the country," Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott said on the conference web site, Pac-12.com. "The amount of exposure that we're going to be able to give to these student athletes, who are so excellent at what they do, is unprecedented across collegiate sports."

The conference has one national network and six regional networks. Colorado and Utah will be featured on the Pac-12 Mountain network. In addition, there will be a digital network.

As of mid-August, Comcast was the only local cable or satellite provider of the Pac-12 Network. The conference has been in continual talks with other companies, including DirecTV and DISH Network.

Those who do have access to the Pac-12 Networks will be able to also access the content online, meaning CU fans can follow the Buffs no matter where they go.

"My friends back home and my family are excited that they'll be able to watch any game I play in, so obviously I'm really happy about it," CU quarterback Jordan Webb said. "It's very cool."

CU will make its football debut on the Pac-12 Networks on Sept. 8 when it hosts Sacramento State.

Thanks to TV agreements made by the Pac-12, every Pac-12 football and men's basketball game will be on national television this year.

In addition, CU's women's soccer team has seven games scheduled for the Pac-12 Network, beginning with a Sept. 16 contest against Air Force. The women's volleyball team has 12 games scheduled for the network, as well.

As recently as 2010, CU had three football games that were not televised. Now, the Buffs will be on TV every week.

"Guys love being on TV," Webb said. "It's never supposed to be a big motivating factor, but of course guys like to be out there on a national TV network."

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