



Mike MacIntyre answers questions at Monday's news conference.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: MacIntyre Makes Winning First Impression

Release: 12/10/2012 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER – Mike MacIntyre’s most recent and best-known rebuild was done in northern California. His mannerisms, a bit of his accent and his football roots are steeped in the South, where he watched his father, George, transform forlorn football programs at the University of Tennessee-Martin and Vanderbilt University.

The younger MacIntyre is taking on the same challenge – perhaps even a more difficult one – at the University of Colorado. He was introduced Monday as the Buffaloes’ 25th head coach after signing a five-year contract that CU Athletic Director Mike Bohn said will pay MacIntyre \$2 million annually.

His contract also includes a facilities improvement timeline similar to the clause in former men’s basketball coach Jeff Bzdelik’s pact that led to the construction of the basketball/volleyball facility adjacent to the Coors Events Center.

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MacIntyre's \$400,000 buyout clause at San Jose State will be picked up by CU, which also has committed \$2.6 million in salary for his staff. Bohn also said MacIntyre will receive additional recruiting and academic support for his players.

Addressing a late-afternoon press conference in the Byron R. White Stadium Club at Folsom Field, Bohn said in MacIntyre, 47, the school has "hired a football coach we can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with . . . this is an exciting day for us."

It was a whirlwind day for MacIntyre, who was approached by CU, presented a weekend offer and accepted before first setting foot on the Boulder campus. He arrived in Colorado at mid-afternoon Monday, met with CU President Bruce Benson, Chancellor Phil DiStefano and Bohn, then addressed his new team for about 35 minutes prior to the press conference.

"He came in confident, told us what he's going to do, why and how," said junior offensive lineman Alex Lewis. "For everything he tells us, he's going to have a reason to back it up."

Lewis said MacIntyre, whose resume features a combined 22 years of NFL and college experience, emphasized "four F's – family, future, football and foundation. And he said it starts with the foundation, being in mind, body and soul.

"I like the guy a lot. I like his confidence and his demeanor. He's a very proud guy and he knows what he's talking about. He's going to tell you straight and be honest with you. I like that – and I think that's the impression all of my teammates got. I think the whole team left the room a lot happier. We're excited to see him."

MacIntyre shared their excitement. "This is a great place to be, a great opportunity . . . I think we can be a top Pac-12 program and the future is bright here," he said. "It's exciting; I can't tell you how excited I am. Colorado has been down for a minute. It's my job to help bring it back . . . and I'm excited about having the opportunity to do that."

He described his rebuild at downtrodden San Jose State, which had experienced only three winning seasons in the past 20, as "probably similar" to what he faces at CU, which this fall suffered a school-record seventh consecutive losing season (1-11).

"When we got to San Jose State we were in an APR (Academic Progress Rate) penalty and had 75 scholarships," he said. "I've got 85 scholarships here. I've got a full amount of practice time, which I didn't have in my first spring there. So on those two things – they were big-time negatives. We'd only had 85 scholarships for two years in the whole history of the school. Here, I'm not hurt numbers wise for practice and for our first year."

The Spartans were 1-12 in 2010, 5-7 in 2011 and 10-2 this season. With or without MacIntyre, they will compete in the Military Bowl in Dec. 27 in Washington's RFK Stadium against Bowling Green. He said his postseason participation hinges on CU's plans for him between now and then, likely with the priority on being in Boulder.

Before his press conference, gazing out on Folsom Field for the first time with its backdrop of the Rockies, MacIntyre spoke of his father's influence on him as a man and a football coach.

"I saw how he treated people, how he worked with people, how he turned around two programs that were downtrodden when he went to UT-Martin – they had only won four games in the previous four years – and when he went to Vanderbilt – they had not won an SEC game in six years . . . three years later, he's SEC coach of the year. I've learned a lot from watching him as a young man," MacIntyre said.

Also influencing him were current Duke coach David Cutcliffe, who headed up the Mississippi program and had

MacIntyre as an assistant there as well as Duke, and former NFL coach Bill Parcells.

Said MacIntyre of his time with Parcells: "It was like getting my PhD in coaching. If you can imagine sitting at the feet of Bill Parcells every day . . . I would work with him on practice schedules, that was one of my jobs. I learned a tremendous amount from him, especially evaluating talent and practice organization."

MacIntyre obviously made as big an impression on Cutcliffe as Cutcliffe did on him. Cutcliffe congratulated MacIntyre and his family and said CU "has hired an excellent coach and an even finer man. Obviously our history together runs deep, and I couldn't be happier for him, Trisha and their children. Plain and simple, Coach MacIntyre knows how to coach the game of football. It's in his blood.

"He understands the importance of the well-rounded student-athlete as well as the football program's place in the community. His success in three years at San Jose State is well-documented and his work as an assistant coach on both the collegiate and professional levels speaks for itself. But on top of all of his coaching excellence – and there is a great deal of that – Coach MacIntyre is a tremendous person."

And apparently not a bad recruiter. He lured and landed former Ole Miss quarterback Eli Manning, now with the New York Giants, as well as former Rebels linebacker Patrick Willis, now with the San Francisco 49ers.

Manning also vouched for MacIntyre's coaching abilities as well as his character, adding, "He recruited me to Ole Miss with a little help from my mother and father, and I was fortunate enough to work with him on both sides of the ball. He coached our wide receivers my freshman year, so I worked closely with him on our passing game, and then for the next two years I got to throw against his secondary every day in practice when he coached the defensive backs, which was invaluable in my preparation. He's a great coach and a great recruiter, and he will not be outworked. I wish Mike all the best at CU."

MacIntyre's offense at CU might lack an Eli Manning, but he plans on utilizing the pistol with a "downhill" running game, play-action and quick throws and multi-personnel groups that "will keep everyone happy." Defensively, expect a 4-2-5 scheme similar to what TCU has successfully employed.

When he was hired at San Jose State, MacIntyre arrived with a master plan for a turnaround. It focused on upgrading recruiting as well as making the Spartans a more physical team. He plans to keep CU's recruiting focused in-state while highlighting California – he considers California "in-state" – and talent-rich Texas.

His master plan for CU will be no less thorough, "but as I get my feet wet here I'll tweak it more," he said. "But I have a 90-day plan and I'll start attacking it (Monday) to get us going and running. That gets everything in place. I know exactly what I want to do and how I want to do it. The problem is when you first start you're doing about 20 of those things at once."

His plan for his first 30 days on the CU job include individual player meetings starting on Wednesday, hiring a staff, contacting all of CU's 2013 commitments, evaluating the Buffs' depth, meeting with the strength and conditioning staff, the training staff and academic support staff.

By Jan. 14, when players return for the start of the spring semester, he wants to have an idea of his players' academic standing and their availability for spring practice. "I'll have a plan set on Jan. 14 and know how to attack it per kid," he said. "It's all individualized . . . the challenge starts with the young men here, making sure they grow as people and athletes. You're building a program, not a team. That's what you have to realize. There's a big difference. You've got to recruit. You've got to get young men in here who are good enough athletes to win in the Pac-12 who are also good enough students to graduate from (CU) and make this place proud."

MacIntyre will interview assistant coaches from former coach Jon Embree's staff, but his first look at filling his staff will go to his San Jose State assistants. If they are interested in joining him in Boulder, he said he hopes to bring both of his coordinators – offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Brian Lindgren and defensive

coordinator/linebackers coach Kent Baer.

He also said “there are other people out there, but first and foremost, it’s the guys at San Jose State who want to come. They’ve been very successful and understand what we want to do . . . we can kind of hit it running.”

MacIntyre also expects his new players to follow at a quick pace. In his 30-plus minute address to them Monday, he advised them to “do well on exams, don’t do a double negative – just because you’re down a little on what happened, I’m here to help you move forward. Make sure you do well on exams, finish your papers so when you come back in January we’re ready to roll and focused on what we want to do to become the team we want to be. It’s a process – and I explained to them what the process was. They listened intently and I’m excited about working with them.”

As for salvaging CU’s 2013 recruiting class, he plans on making contact with those prospects and evaluating what roles they are expected to fill in relation to the Buffs’ needs. In recruiting and all other facets of his new job, he plans to instill his slogan of “No excuses, no regrets . . . find a way. If you can’t do it that way, we have to find another way to be successful. I think I’ll find those as I go through and everyone will work together and we’ll find options that give us the chance to be successful.

“I do not know all of the different situations. Every school has different situations. Even the schools you see right now in the Top 25, they have issues, too. You work through everything and you find a way to be successful.”

In MacIntyre’s San Jose State debut, the Spartans played at Alabama – and lost 48-3. But he found a silver lining: “They played harder in the fourth quarter than they did in the third quarter.”

Two seasons later, San Jose State was playing even harder and with better players. The challenge he accepted on Monday is to make it happen again at a school just as hungry for success.

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SHOW MENU



Football: Mike MacIntyre confident he can rebuild CU Buffs

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

On the day he took over leadership of the Colorado football program, Mike MacIntyre did what his three predecessors should have done when they were in his shoes.

Gary Barnett promised a return to dominance. Dan Hawkins talked about Heisman Trophies and national championships and Hawk Love. Jon Embree promised to restore traditions and establish an identity.

MacIntyre kept it simple Monday.

"My slogan is no excuses no regrets," MacIntyre said. "Find a way. If you can't do it that way, we've got to find another way to be successful."

It is the basic mantra he used to raise San Jose State from the scrap heap of college football to a 10-win season this fall and a No. 24 national ranking in every major poll in just three years.

Colorado's new football coach laughed and nearly cried during his introductory press conference on the club level at Folsom Field. The 47-year-old exuded confidence in his ability to turn around the struggling CU program, referencing the fact that he's done it before. He teared up briefly when asked about the influence of his father, George, a former college coach, on his life and career.

George MacIntyre, who is battling multiple sclerosis at age 73, was undoubtedly proud beyond measure on the day his son became the highest paid CU coach in history agreeing to a five-year contract paying him \$2 million per year, which is more than four times as much as the \$450,000 he made coaching the San Jose State Spartans this season.

"I'm honored to be a Pac-12 coach," MacIntyre said. "All my life I've wanted to be a football coach. I grew up a coach's son. It's in my blood."

The contract also includes clauses requiring the school to meet certain deadlines in the process of beginning major facilities additions and enhancements in and around Folsom Field. MacIntyre said the clauses were vital to his decision to take the job because they showed commitment to winning from the school. Colorado will also pay a \$400,000 buyout to San Jose State to fulfill a buyout clause in MacIntyre's contract there.

MacIntyre thanked his new bosses -- President Bruce Benson, Chancellor Phil DiStefano and athletic director Mike Bohn -- for the opportunity to coach a program he says he has admired since he was a high school and college player in the 1980s. He made one promise during his press conference and it was directed at those three men and the thousands of Buffs fans they represent.

"I will make you proud. I promise you," MacIntyre said. "We will work tirelessly. We will work correctly and we will work with passion. I think as you get to know me, you will say one thing about Mike MacIntyre, 'He has passion.' You might say some other things, but you're going to say I have passion."

The hiring concluded a two-week search for the 25th full-time coach in CU history. It was a process that was surreal at times and included multiple interviews and one very public rejection before finally concluding with a man who seemed to fit in well during his first day in Boulder. He had never been to the town before, though he has been to Colorado multiple times for both work and pleasure.

"There is no question about it," Bohn said. "We've hired a football coach that all Buffs can stand shoulder to shoulder with. We couldn't be prouder of Mike and his family. He's a fit with our guiding principles and our high academic standards.

"He's a proven recruiter, a teacher and a leader who executes a plan to build a fundamentally strong program."

MacIntyre also was straightforward in describing the kind of football CU fans can expect to see on Saturdays next fall and in years to come. His offense will use a Pistol formation with spread principles while utilizing multiple personnel groups.

"I want to be able to have a run-play action conflict on the defense," MacIntyre said.

He said his system of using multiple personnel groups and playing a lot of players is modeled after Boise State.

"When you play more people, more personnel groups you have more happy kids," MacIntyre said. "They practice harder. They do better in class. They play harder. You have better production."

The Buffs will use a 4-3 defense with a lot of 4-2-5 principles under their new coaches. It is designed to best combat the dynamic offenses playing spread schemes and powerful pro-style attacks of the Pac-12.

MacIntyre said his defense can be accurately compared to Texas Christian. It's one that gets after the quarterback. He said last year the Spartans had the three leaders in sacks in the Western Athletic Conference along with the player with the sixth best sack total.

CU players met with their new coach for more than 30 minutes prior to his press conference. They emerged from the meeting with generally positive things to say about what they heard from him. Defensive back Parker Orms said he liked that MacIntyre isn't acting like it's a rebuilding project. He told the players they can win now.

"He's a guy who wants to win now and that's what he basically preached to us that it can happen right away, but it's a process," Orms said.

Colorado hasn't had a winning season since 2005 and has been to only one bowl game in the past seven years. The Buffs are coming off a 1-11 season viewed as the worst in the modern era of the program. Why does MacIntyre believe he can win right away with largely the same players who produced the results this season?

"If you don't believe you can win, you're not going to win," MacIntyre said. "Now, will we win every game? I don't know. ...They better believe they can win."

MacIntyre's first test in his new job is still nine months away. He has recruiting concerns, a coaching staff to assemble, spring football to plan and hundreds of much smaller tasks in front of him.

"Yes, we've got a long way to go, but I've been there before and I know what to do," he said.

Football: CU Buffs' Mike MacIntyre will hold open practices

By Brian Howell and Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Last spring and fall, former Colorado head football coach Jon Embree and his staff operated behind closed doors as they installed a no-huddle offense and prepared for the 2012 season.

Embree's predecessor, Dan Hawkins, closed practices, as well, toward the end of his tenure.

New CU coach Mike MacIntyre plans to be more open to the media and public. MacIntyre ran open practices at San Jose State and said he will aim to do the same at CU.

"Yes, that's what I plan on doing," he said. "We'll see how all that works out. I like to be able to do that. There might be certain times I shut down certain parts of practice every once in a while, but I've always liked to have people to have access to watch our practices."

That should be welcomed news to CU fans, who can start getting a glimpse of MacIntyre's offensive and defensive schemes in April.

Building a staff

MacIntyre hinted Monday that much of his coaching staff could be filled with San Jose State assistants.

"I look forward to bringing a lot of those guys on that coaching staff here to build something special here at Colorado," he said.

The Spartans' staff includes defensive coordinator Kent Baer, who may be a candidate to replace MacIntyre as head coach. Should Baer come to CU, he'll bring a great deal of experience, including 18 years as a defensive coordinator in the Pac-12. He has previously been the defensive coordinator at Washington, Notre Dame, Stanford, Arizona State, California, Idaho and Utah State.

Brian Lindgren joined the SJSU staff as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach this past season after serving as the offensive coordinator at Northern Arizona.

Offensive line coach Gary Bernardi has 23 years of Pac-12 experience, at Arizona, USC and UCLA. He coached in five Rose Bowls.

Defensive line coach Jim Jeffcoat is also a likely candidate to come to CU. A former NFL star with the Dallas Cowboys, he coached the Cowboys' defensive linemen for seven years, working on the same staff with MacIntyre.

Secondary coach Charles Clark worked with MacIntyre at Duke and would be a candidate to move to Boulder, as well.

Also on the San Jose State staff is Klayton Adams (tight ends), Fred Guidici (special teams coordinator/running backs), Andy LaRussa (cornerbacks) and Terry Malley (receivers). Malley seems

least likely to come to CU; he is from the Bay Area and has spent his entire 30-plus year coaching career in that area.

Some of CU's current assistants could stick around, too.

"I'll interview everybody on the staff, kind of see where everything fits and then find out what guys from San Jose State are coming," MacIntyre said. "There's a few other people out there also. When I was at San Jose State, I kept three of the guys (from the previous staff) and it was a good deal."

Recruiting

During the past few years, several top Colorado high school players have committed out of state, rather than giving the Buffs a serious look. MacIntyre hopes to change that, while also keeping a strong foothold in California.

"We're going to absolutely blanket the state of Colorado and we're going to absolutely blanket the state of California," he said. "I look at California as in-state and we're playing a lot of games over there, a lot of games in that area."

MacIntyre said Colorado will be a top priority, saying, "We're going to win this state recruiting."

He also said he will focus on Texas, with Jeffcoat possibly playing a key role in that.

"We're going to definitely recruit in Texas," he said. "Jim Jeffcoat, one of my coaches, he's kind of a big name there and he recruits there now for us."

MacIntyre added that Colorado and California will be higher priorities for the Buffs.

In terms of the 2013 class, as of Monday, CU had 12 verbal commits. MacIntyre said he will honor all of those commitments, as long as those players stay committed to CU.

"They've committed to Colorado and I will talk to all of them," he said. "If they definitely want to stick with Colorado, that's what we'll do. Those young men have committed to play here and we're not going to change that on them now."

Dillon's roller coaster

Buffs freshman quarterback Shane Dillon was recruited by Embree at CU and Butch Jones at Cincinnati.

Two weeks after Embree was fired and two days after Jones chose Tennessee over CU, Dillon met with the program's new head coach, MacIntyre.

Now Dillon, who ran the scout team last season while recovering from shoulder surgery, just wants spring practices to begin.

"I went through a roller coaster the last month. I was really close to coach Embree. Really close. He is pretty much what brought me here. He took me away from Butch is pretty much how it was," Dillon

said. "Then they were talking about how Butch was going to come here and I thought, 'Wow, that's pretty ironic.'

"He ended up not coming and they ended up signing Coach Mac. It's just been ... I realize how much of a business it is. I'm just ready to get out on the dang field."

Dillon is expected to be in the mix for the starting job in 2012 with Jordan Webb, Connor Wood and Nick Hirschman.

Thorburn: Mike MacIntyre will be given time to rebuild CU Buffs

By Ryan Thorburn Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Don't forget about Jon Embree if the Buffs turn this thing around.

I thought of the former Colorado head coach when his affable replacement, Mike MacIntyre, spoke about about his proven track record as a builder during a press conference on Monday night in the suites at Folsom Field.

Embree, 47, participated in a much more intense and awkward press conference two weeks earlier after being fired with a 4-21 record over two seasons, including the ghastly 1-11 campaign this year.

MacIntyre, 47, was 1-12 during his first season as a head coach and 6-19 through two seasons.

San Jose State -- like CU's leadership three decades ago with another Coach Mac -- gave MacIntyre a third season. The patience paid off as the Spartans finished the regular season 10-2 and ranked 24th in the final BCS standings.

"I could see us improving in every aspect," MacIntyre said of his 2010 San Jose State squad, which was blown out by five ranked teams, lost at home to UC Davis, and escaped with a 16-11 victory over Southern Utah to avoid a winless season. "But what everyone else sees is on that scoreboard."

I'm not suggesting Embree was on the verge of a 10-win season at CU. But I did believe him when he said he was seeing similar improvement and progress behind the scenes that outsiders are blind to in a win-now culture.

"I was brought here to build something. I have one and a half recruiting classes, so to speak. I think they've all represented themselves well," Embree said at his farewell press conference. "I'm disappointed with the results too, on the scoreboard, but everything else that has been done here ... they're better."

MacIntyre, despite what the national statistics suggest, inherits a much better situation than his predecessor did.

Embree is a good coach. Unfortunately, after two years on the job, CU football still didn't have an identity.

The Buffs couldn't run the ball or stop the other team from running the ball. They were defenseless against good quarterbacks and couldn't even settle on a starting quarterback.

When Embree decided to make dramatic changes to his staff and the schemes CU was running, a giant red flag was raised at the Dal Ward Center.

Athletic director Mike Bohn decided to be the one to make a major change.

The original Coach Mac had Embree's back. Bohn believes the current players have their Coach Mac's back.

"(MacIntyre) mentioned in his press conference the players are hurting. They were hurting before we made a change," Bohn said. "It will be important for us to be able to rally them. I'm just so proud of the kids for how they handled themselves through this process. And when you hear this coach talk you begin to see the match, you begin to see the fit, and you begin to see why we are excited."

Boffs fans should be very excited that MacIntyre "cut his teeth" in coaching under current Duke head coach David Cutcliffe, the quarterback savant who coached Peyton Manning at Tennessee and Eli Manning at Mississippi.

Imagine the possibilities if CU's identity moving forward is dynamic quarterback play?

"He said we were going to sling it," freshman quarterback Shane Dillon said with a smile. "We all have been through so much this whole season really. It has been tough on everybody. I think everyone getting a chance to have something new coming in here is going to help a lot."

MacIntyre said the reason San Jose State hired him three years ago was because "they were tired of getting their butt kicked."

Bohn, who lost late in the fourth quarter to Tennessee in the Butch Jones Bowl, knows the feeling.

"We're not going to look back," Bohn said. "We're certainly thrilled and excited that (MacIntyre) is our coach."

We'll never know if Embree could have been a winner at CU had he been given more time. My guess is the \$2 million man replacing him will get a third year, and the Buffs will eventually win big again under Coach Mac.

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Mike MacIntyre hired as Colorado football coach from San Jose State

By Tom Kensler The Denver Post The Denver Post
Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER — Who better to turn around the Colorado football program than "Coach Mac"?

The challenge confronting newly hired Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre in rebuilding the Buffs compares to the task faced by legendary CU coach Bill Mc Cartney in the early 1980s. Both endeavors could be called difficult, if not daunting.

MacIntyre, 47, left a 10-2 San Jose State team to coach in the Pac-12. The fact that CU is coming off a 1-11 season didn't seem to be an issue. As the son of a coach, he knows that there's nothing like building a program.

In 2010, San Jose State went 1-12 in MacIntyre's first season. His Spartans finished this season ranked 24th in both polls, and also in the BCS standings.

"I'm excited at what we have ahead of us," MacIntyre said Monday while being officially introduced as Colorado's 25th head coach. "We have a long way to go. But I've been there before, and I know what to do.

"We will work tirelessly. We will work correctly. And we work with passion. As you get to know me, the one thing you'll say is 'He has passion.' You might say some other things, but you'll say, 'He has passion.' "

MacIntyre agreed to a five-year contract worth \$2 million annually. Details of the contract will not be announced until they are formalized and approved by the board of regents. At San Jose State, he was making about \$500,000 in total compensation.

CU athletic director Mike Bohn flew to San Jose, Calif., on Saturday and interviewed MacIntyre at an off-campus location.

"The first thing that impresses you about Mike MacIntyre is how he built something so special at San Jose State," Bohn said. "He did it the right way ... with an incredible attention to detail and a plan.

"You just see a progression of his entire career of milestones. He has stepped up to big challenges."

Energetic and optimistic, MacIntyre confirmed that his contract includes guarantees of facilities improvements.

"I can't do it alone; it's everybody doing this, everyone involved," he said.

MacIntyre was not Colorado's first choice to replace the fired Jon Embree and joked Monday about having to ask out his future wife, Trisha, three times before he got to take her on a date. Last week, Bohn was putting the final touches on an agreement with then-Cincinnati coach Butch Jones before Tennessee lured Jones away.

Bohn had set a requirement of head coaching experience, and Jones has been in that position for six years, compared with three for MacIntyre.

But some could argue that, on the surface at least, MacIntyre appears to be the better fit. Although he is a native of Miami and has spent much of his life in the Deep South and the Carolinas, MacIntyre knows what it's like to take over a program at the bottom, and he knows how to recruit in California. Jones has never coached west of his native Michigan and had the good fortune of following in the footsteps of current Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly at Central Michigan and Cincinnati.

MacIntyre played defensive back for his father, George MacIntyre, then Vanderbilt's coach, before transferring to Georgia Tech to play for Bobby Ross after the elder MacIntyre was fired at Vandy.

MacIntyre was named 2009 national assistant coach of the year by members of the coaches association as defensive coordinator at Duke under David Cutcliffe.

"Plain and simple, Coach MacIntyre knows how to coach the game of football; it's in his blood," Cutcliffe said Monday. "He understands the importance of a well-rounded student-athlete, as well as the football program's place in the community. On top of all his coaching excellence, he is a tremendous person."

MacIntyre left San Jose early Monday by private charter and arrived at CU at about 1 p.m. He met with CU players before the news conference and said he was impressed with their enthusiasm.

"These young men are hungry (to win)," MacIntyre said. "They looked me in the eye and heard every word I said."

MacIntyre rebuilt a moribund San Jose State program that had posted only three winning seasons in two decades by pounding the recruiting trail. He vowed that every head coach at a high school in California would meet somebody on his staff. MacIntyre also organized traveling "San Jose State camps" at several of the state's top recruiting hotbeds.

MacIntyre said he will focus recruiting by blanketing Colorado and California and also get players from Texas. He pointed out that while he was an assistant at Mississippi, he was instrumental in recruiting Eli Manning and said jokingly that he already is eyeing Manning's young son.

"When I was playing college football, Colorado was special," MacIntyre said. "I like the footprint of the Pac-12 Conference. I'll consider California to be 'in-state.' There's no reason Colorado can't be at the top of the Pac-12."

MacIntyre likes to run a "pistol" offense, with the quarterback setting up closer to the line of scrimmage than in a conventional shotgun so he can get rid of the ball faster. He also wants a power mentality in the running game. Defensively, look for a 4-3 alignment, he said, that puts pressure on the quarterback. This season, San Jose State led the WAC in sacks.

MacIntyre said a decision has not yet been made on whether he will coach San Jose State against Bowling Green in the Dec. 27 Military Bowl in Washington, D.C. Regarding that decision, MacIntyre said he will do whatever Colorado wants him to do.

"My heart is at the bowl game, but my mind and body is here at Colorado," he said. "I think they'll do fine without me, to be honest with you."

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On the clock

A look at a few key dates facing new Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre before the Buffs' 2013 season opener Aug. 31 vs. Colorado State:

Dec. 17-Jan. 3: Dead period in recruiting: Institutional staff members may have contact only with a prospective student-athlete who has been admitted for midyear enrollment, provided the prospect has signed a national letter of intent or other offer of admission and is required to be on campus to attend institutional orientation sessions for all students.

Jan. 3-Feb. 3: Limited contacts with recruits, just one contact per week per student-athlete heading into national signing day.

Feb. 6: National signing day.

Mid-March: Start of spring practices; coach determines dates, times; spring game usually in mid-April.

Aug. 31: Season opener vs. Colorado State at Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

Sept. 7: Home opener vs. Central Arkansas at Folsom Field.

Updated 11:43 pm, Monday, December 10, 2012

2011 5-7 3-4 T-4th

201210-2 5-1 2nd*

Total16-218-13

*The 2012 Spartans are ranked 24th and will face Bowling Green on Dec. 27 in the Military Bowl.

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San Jose State coach Mike MacIntyre leaves for Colorado job

By Jimmy Durkin jdurkin@bayareanewsgroup.com San Jose Mercury News

Posted:

MercuryNews.com

SAN JOSE -- Mike MacIntyre turned around the San Jose State football program. Now he'll attempt to do the same at Colorado.

MacIntyre accepted a five-year, \$10 million contract to become the new coach of the Buffaloes on Monday, more than quadrupling his SJSU salary. He replaces Jon Embree, who was fired after going 1-11 in his second season.

San Jose State did not issue a specific time frame for hiring a new coach, but athletic director Gene Bleymaier said in a statement, "We will work to find a new coach as quickly as possible. We will look for the best person who can pick up where Coach MacIntyre left off."

Bleymaier said in his statement there had been several weeks of ongoing talks in an attempt to keep MacIntyre at SJSU. Sources had indicated the school was hoping to raise money to renegotiate a contract that paid MacIntyre about \$465,000 this year, but there was no way SJSU could compete with the money Colorado had to offer.

The news wasn't easy for San Jose State players to digest, with many not accepting it as reality until watching MacIntyre's introductory news conference at Colorado on television.

"It's hard when you see a guy you admired and respected and you worked hard for put on another school's colors and go out there and have a press conference like that," senior offensive lineman David Quessenberry said. "You kind of feel like you just got broken up with. I'm happy for him. He's pursuing his dreams. Colorado's got a great guy, a good coach and a good recruiter. He's going to be able to accomplish there what he did here."

Bleymaier also said he plans to announce in the next 24-48 hours who will coach the Spartans in the Military Bowl against Bowling Green on Dec. 27. MacIntyre said during his news conference that it has not been discussed yet if he would be involved, but it seems unlikely.

"My heart is at the bowl game, but my mind and body are here working," MacIntyre said.

Defensive coordinator Kent Baer seems a logical choice. He has been with SJSU since 2008 and served a similar role as Notre Dame's interim head coach for the 2004 Insight Bowl after Tyrone Willingham was fired.

"I think they'll do fine without me," MacIntyre said. "They are prepared. They had a great season. A lot of my staff will have to stay there, of course, to do it, and I think they'll be extremely successful and get their 11th win."

MacIntyre takes over a Colorado program in similar shambles to the one he inherited at SJSU when he was hired in December 2009. The Buffaloes might have been the worst program in a BCS conference last season. Their only win came against Washington State, and they lost to Sacramento State, a Football Championship Subdivision school.

The Spartans were among the worst of the 120 Football Bowl Subdivision programs in MacIntyre's first season, when they went 1-12. He helped lead a turnaround that has SJSU at 10-2, ranked No. 24 in the BCS standings and both national polls and set to play in its first bowl game since 2006. The program also excelled academically, as evidenced by its rise in its Academic Progress Rate score.

"I just left a program of young men who cared deeply," MacIntyre said. "Who went from 120th in the nation to 24th in every poll in two and a half years. Raised their APR from 930 to 981 and committed to being successful."

MacIntyre said during his news conference that he hopes to bring several of his current assistants with him, specifically mentioning defensive line coach Jim Jeffcoat. He first plans to interview all of Colorado's assistants, and also speak with SJSU's coaches.

The Spartans are scheduled to have a conditioning workout Tuesday and resume bowl preparation with their first full contact practice Thursday. With a victory in the bowl game, SJSU could set a school record for wins as a major college football program.

"The most important thing that's in front of us right now is coming together and winning the bowl game and being best team in San Jose State history," Quessenberry said.