Mike MacIntyre's former DC was passed over for SJSU head coach spot

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera
Posted:
Buffzone.com

It looks like new Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre might get his wish.

San Jose State named Ron Caragher head coach Monday to replace MacIntyre, who was hired last week by CU. The decision strengthens the possibility that MacIntyre will be able to bring the majority of his coaching staff with him to Boulder.

San Jose State defensive coordinator Kent Baer, who is serving as interim head coach for the Spartans' bowl game Dec. 27 against Bowling Green in the Military Bowl, was a candidate for the head coaching job. Now that the position has been filled, it seems likely Baer will be the Buffs' defensive coordinator.

MacIntyre said during his introductory press conference in Boulder that he hoped to bring most of his San Jose State staff with him, including Baer as defensive coordinator, Brian Lindgren as offensive coordinator and Jim Jeffcoat as defensive line coach

Baer was one of 29 nominees for the Broyles Award this season. The award was established in 1996 and recognizes the top assistant coach in the Football Bowl Subdivision. Broyles was a finalist for the award in 2002 when he was defensive coordinator at Notre Dame.

MacIntyre won the award in 2009 when he was the defensive coordinator with Duke. MacIntyre said last week he did not expect to announce the makeup of his coaching staff until after the San Jose State bowl game unless events unfolded allowing him to assemble the staff earlier.

CU Buffs coach Mike MacIntyre will bring in both coordinators from San Jose State

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post Posted:

DenverPost.com

New Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre said he will bring both of his coordinators from San Jose State — Kent Baer on defense, Brian Lindgren on offense — to Boulder after his former employer didn't choose Baer as his replacement Monday.

The Spartans named University of San Diego coach Ron Caragher to replace MacIntyre, who has said he would bring in Baer if he didn't get the job. McIntyre planned to talk to Baer and Lindgren later Monday night and will announce them as his coordinators when he names the entire staff.

"I'm sure they will be," Mac Intyre said. "That's what they had told me earlier."

Baer, 61, has been a defensive coordinator nearly every year since 1983, starting at Utah State and going on to Idaho, California, Arizona State, Stanford, Notre Dame and Washington before coming to San Jose State as a linebackers coach in 2008.

His 2004 Notre Dame team finished third nationally in rush defense, and in 2002 was second in scoring defense when he was a finalist for the Frank Broyles Award given to the nation's top assistant coach.

In Baer's third season as the Spartans' defensive coordinator, San Jose State is second in the Western Athletic Conference and 28th nationally in total defense (351.4 yards per game) and second in the WAC and 19th nationally in rush defense (123.7 ypg).

If the 10-2, 24th-ranked Spartans beat Bowling Green in the Military Bowl on Dec. 27 in Washington, they'll have their best record since 1940.

"He has great experience," MacIntyre said of Baer. "He works really well with people. He really has seen everything and knows how to adjust and fix things. He does a great job preparing for games, but he does a great job at halftime adjusting.

"Basically, we won every second half, offensively and defensively."

Lindgren, 31, is in his fourth year as offensive coordinator after three years running Northern Arizona's offense, which averaged 28 points and 410 yards from 2008-11. This year's Spartans are third in the WAC in total offense (451.7 ypg), and David Fales is third nationally in pass efficiency (170.9 rating).

"All of his quarterbacks have had high, high-percentage passing," MacIntyre said. "He does a great job of play-calling. We broke all kinds of records, tons and tons of offensive records."

MacIntyre will run the same pistol offense they displayed at San Jose State, which averaged the third-most points in school history with 35.3 per game.

MacIntyre has finished interviewing all current Colorado staff members but said he has not determined if he will retain any or which other San Jose State assistants he'll invite.

Baer will still serve as interim coach for San Jose State in the Military Bowl.

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Q&A: Colorado's Mike MacIntyre

By Kevin Gemmell

The newest Pac-12 coach has a hectic schedule. But Mike MacIntyre, who is tasked with rebuilding Colorado, took a few minutes to chat with the Pac-12 blog.

The first -- and most obvious question -- where do you begin?

Mike MacIntyre: Well, first of all I met with the team. That was the first place I began. Then I'll meet with each player individually. Then we're getting on the road working on our staff and working on recruiting at the same time and trying to get all of that set up. So it's getting with the players before they go on break, working on a staff and working on recruiting all at the same time.

How much have you been cramming in game film and watching what's been happening over the last couple of years?

MM: I'll definitely watch game film next week when the kids are gone and start watching what they did. But I don't want to get a lot of preconceived notions about the guys until we get them out there on the practice field and we work with them eyeball-to-eyeball out there. That's how I'll do that.

In terms of the youth on this team, they were able to get a lot of work. How much is that going to pay off moving forward?

MM: Experience is invaluable. At San Jose State, we played a lot of freshmen early and that experience helped those young men mature quickly.

What's the pulse of the team right now -- at least from the guys you talked to so far?



MM: They seem very positive. But when you lose games like New Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre isn't unfamiliar with counting on underclassmen to produce.

that -- I've been through that before and have been able to rebuild out of it -- the young men just need to get confidence. And the way you build confidence is you set small goals and you reach that goal and the next one and the next one. That goes for the weight room, the classroom, the meeting rooms, out on the practice field. They will build their confidence back slowly and all of a sudden they will start showing up on game day and we'll start making plays and finishing games the way we should. It doesn't just happen with the snap of a finger.

I know you are a defensive-minded guy. When you look around the Pac-12, you see the spread-option, you see the Air Raid, you see four different types of pro-style. What's your impression of some of the

offenses in the conference?

MM: That's the beauty of college football is all of the different types of offenses. That's what makes college football more exciting than the pro football each week because it's different every Saturday. And as a defensive coordinator and working on the defensive side of the ball like I like to do, you have to be prepared for all of those different things, and it makes it exciting. The Pac-12 has a lot of diverse offenses with some very good ones. But you have to play good defense to win championships. Stanford's offense is pretty good. But their defense has been what really set the tone for that team week in and week out.

There are those who say your predecessor didn't get the full commitment of the university. Do you feel like they are behind you with some of the facility upgrades and the financial commitment.

MM: I think the administration is definitely behind us. Our athletic department, our athletic director, they are doing everything possible to make sure we're going to be successful. And it takes all of us. It's not just me. It's not just the athletic director or the chancellor. It takes everybody involved from top to bottom to be successful. We'll do that and one day in the future it will be a fun day.

What's your timetable for filling out the staff.

MM: Ooooh ... good question. My staff, my guys in the bowl game, they don't end until the 27th and after that bowl game is over, some of them will be making different decisions. It will be before the dead period. When the dead period opens back up, I'll have a full staff. I might be short a guy or two but I'll have the majority of the staff together when the dead period opens up so we can get out there and recruit.