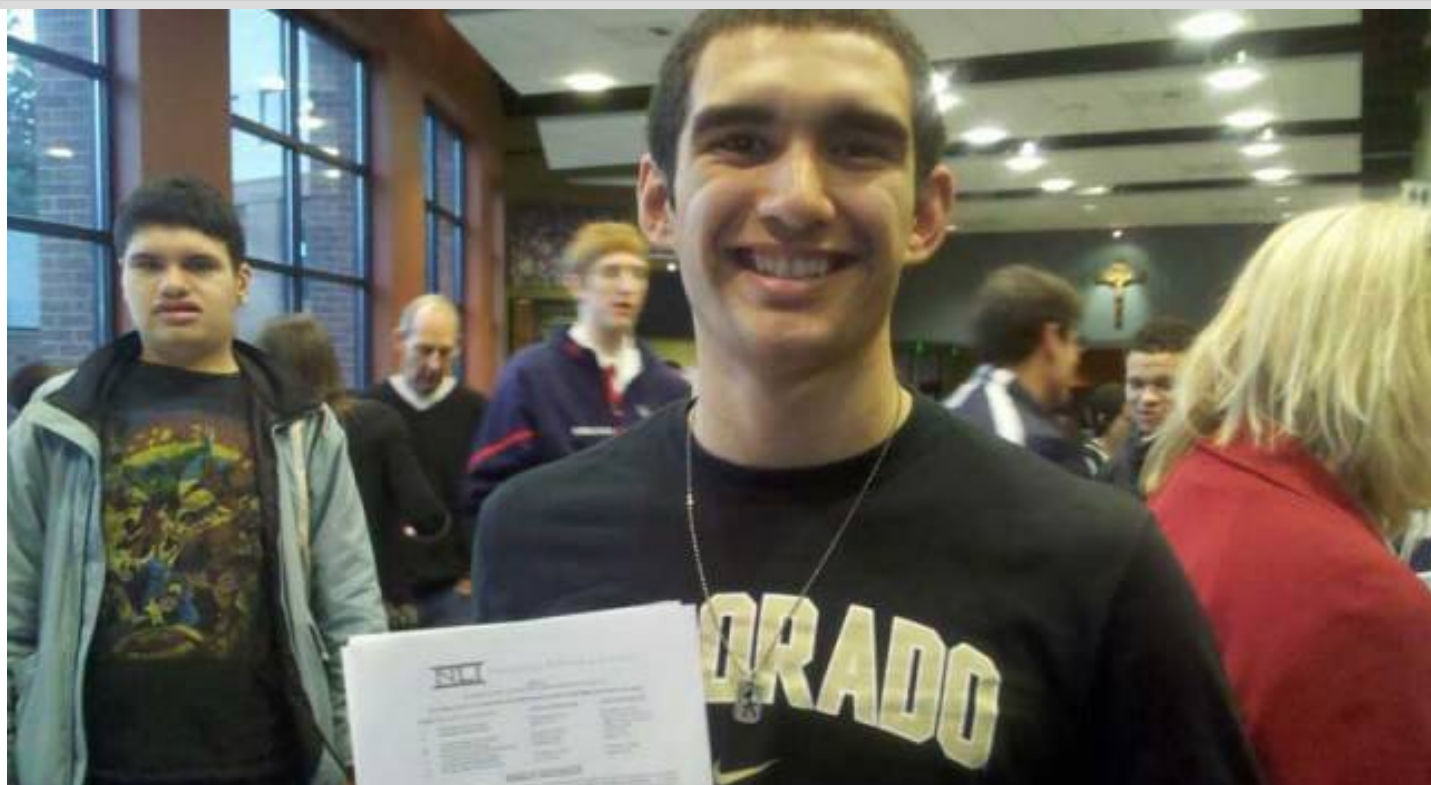




COLORADO BUFFALOES

OFFICIAL ATHLETIC WEBSITE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO



Quarterback Sefo Liufau of Tacoma, WA displays his colors Wednesday on National Signing Day.

Photo Courtesy: Tacoma News-Tribune



Brooks: Lindgren Talks QBs, The Pistol And Liufau

Release: 02/07/2013 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - When football coaching staffs are rolled over, it can be a roll of the dice for a new cadre of coaches in determining which of the former staff's prospects should sign on the dotted line.

At Colorado, incoming coach Mike MacIntyre took the high road - he promised it was as much a matter of honor as necessity - and signed as many of the prior commits who still wanted to come.

That number was 10. Eight of them, said MacIntyre, had watched his introductory press conference in early December and would later remind him of his statement that day "to honor all commitments."

MacIntyre was still good with that. "We said it was the right thing to do and we felt like they were good players. We knew we needed to keep these guys; they had stayed loyal to Colorado . . . they had both feet in the boat," he said at Wednesday's press conference announcing his first CU class.

One long-committed prospect MacIntyre and offensive coordinator Brian Lindgren were eager to ink was

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Signing Day
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quarterback Sefo Liufau, who had pledged allegiance to the Buffs long before MacIntyre and Lindgren were in the picture. Liufau took an unofficial visit to Boulder during last spring's drills, strengthened his pledge at that time and didn't vacillate even when the staff that wooed him was let go.

Lindgren, who coaches the QBs, was more than vaguely familiar with Liufau, who played at Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma, Wash. As a member of MacIntyre's San Jose State staff, Lindgren might have made his own recruiting run at Liufau had the player not taken his name off the board so early.

"I had been to see him a lot of times," Lindgren said, "but he had committed to Colorado the summer before. He was still kind of a guy we watched a little, but we crossed him off our list because we didn't think we had a chance at getting him."

TURNS OUT THAT MACINTYRE and Lindgren did get him, and it will be up to the athletic Liufau as what they do with him. In a best-case scenario (and it's far from that), the 6-4, 215-pound Liufau would have been an early high school graduate and would have enrolled at CU in January for the spring semester. Thus, he could have participated in spring drills and plunged into Lindgren's pistol offense.

But Liufau won't arrive until this summer, joining six other QBs on the roster and having to do what freshmen do - acclimate to football, life away from home, the college environment, et al. Yet, when Liufau arrives and Lindgren deems him capable, Liufau will be given ample opportunity to compete with returnees Jordan Webb, Connor Wood, Nick Hirschman, Shane Dillon, Stevie Joe Dorman and John Schrock.

Merely seeing that lineup in print still might baffle Lindgren, who is accustomed to having four QBs on scholarship and one walk-on on his roster. "This is the most I've seen or been around . . . it's a lot for guys who play only one position," he said. "But it's not like we're going to get rid of any of them."

Lindgren has met with each of his QBs "a handful of times" and "watched a little tape from last year." Obviously, he will refrain from making any evaluations, public or otherwise, until he gets more acquainted with each and sees them in spring drills.

"I'm starting fresh with those guys and that's what I told them," he said. "It's a new beginning for all of them, a chance for them to prove themselves. I'm going into it with an open mind in starting the evaluation process."

MacIntyre didn't retain any position coaches from the former staff. One school of thought is that an entirely new staff faces a hurdle in thoroughly evaluating returning players. A holdover or two might have helped.

Lindgren disagrees; taped "cut-ups" have been made of Buffs personnel for the new staff to study. Also, Lindgren said he benefitted from lengthy conversations on offensive personnel with former receivers coach Bobby Kennedy and former QB coach Rip Scherer.

"Both of those guys were very open with me and I respect that," Lindgren said. Added MacIntyre about Liufau: "Scherer did a very good job of evaluating him."

Spring drills begin on March 7, and the Buffs will have eight of their 15 practices prior to spring break (March 26-30). During the off week Lindgren hopes to further the QB evaluation process and arrive at a preliminary decision of who might be his top two or three starting candidates.

"I'm hoping at that point to be able to narrow it down a little bit, not necessarily make a decision, but narrow it down and start getting more reps for some of those guys," he said.

And by that point, he and MacIntyre might have an indication of what direction their offense will take. It's been widely suggested that the Buffs will use the pistol this fall, and that could wind up being their formation of the future. But it might not feature all the elements of the pistol that has made its way from Nevada and elsewhere to the NFL.

Lindgren makes this point clear: His offense will be tailored to his personnel's strengths, as was the case at San Jose State. "We used the pistol to fit our personnel," Lindgren said. "If we have a talented running quarterback, then we're going to run more of the pistol. If we've got more of a pro-style passer, then we're going to tweak our offense more towards that - and that's what we did at San Jose State last year."

The Spartans' quarterback was senior David Fales, and said Lindgren, "He was more of a pocket passer. We did less of the pistol to fit his abilities. Now, we still did some of it to keep people honest, and we did it with our backup quarterback at times, putting him in some situations in the red zone and did some different stuff with him.

"But you look at the statistics from last year, we threw for 4,000 yards. We didn't run it as well . . . but we had good receivers, a good tight end and a real good quarterback. I think as an offensive coordinator you've got to have things you believe in, but especially in college you've got to learn to have success with the pieces you have."

So, the impression that the Buffs' offense will be overhauled overnight in the image of, say, the San Francisco 49ers is, well, false. It all depends on which QB winds up No. 1, but CU operating out of the pistol even 60 to 70 percent of the time "might be a stretch," Lindgren said.

"A lot of it is going to end up with the quarterback we decide gives us the best chance to win. Is it going to be a more athletic guy or someone who has the ability to do both? Then we'll do both if that's who gives us the best chance to win. If it's someone who's a less talented runner, then we're probably not going to do as much of (the pistol).

"That's what we want to do, and I think you've seen the success it's having in the NFL. We want that to be a part of what we do, but how big a part will be determined by the quarterback and who prevails."

WHICH BRINGS US BACK to Liufau. Can he be the Buffs' QB for the present or must he be groomed for the future? The best (and only) answer: Stay tuned until well into August camp.

MacIntyre and Lindgren love Liufau's humble demeanor, his upbringing, his versatility and his athleticism. After watching Liufau play hoops, MacIntyre was concerned about schools coming after him in that sport. "He's really, really good," MacIntyre said.

Liufau has been all-league in hoops and was Bellarmine Prep's basketball MVP last season, in addition to earning All-West Region (*PrepStar*) and a host of other area honors in football. Lindgren calls Liufau "a proven winner in a proven program," loves that he was a four-year starter and says Liufau is "mature beyond his years."

But this might be the most telling part of Lindgren's early critique: He believes Liufau is "first and foremost a passer; he's accurate and makes good decisions and also has ability to run when things break down . . . I really don't think he showed as much in high school as he's capable of."

Still, he was noticeably prolific as a high school QB. He threw for 7,297 yards and 68 touchdowns (only 20 picks) while compiling a 34-5 record. He also ran for 606 yards and 18 touchdowns.

But come August in Boulder, there will still be the freshman factor, which comes into play at quarterback more than any other position. For Liufau to arrive this summer, acclimate to all that will be spinning through his head outside of football, then work himself up to speed in Lindgren's offense . . . well, it won't be easy.

And for MacIntyre/Lindgren to entrust their offense to a freshman QB, "Typically that doesn't happen," Lindgren said. "But my philosophy is playing the best guy. As a quarterback coach, I think it's your job to put him in a position to succeed. That's tough, because he won't have had spring football to learn the system. So he's naturally a little behind - that's why it's tough. But we're going to give him some opportunities when he comes in to see if he's ready. If he is, I don't think we'll have any problem (playing him). If he's not, then we won't rush him into anything."

Unless Liufau proves to be an ultra-quick study, that likely leaves the QB position in the hands (or feet, or both) of someone already on the roster. And that launches the interest, not to mention the importance, for MacIntyre's first CU spring about Flatirons high. On the heels of last fall's 1-11 finish, expectations are a bit lower - and that might be a good thing.

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MacIntyre signs 13 from the Golden State

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado's move to the Pac-12 Conference has produced a lot of painful Saturdays on the football field so far but it has enabled the program to attract a record number of recruits from California in back-to-back years.

First-year coach Mike MacIntyre announced a crop of 20 new additions to the program on national signing day Wednesday, including two players who signed back in January and are enrolled in spring semester classes.

Thirteen members of the class were recruited from California. When added to the 10 California recruits in the 2012 class, the program has landed 23 recruits from one of the most talent-rich states in the nation in the past two cycles. The previous record was 19 California recruits becoming Buffs in 1995 and 1996, the first two years of Rick Neuheisel's tenure.

Since CU began tracking recruiting closely in 1973, the program has signed 10 or more recruits from one state in the same year only 11 times. This is the first time it has signed double-digit recruits in back-to-back years in any state other than Colorado. The only other times it has signed at least 10 recruits from California were 1986 and 1995 and both of those freshmen classes enjoyed plenty of success in their CU careers.

While MacIntyre and his staff are only partially responsible for this recruiting cycle -- 10 of the recruits committed to former coach Jon Embree -- MacIntyre is following through on a pledge he made during his introductory press conference in December when he said he would treat California as in-state recruiting.

On Wednesday, MacIntyre said there is no doubt Colorado is enjoying more success recruiting California now that it's in the Pac-12.

"They're seeing us on television all the time and they can recognize that and they know we come back into their areas to play every year a couple times," MacIntyre said. "So I think that's a big part of it."

MacIntyre and the majority of his coaching staff came to CU after spending three years building San Jose State into a top-25 program. They accomplished that by leaving no stone unturned in California, visiting every high school in the state and building relationships with coaches. That legwork should only help CU continue to pull large numbers of recruits from California in the future.

But recruiting California isn't MacIntyre's only priority. He emphasized the need to improve recruiting in Colorado during his press conference on Wednesday. CU signed just three in-state players in this recruiting class, despite MacIntyre's best efforts to land more.

MacIntyre said he continued to recruit in-state players who had committed to other programs up to Wednesday morning, hoping to change some minds. He said he and his assistants have already visited 52 Colorado high schools with plans to visit them all this spring. He has offered scholarships to five in-state players for the 2014 class.

"We're doing our homework," MacIntyre said. "We're going to put four coaches in our state. We're going to see every school in the state in May and we've got a junior day coming up on March 9 that we're trying to get

Colorado young men to come to. We're going to work it hard and that number will go up."

Colorado's class was ranked No. 67 in the nation by Rivals.com Wednesday night. Those rankings could still change slightly in the coming days as classes are finalized. It is the lowest ranking CU has received for a class in years. CU signed 13 players rated with three stars by Rivals.com and no players rated with four or five stars.

"There is a lot of great athletes, but I really think it boils down to their mind and their heart," MacIntyre said. "How committed they are and how much self esteem and how hard they keep working. I like kids with chips on their shoulders. I don't like kids who are entitled and think they've arrived. I don't think those kids will usually be successful in my opinion.

"I like to have a chip on his shoulder, got something to prove. Every day you wake up, look in the mirror and I'm going to prove it. Those are the type of kids I want on this football team."

MacIntyre said he believes some members of the class have the potential to help the team immediately next fall, but who those players are and how they fit into the plan will work itself out in the spring and summer.

The recruits most likely to earn immediate playing time next season are three California wide receivers Bryce Bobo, Elijah Dunston and Devin Ross. MacIntyre said one thing that stood out to him in reviewing film of last season was a lack of speed at receiver. Getting junior Paul Richardson back from a torn ACL and adding 2012 signee Jeff Thomas to the position will also help.

CU signed one quarterback, two running backs, three wide receivers, two defensive ends, two defensive backs, five linebackers and five offensive linemen.

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Football: QB Sefo Liufau will have chance to compete for CU Buffs starting job

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

No true freshman quarterback has ever opened the season as the starter at Colorado.

It's possible that could change this year.

Sefo Liufau, a 6-foot-4, 215-pounder from Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma, Wash., signed his letter of intent on Wednesday and could be a factor in the quarterback race in the fall.

"I'm excited about Sefo, but I don't want to put all that pressure on him," CU head coach Mike MacIntyre said. "When he gets here, we'll see how he's progressing, but I think he has the body type and I think he has intelligence and he played in a good program there. We'll just have to wait and see how everything unfolds."

MacIntyre said every job is open as he heads into his first season at Colorado. That's especially true at quarterback, where nobody on the current roster has taken hold of the job.

Last season, CU had three different players -- Nick Hirschman, Jordan Webb and Connor Wood -- make starts at quarterback and all three are back. Redshirt freshman Shane Dillon will also be in the mix and many believe he may be the best of the bunch.

"I've seen flashes in all of them," said MacIntyre, who has only seen the players on film to this point. "We'll have to see how they fit into what we do and how we do it. You look at different quarterbacks in different systems; some guys are really good in one system and some guys are really good in another. Somebody will rise to the top. I don't know who it is, but somebody will rise."

Regardless of how the spring plays out, Liufau will have a chance to compete for the job when he arrives.

"We'll go through spring practice and we'll narrow it down and we'll let him get in the mix when he gets here," MacIntyre said.

During his prep career, Liufau threw for 7,297 yards and 68 touchdowns, with just 20 interceptions, while compiling a 34-5 record. In addition, he ran for 606 yards and 18 touchdowns.

MacIntyre raved about Liufau's athleticism. In addition to football, Liufau uses his speed and leaping ability to star on Bellarmine Prep's basketball team.

"Just a phenomenal young man that I think hopefully will be a bell cow for this class and for our program as he grows in it," MacIntyre said. "I feel like that he has the talent (to start); we'll just see if he can handle everything."

Only five quarterbacks in CU history have ever made a start as a true freshman: Randy Essington (1980), Marc Walters (1986), Koy Detmer (1992), Craig Ochs (2000) and Tyler Hansen (2008).

Multi-talented linebackers

MacIntyre signed five linebackers on Wednesday. All five of them also played running back in high school, including Ryan Severson, who rushed for 1,951 yards and 32 touchdowns at Valley Christian High School in San Jose, Calif., last fall.

"I like to get linebackers that play tailback," MacIntyre said. "That's kind of one of the things I look for. My personal opinion is if you can run the ball and make them miss you that if you can get on the other side that means you can tackle them."

MacIntyre said all three of his linebackers at San Jose State were tailbacks in high school. He believes that those players are better suited to think like a running back because they've done it themselves, and those instincts make them more successful.

"That's stuff you just can't coach," he said.

Defensive ends could play early

One area of immediate need was defensive end, and MacIntyre filled that need by adding Timothy Coleman of Mullen High School and Jimmie Gilbert from College Station, Texas.

"With (Tim) and Jimmie, I hope that one of those guys will be able to step out there and help us this fall, because we're a little thin at the defensive end position, depth-wise," MacIntyre said.

Will Pericak graduated, leaving Chidera Uzo-Diribe, Kirk Poston and Juda Parker as the only defensive ends with experience. De'Jon Wilson, who redshirted last year, also plays at defensive end.

"If (Coleman and Gilbert) are not completely ready for it, I still think they're going to be good enough to really help us," MacIntyre said. "I do think they have the tools to do that."

No JUCO players

MacIntyre said he did not go after any junior college transfers.

"Most of those guys that we would have wanted were already basically committed or signed by the time I got the job," he said.

This was the second year in a row CU didn't sign a JUCO player after doing so in each of the previous 15 years.

Sizing up the competition

Rivals.com ranked CU's class as the worst in the Pac-12. Not that MacIntyre is paying attention.

"I haven't looked at one single other Pac-12 list," he said. "I had a wise coach tell me one time, 'Don't worry about everybody else's people, just worry about the ones you have.'"

Notable

CU used just 30 of the 62 official visits allowed. Only seven of those were used by the former coaching staff. ... MacIntyre said he has one more coach to hire for his staff -- a special teams coordinator. "I'll do that here

in the next couple of weeks," he said. ... Defensive back Tedric Thompson chose CU over Minnesota, where is his brother, Cedric, is a starting safety. ... Offensive lineman Colin Sutton is the younger brother of swimmer Chloe Sutton, who was a part of the United States Olympic team in 2008 and 2012. ... Gilbert's father, Jimmie, was a 1986 draft pick of the NBA's Chicago Bulls, and his sister, Karla, currently plays basketball at Texas A&M. ... The Buffs open spring practice on March 7.

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Football: Denver South's Phillip Lindsay relieved to be a CU Buff

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

DENVER -- Although Phillip Lindsay made up his mind long ago that he would play football at Colorado, the Denver South High School running back had reason to worry about his future over the past several months.

After suffering a knee injury in the fall and watching the coach that recruited him get fired, the three-star running back officially signed his national letter of intent and faxed it into Colorado at 7:02 a.m. on Wednesday -- two minutes after the official signing period began.

"Right when I faxed it, they called and said, 'We got it, you're officially a Buff now,'" Lindsay said Wednesday after he and five Rebels teammates held a signing day party in the South auditorium. "Right off the bat, the pressure was off. Sigh of relief. You go through so much. I went through a bumpy road and hard times and when you come to this and they still want you ... that's the best feeling in the world."

There was some doubt because Lindsay is currently recovering from a serious knee injury. During South's season opener on Aug. 31, Lindsay ran for 160 yards and broke the Denver Prep League's career rushing record -- a mark previously held by his father, Troy, who went on to play running back at Colorado State.

Early in the third quarter of that game, however, Lindsay went down with an injury.

"I felt it and I felt some pops," the 5-foot-7, 172-pounder said. "They told me my hamstrings were so tight it kept everything intact. I went ahead thinking I was all right, so I sat out that next game and came back the East game."

On Sept. 14 against Denver East, Lindsay ran for 139 yards in the first quarter, including a 66-yard touchdown run. His left knee, however, was still in pain, and then he went down again.

"That same cut I did that first game of the season came again," he said. "I made that cut and I fell.

"Come to find out, I had no ACL."

He was diagnosed with a left ACL tear the next day and had it surgically repaired a few days later.

"I broke down and cried. It's hard," he said. "You don't know what you're going to do."

Initially, he worried about whether Jon Embree, CU's head coach at the time, would honor his scholarship offer to Lindsay. He did, which took some stress away from Lindsay.

A few months later, on Nov. 25, Embree visited the Lindsay home. Troy asked Embree, who has just completed a disappointing 1-11 season with the Buffs, how long he'd be at CU. Embree told the family he was given every indication he would be there for a while.

That night, Embree found out he was being fired. Lindsay found out from a friend, who saw the report on the news.

All of a sudden, Lindsay's future was up in the air again.

"You have to hope the new coaches coming in are going to still accept you," he said.

Lindsay's fears were removed quickly after Mike MacIntyre was hired on Dec. 10. MacIntyre visited the Lindsay home and assured him he would honor the scholarship offer.

"He wants to be here at Colorado with all his heart, and that means a lot to me," MacIntyre said. "I've never pulled a scholarship on a kid that's had a knee injury."

That meant a lot to Lindsay.

"It means that he cares about you," Lindsay said of MacIntyre. "I can't thank him enough for accepting me. I'm just going to show him what I can do. I'm not going there to sit down. I'm going there to fight for a spot."

Lindsay loved Embree and his staff, but didn't take long to feel the same way about MacIntyre's staff.

"When I went on my official visit, we ate dinner with the coaches every night," said Lindsay, who took his official visit in mid-January. "We got to be with our offensive coordinator, our running backs coaches and I loved them. I can't wait to go up there with them and get ready to go play some football."

Whether or not Lindsay will play this year is unknown. He is running and doing agility drills, he said, and he hopes to be ready to play by the time fall camp opens, but there's always the chance he will redshirt.

MacIntyre is excited to see Lindsay on the field, although he doesn't know where that will be. Lindsay played tailback, but also shined at defensive back. MacIntyre mentioned Wednesday the possibility of him playing slot receiver or returning kicks, too.

"It's up in the air," MacIntyre said. "He's a phenomenal guy with the ball in his hands; that's probably where I see him, but you watch him on defense and he's just a play-maker. He played both all the time, but he's very, very dynamic with the ball in his hands."

If Lindsay winds up playing defensive back, MacIntyre believes Lindsay will be involved in the return game.

Regardless, Lindsay knows there's no need to rush and that he's got five years to make an impact in Boulder.

"All I know is I'm going to go up there ready to play," he said. "If they say otherwise, I'm going to respect it. I'm going to be there for five years. I don't want to be up there first year and get hurt again."

Lindsay has already been through plenty. Now, he's eager to prove to CU that it made the right choice in sticking with him.

Lindsay is the latest member of the family to earn a Division I football scholarship -- in addition to his father, uncle Tony played running back at Utah and cousins Tony and Gabe played quarterback and wide receiver, respectively, at Oklahoma State -- and he can't wait to get started.

"I'm proud of myself for doing what I had to do to become a Buffalo and I'm ready to be in that black and gold right now," he said. "It's an exciting feeling and I'm ready."

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.

CU Buffs signing day: Coach Mike MacIntyre adds 20 new faces

By Kyle Ringo, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

When Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre was hired to replace Jon Embree two months ago one of the first items on his to-do list was evaluating recruits committed to the program and deciding whether to honor those scholarship offers.

In discussing his first recruiting class at an afternoon press conference today, MacIntyre said after watching film of those 10 recruits back in December, he decided that all 10 players who had committed to Embree's staff were Pac-12 caliber athletes and he would honor their offers. He also said it was the right thing to do.

"This is always like Christmas to me," MacIntyre said. "...When we got the job, the next day I called the 10 young men that were committed and the thing I'm really, really proud of is all 10 young men stuck. And they were bombarded."

Every member of Colorado's 2013 football recruiting class signed national letters of intent with the program before 10 a.m., removing any drama from national signing day in Boulder.

MacIntyre will have 23 new scholarship players in the program including two players who joined the program in January and three who were a part of last year's recruiting class but delayed their enrollment until this spring. A total of 18 recruits actually signed national letters of intent with the program today.

Among that group of 18 recruits is Sefo Liufau, the newest quarterback in the program. He is a 6-foot-4, 215-pound product of Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma, Wash. Liufau joins a crowded quarterback meeting room at CU where there are already six signal callers.

A true freshman quarterback has never started the season opener at Colorado, but MacIntyre didn't rule out that possibility in 2013 with Liufau.

"I haven't been on the field with everybody yet," MacIntyre said. "I'm excited about Sefo, but I don't want to put all that pressure on him and when he gets here, we'll see how he's progressing. But I think he has the body type and I think he has the intelligence and he played in a good program there, but we'll just have to wait and see how everything unfolds."

Two members of the class waited until today to make their college choices public.

Defensive back Chidobe Awuzie from Oak Grove High School in San Jose, Calif., chose CU over San Jose State and Washington State. Awuzie is one of 13 three-star prospects to commit to CU. The Buffs don't have a recruit in this class rated with more than three stars by Rivals.com.

Another defensive back, Tedric Thompson from Valencia High School in Valencia, Calif., also chose the Buffs this morning over offers from Minnesota, Washington State, UNLV and Fresno State. Thompson could have joined his brother at Minnesota but decided to take his own path.

CU signed three California wide receivers who will add more speed and playmaking ability to a CU offense that lacked those traits last season after losing Paul Richardson to a knee injury in the spring. But Richardson

and 2012 signee Jeff Thomas to the mix should make the biggest difference. Both have big-time speed and athleticism.

The three new wide receivers are Bryce Bobo from Charter Oak High School in Covina, Calif., Elijah Dunston from Chaminade High School in West Hills, Calif., and Devin Ross from Bishop Alemany High School in Altadena, Calif.

CU landed 12 recruits from California, three from Texas, three from Colorado and one from Washington.

CU signed five offensive linemen and five linebackers in this class. Both were positions of need in terms of adding depth. A year ago, the area of need was defensive line and CU signed nine defensive linemen in 2012. This year the program added just two defensive linemen, Timothy Coleman of Mullen High School in Denver and Jimmie Gilbert from A&M Consolidated High School in College Station, Texas.

Phillip Lindsay, a running back from Denver South who suffered a knee injury during his senior season last fall, could play either running back or defensive back in Boulder. He would be one of two running backs in the class if that is where he ends up. The other running back signed today is Michael Adkins, a 5-10, 190-pound product of Helix High School in San Diego.

Two linebackers who signed with the program in January and enrolled in spring semester classes will be eligible to participate in spring ball, which starts March 7. They are Markeis Reed and Addison Gillam.

Gillam initially signed with MacIntyre at San Jose State last year and decided to grayshirt in 2012. When MacIntyre was hired at CU, Gillam decided to follow him to Boulder instead of remaining with the Spartans.

Rivals.com team rankings are likely to change over the next 48 hours, but this will be the lowest ranked class in years at CU. It's no surprise considering the Buffs are coming off a 1-11 season and haven't had a winning season since 2005.

Rivals.com ranked CU's class 69th in the nation and last in the Pac-12 Conference as of 10 a.m.

Here is the entire 2013 recruiting class.

2013 CU FOOTBALL COMMITMENTS (rankings from Rivals.com)

DB Tedric Thompson, 6-1, 200, Valencia, Calif. (Valencia HS) three stars.

LB Markeis Reed, 6-5, 210, Napa, Calif. (Vintage HS) three stars

Follow Kyle on Twitter @KyleRingo

CU Buffs go heavy on defense in Mike MacIntyre's first recruiting class

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

BOULDER —The only aspect about Colorado's football program that scared first-year coach Mike MacIntyre more than the Buffs' defensive statistics was who was left on campus to play defense.

Specifically, on the depth chart, defensive end and linebacker are gaping holes. On his first national letter-of-intent signing day as CU's coach, MacIntyre announced the signing of 20 players Wednesday.

Five, or one quarter of the class, are linebackers. Two are defensive ends who could — gulp! — be asked to contribute immediately in the Aug. 31 opener against Colorado State.

None is a blue-chipper. Then again, none of the Rams' recruits is, either. In recruiting's 1-5 star rating system, which recruitniks treat more seriously than election projections, none received more than three stars, according to Rivals.com.

"We did a great job of evaluating," said MacIntyre, who used "undervalued" recruits to build San Jose State to an 11-2 record last year. "That's something we work on hard. The last three days, we've been watching junior film hard. Some of the guys we found here might not had as many, quote, stars or offers, but they're going to play.

"There will be a few guys drafted out of San Jose State in a couple years that had no (Division I) offers but ours."

Colorado's defense, the worst in school history after giving up 488.5 yards per game, loses starting linebackers Jon Major and Doug Rippey. MacIntyre loses only one defensive end, but Will Pericak may have been the Buffaloes' best defensive player. After returning starter Chidera Uzo-Diribe, only juniors-to-be Juda Parker and Kirk Poston are listed on the depth chart. Neither had more than 16 tackles.

That's where Mullen's Tim Coleman steps in.

He and Jimmie Gilbert of College Station, Texas, are the two signees who could be household names by September. If not for MacIntyre, the Buffs might have lined up against the 6-foot-3, 245-pound Coleman in the opener against Colorado State. Coleman wanted to be a Buff all along, but then-coach Jon Embree showed no interest, possibly because Coleman played little defense as a junior.

"I went to the camps and everything, but they just never contacted me," Coleman said of the former CU staff. "I tried to reach them probably one or two times, and after the camps all the other coaches contacted me and they didn't, I just said, 'Oh, well.'"

"I was pretty upset. Out-of-state schools were more interested than they were."

Texas Christian, New Mexico, Wyoming were all interested, but when he blew out his knee in Game 2 against De La Salle of Concord, Calif., they nearly dropped out. CSU's Jim McElwain kept recruiting, and Coleman committed to the Rams.

When MacIntyre, new to Colorado, got the job in December, he asked for tapes of the best prep teams in the state. Someone handed him the opener last year between Mullen and Valor Christian.

"We watched about five plays and I said, 'Who is No. 56?' " MacIntyre said. "They said, 'It's Tim Coleman.' I said, 'Well, we need to recruit Tim Coleman.' "

MacIntyre brought him up for a visit, and team doctors predicted a clean bill of health. He's back to lifting weights, including squats. He'll start jogging next week.

Coleman, who made first-team all-West Metro League after playing only a game and a half, didn't need to hear much to switch allegiances.

"He just told me they wanted me and needed me," Coleman said. "He said I'd get a lot of playing time, and that it was a great fit for me."

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Colorado Buffs coach Mike MacIntyre "excited" for 20-man recruiting class

By Tom Kensler *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

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BOULDER — In announcing his first recruiting class Wednesday, new Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre said he hasn't looked at any of the Pac-12 rankings that placed his 20-man group at the bottom of the league.

"A wise man once told me, 'Don't worry about the ones you lost. It's the ones you have that you need to worry about,'" MacIntyre said during CU's news conference on signing day.

Said MacIntyre: "I'm excited about our future. I'm excited about this class. And I'm more excited about Colorado now than when I took the job."

MacIntyre retained 10 high school seniors that had extended oral commitments to previous coach Jon Embree.

"It was the right thing to do, and I looked at the film and those guys are good football players," said MacIntyre, who coached a downtrodden San Jose State team to a 10-2 record and a bowl berth last fall.

There was a need for linebackers, MacIntyre said, and he signed five. The new coach also said he saw a need for defensive ends with pass-rushing skills (two added) and athletic receivers (three).

Otherwise, MacIntyre sought balance and added five offensive linemen, two defensive backs, two running backs and a quarterback, Sefo Liufau (6-foot-4, 215 pounds) of Tacoma, Wash., who had committed to Embree months earlier.

"We will sign a quarterback every year," MacIntyre said. "With Sefo, I'm really, really impressed with this young man. Hopefully, he will be a bell cow for this class and this program."

MacIntyre believes he added athleticism across the board, including at linebacker. Four of the five linebackers also played tailback in high school.

Two defensive backs with offers from teams in power conferences chose Colorado on Wednesday morning: Chidobe Awuzie of San Jose (Calif.) Oak Grove and Tedric Thompson of Valencia (Calif.) High School.

Awuzie (6-0, 190) picked CU over Washington State, MacIntyre said. Thompson (6-1, 200) was offered by Minnesota (where a brother plays) and Washington State.

Colorado's class includes only three Coloradans: defensive lineman Timothy Coleman from Mullen, running back-defensive back Phillip Lindsay of Denver South and offensive lineman John Lisella of Columbine.

CU absolutely needs to sign more in-staters, MacIntyre said. He or his assistants have already visited 52 high schools in Colorado and have made offers to five in-state juniors for 2014, with more to come, he said.

"We've already started recruiting for next year," MacIntyre said. "We're on our way. And we will sign more Colorado kids."

MacIntyre said he is not sure which side of the ball better suits Lindsay, who suffered a season-ending knee injury last fall. "Phillip is dynamic with the ball in his hands," MacIntyre said, "but on defense, he's a playmaker."

At spring drills, Colorado also will welcome three "grayshirts" who orally committed a year ago but delayed their enrollment: offensive lineman Gerrad Kough, defensive end Derek McCartney and wide receiver Jeff Thomas. McCartney, from Faith Christian High School in Arvada, is the grandson of CU legend Bill McCartney.

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National signing day

More college coverage:

- Live updates from CU, CSU and Air Force, including thoughts on the signees from each coach.
- Meet the CU class.
- Meet the CSU class.
- Chidobe Awuzie, Tedric Thompson picks Colorado over others.
- Landing star-studded recruits improves odds for success.

More than 20 locals headed to Division I colleges

It's a good year for local high school football players. The state will send 25 kids to play Division I FBS football, and at least five more will head that route as walk-ons.

Among the big names: Ponderosa lineman Chris Fox (Michigan), Chaparral tight end Mitch Parsons (Vanderbilt), Ralston Valley lineman Dan Skipper (Arkansas), The Classical Academy kicker Daniel Carlson (Auburn) and Denver South running back Phillip Lindsay (CU).

There are 21 more kids headed to play Division I football at the FCS level, and dozens more headed to play in Division II, Division III, NAIA, and junior college route.

More high school coverage:

- Live updates from around the state.
- A complete list of the in-state football recruits, and where they're headed.
- The SEC is harvesting the cream of Colorado's football crop.
- Chaparral's Parsons takes long, bumpy road to Vanderbilt.
- Football recruiting rankings for the class of 2013.