

## Alabama hires former CU Buffs coordinator Greg Brown

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

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BOULDER — Greg Brown, Colorado's defensive coordinator the last two seasons, has been hired as the secondary coach for two-time defending national champion Alabama.

Brown lost his job at CU when head coach Jon Embree was fired.

Brown, 55, replaces Jeremy Pruitt at Alabama. Pruitt left the Crimson Tide to be Florida State's defensive coordinator.

"I'm extremely happy to add a coach the caliber of Greg Brown to our staff," Alabama head coach Nick Saban said in a statement. "Greg has a tremendous amount of college and NFL experience, and his knowledge in the secondary really made him the perfect fit for this position. He will be an outstanding addition to our coaching staff and we look forward to Greg and his family joining our staff at the University of Alabama."

Brown's time with the Buffaloes the past two seasons was his third stint with CU. He served as a defensive assistant from 1991-93 then again from 2006-09. He was also a co- defensive coordinator at Arizona between the CU jobs.

Before that, he spent a total of 12 years with five NFL teams as a defensive assistant.

"It is an honor and an unbelievable opportunity to join the staff at the University of Alabama," Brown said. "I've known and respected Coach Saban for many years and he is the best in the country at what he does. It is the dream of any defensive coach to learn from Coach Saban, especially at a place with Alabama's great tradition and history. I look forward to doing my part to help continue the success with the top college football program in the nation."

Although 1-11 Colorado had its worst defensive year in history this past season, Brown developed a solid reputation as a secondary coach during his 15 years in the NFL. He worked with Saban on the Houston Oilers' staff in 1998.

They met again when Brown was the secondary coach for Dan Hawkins at CU and the Buffs played Alabama in the 2007 Independence Bowl.

Brown, an Arvada native, produced two Thorpe Award winners, Deion Figures and Chris Hudson, and another first-round draft pick in cornerback Jimmy Smith during his three stints with the Buffs.

At Alabama, Brown will take over a secondary that helped the Crimson Tide (13-1) lead the country in total defense (250 yards allowed per game) and scoring defense (10.9 points). The Tide ranked seventh in pass efficiency defense (103.7 rating).

Alabama is losing two starting defensive backs in senior Robert Lester and junior Dee Milliner, who is leaving early for the NFL. Junior cornerback Deion Belue is returning.