

Football: CU Buffs' Mike MacIntyre will adapt to new AD

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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Some college coaches might be concerned about what lies ahead after seeing the athletic director that hired them forced out of his job before they ever coach a game at the school. Not Colorado football coach Mike MacIntyre.

MacIntyre was stunned by the news last week that the school had decided to replace former athletic director Mike Bohn, who hired him in December. While he was disappointed to see Bohn go, he's been through this before. In fact, MacIntyre is a little too accustomed to seeing turnover among his bosses.

In the three years he served as head coach at San Jose State, he worked for two athletic directors and three presidents. He is proud to note that he and his assistants were able to take the program from worst in the Western Athletic Conference to first despite the revolving door above him in those three years.

"What that tells me is if they let you do what you need to do, you can have a chance to be successful," MacIntyre said. "When I went through all that, everybody kind of let us do what we needed to do and everybody was supportive. So I trust that the new person coming in will be very supportive."

MacIntyre and his staff recently wrapped up the spring evaluation period in recruiting and is now knee deep in the first of two 15-day windows in which coaches are allowed to work summer camps. CU coaches will remain extremely busy throughout June before finally getting some down time for about three weeks in early July.

It's unlikely that CU will hire an athletic director before August, which means MacIntyre will be trying to get to know his new boss during the busiest time of year for a football coach. MacIntyre said he has no concerns about working for some one who didn't play a role in hiring him, but he also believes the relationship between a head coach and an athletic director is extremely important.

"It doesn't affect me and my ability to do my job at this very point," MacIntyre said. "I just don't have the relationship. So the new guy or the new woman that comes in, I'll need to build a relationship with and everything takes time to build relationships."

Chancellor Phil DiStefano informed Bohn he was making a change in the leadership of the athletic department during a meeting in DiStefano's office on May 23. In explaining his decision to the media, DiStefano said he wants to improve fundraising in the department and the overall management of the department and aims to have it function more like a business.

MacIntyre said he understands he plays a key role in fundraising at CU and he is willing to do whatever is required of him to help bring more money into the department.

CU announced a fundraising push in February to secure at least \$50 million in private donations for \$170m million in planned improvements. The other \$120 million would likely be financed by borrowing against future television revenue unless the school can raise more than \$50 million in private giving.

The CU athletic department has never raised even \$15 million in private donations in any single year.

MacIntyre said improving the football product year after year will help in fundraising and he is always willing to meet with donors who are considering helping the cause.

"I enjoy meeting people," he said. "I feel I get along with people pretty well. So I never look at that as a nuisance. Some coaches look at that as a nuisance. I don't. It's part of my job. So I'll do that every chance they want me to. I like to build relationships and let people find out about the true heartbeat of our program."

Notable

MacIntyre said one scholarship player was ruled academically ineligible following the spring semester and will not be a part of the program going forward. He said he could not reveal the player's name until the process has been completed. He said the player was not a regular contributor last season. MacIntyre said all other players who were on the roster at the end of spring ball are expected to be back with the program this summer and fall. ... MacIntyre said players voted on team captains when they returned for summer school this week. He said a handful of players received votes so he is deciding between naming the top three or four players captains or possibly having captains named on a game-by-game basis to allow more guys to serve in the role.

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo.

Football: New contact rules won't affect CU Buffs' practices

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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Colorado football coach Mike MacIntyre said it's unlikely the Pac-12 Conference's new limits on contact in football practices will have much of an impact at Colorado in the fall.

MacIntyre said he believes the conference will institute a limit of two days per week of fully padded practices during the season. He said the Buffs will only have one, keeping in line with the schedule his teams followed at San Jose State the past three seasons. MacIntyre said the Buffs will generally practice in shoulder pads, helmets and shorts two or three times during the week and full pads just once.

"I think it's very proactive what they're doing, but we won't just go out and beat our guys up," MacIntyre said. "...There is a lot of things I can do in practice without running them into each other all the time."

Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott said this week the conference is developing a new policy on contact limits for football and the policy will be unveiled at football media day in the Los Angeles area July 26. Scott said the policy is being modeled after policies already in place at schools across the conference. The move will standardize things for all Pac-12 programs.

MacIntyre said conference coaches discussed the issue at their recent spring meetings. He said his primary concern is that the conference not make drastic changes to hitting limits in spring football.

"You got to teach young people how to tackle," MacIntyre said. "You got to teach young people how to block, how to carry the ball correctly, the rules of the game. You can't attack the head. So when do you do that if you don't do it in spring practice? You got to at least teach the game. I'm fine with what they were talking about doing in the fall. That doesn't effect us anyway."

MacIntyre said spring football is spread over a long enough period with just 15 practices allowed over 35 days that there is ample time for players to recover. He said the NCAA already limits full contact to only seven of those practices and he uses half of them before spring break and the rest after, giving additional time for players to recover from big hits or tough days.

"We go full speed without running into each other in shorts and having correct ankles and doing all that," MacIntyre said. "You can do that if your kids learn how to practice correctly and that's one of the reasons we try to practice the way we do."