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[Back to previous page](#)

## Hall of Fame coach Bill McCartney once had time to resurrect Buffs; Mike MacIntyre may not

By Associated Press, Published: May 7

WESTMINSTER, Colo. — Back in his day, Bill McCartney languished through three lean seasons to begin his career at Colorado.

The program showed patience with the former coach and he eventually led the Buffaloes to their only national title in 1990. And now, McCartney is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, an honor he claimed Tuesday.

But that was another age, when coaches had time to turn around a downtrodden program.

The newest Coach Mac in town, Mike MacIntyre, may not be given three years to resurrect the Buffs, who struggled through a 1-11 season last year that led to the firing of Jon Embree after only two years on the job.

This is an era governed by a win-now-or-else edict. That's a frustrating way of life for McCartney, who's convinced that Embree, a former player and assistant coach for him, could've gotten the Buffs on the right track had he been given more time and more support.

"It was premature," McCartney said at a luncheon to celebrate his induction. "I'm not bitter. I'm a Buff. But if you sign a guy to a five-year contract and you have integrity and he stays within the rules, you give him his five years. That's what I believe."

Had the Buffs not done the same for McCartney, they may not have earned a share of their only national title. McCartney was floundering in his third season in charge, only to have then athletic director Bill Marolt extend his deal. It was simply a show of faith.

Soon after, McCartney's teams flourished on the field. He wound up finishing 93-55-5 in 13 seasons at Colorado.

"They took a chance and I've always been grateful for that," McCartney said.

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He thinks Embree deserved the same type of commitment.

“I’m always going to be in Embree’s corner,” McCartney said. “But I’m also a Buff. I’m passed that now. The new Coach Mac — I’m 100 percent behind him.”

The new version recently got together with the old Coach Mac for lunch, just to discuss all things associated with Colorado football. MacIntyre took pages and pages of notes from McCartney, afraid he would miss something profound if he put down his pen.

“He’s very interested in what we’re doing,” said MacIntyre, who was hired away from San Jose State five months ago. “He’s amazing.”

MacIntyre realizes the pressure on him to turn around a slumping program that’s coming off its worst mark in the program’s 123-year history. But he doesn’t feel he has to show immediate results, only steady improvement. That’s what he did at San Jose State.

After going 1-12 in MacIntyre’s first season in 2010, the Spartans had one of the best seasons in program history last year, finishing 11-2 for their first 11-win season since 1940.

“If you’re doing things the right way and putting the foundation and building blocks in place, people can see that,” MacIntyre said. “You have to get academics in line. You’ve got to get them to change the culture, the work ethic, the attitude. It gradually starts happening on the practice field and daily in the weight room. You see their energy and their resilience.

“Once you start seeing that daily, you know it’s going to happen on the field.”

This spring, the Buffaloes went through seven days of practice with almost a “clock in, clock out” mentality. On the eighth day, though, the attitude changed. One of his quarterbacks threw a long TD pass and there was something he hadn’t really seen — exultation.

“Watershed moment,” MacIntyre said. “They’re starting to catch it — starting to catch the enjoyment of playing and the passion of caring about each other. To me, that was a big mark for us. That sounds like a small thing. To me, it’s a big thing.”

So is this: He may have quarterback Jordan Webb back in time for Pac-12 play this season. Webb suffered what was thought to be a season-ending ACL tear in his right knee on a noncontact drill last month.

Only now, it appears that he might be ready to step on the field by Sept. 28 at Oregon State. Webb was the Buffs’ starter last season and threw eight TDS and eight interceptions.

“He’s making good progress,” MacIntyre said. “We hope to have him back. My goal, have him back before the Pac-12 season. He says even before that.”

On Tuesday, the Buffs had a chance to stroll down memory lane, reminiscing about the glory days of the program in honor of McCartney. Former CU great Alfred Williams showed up for the occasion. So, too, did Charles Johnson.

This induction completely caught McCartney by surprise. It was welcomed news in what has been a difficult past

few months for him.

On March 21, McCartney's wife of more than 50 years died of emphysema.

"In light of the fact I just lost my wife — I've been very sad — it has really helped me through a tough time in my life," McCartney said.

His coaching tree is pretty extensive, with 12 assistants eventually moving up to head positions in the college ranks. The list includes names such as Gary Barnett, Jim Caldwell, Gerry DiNardo, Les Miles, Rick Neuheisel and, of course, Embree.

"I love Boulder. I love CU. I want that place to get acknowledged and recognized," McCartney said. "This gives me a chance to talk about Boulder, gives me a chance to tell anyone who will listen that I had a great opportunity to be in a special place."

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## Some want more time with players after spring practices

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

College football coaches are responsible for more than 100 players every summer with whom they can only have limited contact under NCAA rules. They're also prohibited from doing any coaching from the time spring football ends until early August when fall camp begins.

Some coaches would like to see the NCAA adopt a different approach including more flexibility with practice time in the summer while others favor keeping the rules the same.

"One of the biggest ironies that exists in the calendar and how we conduct business college football-wise is when players are most likely to have problems or to get in trouble are in the summer and that's exactly when coaches aren't allowed to have meetings with them," Washington State coach Mike Leach said Tuesday during the Pac-12 Conference football coaches' teleconference.

College basketball coaches used to be in a similar position with a far smaller roster of players but the NCAA has given basketball coaches nearly year-round access to players from a coaching perspective, allowing them to work with student-athletes on the court two hours a week in the summer months. Basketball coaches also recently learned the start of practices in the fall has been moved up by two weeks to the beginning of October or even late September depending on when the first game is scheduled next season.

Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre saves one of his spring practices every year for after the spring game. He uses a majority of that final practice to instruct players on how to run player-organized practices in the summer months when coaches are prohibited from being on the field with them.

That last practice for MacIntyre and the Buffs occurred on April 16. The Buffs won't return to the practice field with coaches until Aug. 6. That near fourth-month break -- a third of the calendar year -- is too much for some coaches.

CU basketball coach Tad Boyle says the additional access to players in the summer months is invaluable to him and his staff. He said he doesn't envy being in MacIntyre's shoes, but he knows what it's like.

Former CU, Washington and UCLA football coach Rick Neuheisel said in an interview earlier this spring that he would like to see a new schedule adopted in which coaches could forgo the standard spring football period in which 15 practices are allowed over five weeks in favor of holding several mini camps between the end of the season and the end of the school year.

Neuheisel says minicamps would lessen the physical toll spring football takes on players and it would also likely help them academically.

Neuheisel also likes the idea of having a mini camp in the summer. He said that one could be limited to incoming freshmen and other newcomers.

"Spring football has gotten so physical and so demanding over the course last couple year and there are so many guys getting hurt, I think coaches would trade in spring football for the chance to have a bunch of minicamps between the end of the season and the end of the school year," Neuheisel said. "And maybe even

one in the summer.

"I think that would be safer and I think it would be better because you get more continual coaching ability. It's happening anyway in the name of strength and conditioning. People are hiring football coaches to be strength and conditioning coaches and they end up going out there and running through drills in the name of agility and it's really nothing more than football practice."

Stanford coach David Shaw and UCLA coach Jim Mora said Monday during the Pac-12 call that they have no problem with the current system and level of access to players in the late spring and summer months.

"To be honest, I think they need some time away from us, and I think we need some time away from them," Shaw said. "I firmly believe that.

"...I think as coaches we have more impact when we have a break from them. ...I don't know that we need to touch base with them every couple of months because I do believe that you wear these kids out mentally."

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo.

## Quarterback tore ligament in his knee during spring practice

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Colorado quarterback Jordan Webb was originally thought to be lost for the 2013 season last month when he suffered a torn knee ligament in spring drills, but coach Mike MacIntyre said Monday he is hopeful Webb can return by October.

MacIntyre took questions from reporters during the Pac-12 Conference football coaches' teleconference and also gave an interview to Yahoo! Sports Radio later in the day.

"They're working on him hard to get back as quick as he can get back and we're shooting for him to hopefully be back some time in September and see how that goes for him," MacIntyre said during the radio interview. "But it's definitely a step back. He's not going to be able to get a sixth year the way everything worked out. So he's got to push and try to get back and be able to help some this year."

Webb suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in a non-contact drill on April 9. It was the first day he had participate in practice in several weeks. He sat out part of spring after aggravating an injury to his throwing hand that required two surgeries after last season.

If Webb is able to return by October, an optimistic timetable by any standard, he would be approximately six months removed from the injury and a little more than five months removed from surgery to repair the tear.

Webb is the most experienced quarterback on the roster. It's unclear exactly how MacIntyre and his staff viewed Webb at the time of his injury because he was able to participate in a limited amount of spring drills.

Still, he has started nearly 30 games at the college level and that experience would be nice for the Buffs to lean on considering there is only one other quarterback on the roster who has made even one start.

"We'll have to go into the beginning of the year thinking Jordan isn't really going to be there until a few games into the season," MacIntyre said.

Junior Connor Wood is the only other quarterback with a start. He played in seven games last season, starting one, but very little of that playing time went well. Wood seemed to be more confident and comfortable this spring and he was tied at the top of the depth chart with fellow junior Nick Hirschman when spring ball ended.

However, Hirschman was dissatisfied with not being named the starter at the end of spring ball and decided to transfer after he graduates this month. Hirschman's move leaves Wood as the favorite to win the starting job in August. His toughest competition is expected to come for redshirt freshman Shane Dillon, who was third on the depth chart in spring, and true freshman Sefo Liufau.

"He's big, athletic, can throw and run," MacIntyre said of Liufau. "Hopefully he can fit in and feel comfortable about our concepts quickly."

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo.

## CU Buffs QB Jordan Webb may be ready to play by Pac-12 season

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Colorado senior quarterback Jordan Webb, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament in spring practice, might be able to return and play this fall, according to Buffs coach Mike MacIntyre.

Webb started most of CU's games a season ago. MacIntyre said Webb could possibly return by the start of Pac-12 play next fall.

Also, MacIntyre told Yahoo Sports Radio on Monday that the NCAA was not going to grant Webb a sixth year of eligibility.

"We're hoping he's back sometime in September and see how that goes for him," MacIntyre told the Houston-based station. "He's not going to be able to get a sixth year, the way everything's worked out, so he's got to push and try to get going and help sometime this year."

It was originally believed Webb would be lost for the year. But MacIntyre said on a teleconference Monday, "We hope to have Jordan back two or three games into the season."

Colorado opens conference play Sept. 28 at Oregon State.

Miguel Rueda, Colorado's head trainer, confirmed Mac Intyre's optimism. Rueda said Webb is walking with a brace but is close to having a full range of motion.

"He had a great outcome with his surgery with Dr. (Eric) McCarty," Rueda said. "A lot can happen between now and the first month of the season. We're not ruling anything out. We're comfortable with the progress he's made."

Webb underwent surgery April 18 and is doing well in his recovery.

"With Paul Richardson, we were amazed on a weekly basis on how good he was doing," Rueda said of the wide receiver who also is coming back from a knee injury. "We have stages we assess, and he was blowing through those stages."

"Jordan is kind of along that path, too. I'm not saying he's going to be ready come Aug. 1 or Sept. 1. But I'm saying he looks really good."

With Webb out and junior Nick Hirschman deciding to transfer, junior Connor Wood emerged as the No. 1 quarterback coming out of spring ball. However, MacIntyre said true freshman Sefo Liufau will get a chance to start when he arrives for fall camp from Tacoma, Wash.

"He's big. He's athletic. He can run. He can throw it. He's smart," MacIntyre said of Liufau on the conference call. "I'm excited to see what he can do."

- The Field House - <http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges> -

## Mike MacIntyre says "We're shooting for" QB Jordan Webb to return in September; NCAA won't grant him a sixth year

Posted By [John Henderson](#) On May 6, 2013 @ 1:33 pm In [College Sports, Football, Pac-12, University of Colorado](#) | [No Comments](#)

Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre said senior quarterback Jordan Webb, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament in spring practice after starting most of last season, could return by the start of Pac-12 play next fall.

It was originally believed Webb would be lost for the year. Also, MacIntyre told Yahoo!Sports Radio that the NCAA was not going to grant Webb a sixth year.

"We're hoping he's back sometime in September and see how that goes for him," MacIntyre told the Houston-based station. "He's not going to be able to get a sixth year the way everything's worked out so he's got to push and try to get and help sometime this year."

MacIntyre said on Monday's Pac-12 coaches call covering spring practice. "We hope to have Jordan back two or three games into the season" which would get him back for Central Arkansas Sept. 7 or Fresno State Sept. 14.

Colorado opens conference play Sept. 28 at Oregon State.

Miguel Rueda, Colorado's head trainer, confirmed MacIntyre's optimism. Rueda said Webb is walking in a brace but is close to having a full range of motion.

"He had a great outcome with his surgery with Dr. (Eric) McCarty," Rueda said. "A lot can happen between now and the first month of the season. We're not ruling anything out. We're comfortable with the progress he's made."

Rueda said many athletes respond to surgery different than others. Webb had his surgery April 18.

"With (receiver) Paul Richardson we were amazed on a weekly basis on how good he was doing," Rueda said. "We have stages we assess and he was blowing through those stages."

"Jordan is kind of along that path, too. I'm not saying he's going to be ready come Aug. 1 or Sept. 1. But I'm saying he looks really good."

With Webb out and junior Nick Hirschman deciding to transfer, junior Connor Wood emerged as the No. 1 quarterback. However, MacIntyre said true freshman Sefo Liufau will get a chance to start when he arrives for fall camp from Tacoma, Wash.

"He's big. He's athletic. He can run. He can throw it. He's smart," MacIntyre said. "I'm excited to see what he can do. Hopefully, he'll fit into everything and feel comfortable about our concepts."

One thing MacIntyre does know is the importance of an emerging quarterback to a team coming off a 1-11 season.

"The quarterbacks here are going to have to step it up to get us in the right direction," he said.

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**ESPN.com:** Pac-12[\[Print without images\]](#)

Monday, May 6, 2013

## Most important player: Colorado Buffaloes

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By Kevin Gemmell

All players are equal, but some players are more equal than others. That's the basis of our Most Important Player series.

First off, quarterbacks are excluded to make things more interesting. It goes without saying, for example, that Oregon's [Marcus Mariota](#) is the Ducks' most important player.

And most important doesn't necessarily have to be "best." An All-American's backup can be pretty darn good, too.

Our most important guys are players who could swing a win total one way or the other, based on their living up to expectations. Or their absence.

**Colorado:** WR [Paul Richardson](#)

**2012 production:** Did not play



**Why Richardson is so important:** He's a difference-maker on a team that doesn't have a lot of them. There's a reason that Colorado ranked last in the Pac-12 in total offense and scoring offense -- they didn't have anyone who could stretch the field and defenses would simply load up the box.

As a result, the Buffs managed just 110.2 rushing yards per game (11th in the league behind Washington State) and were forced to throw more than they wanted to -- and because they were usually down by large amounts. They weren't great at throwing, either, ranking last in pass efficiency with 11 touchdowns and 19 interceptions while completing just 55 percent of their throws.

Richardson can make a difference. After missing all of 2012 with a knee injury -- a period he called "[excruciating](#)" for having to watch his team stumble to a 1-11 record that led to the firing of Jon Embree -- he's surgically repaired and feeling "incredible."

As the Buffs install a pistol offense under new coach Mike MacIntyre, a process that was noticeably slow this spring because the personnel depth isn't in place yet and a quarterback has yet to be named, they will need at least one guy to spark the offense. Sure, it could be running back [Christian Powell](#), who surged last season with two 100-yard performances and four touchdowns in his final four games.

The 6-foot, 240-pound thumper has promise and many are excited to see what he'll do in the new offense. But Richardson -- perhaps a bit rusty from his year off -- is still the most explosive player on the team. In two years with the Buffs, he has five touchdowns of 50 yards or more. He's the kind of player who can take a 5-yard slant

and turn it into a 75-yard touchdown. That big-play, game-changing, momentum-swinging element just wasn't there. With Richardson back, it is.

He provides the kind of dynamic athleticism the Buffs were lacking last season. Youth and inexperience at the wide receiver position, combined with a revolving door at quarterback made for some tough offensive goings in Boulder last year. Richardson brings a level of experience and, perhaps, a calming presence. Players will instantly look to him for leadership.

Chances are Colorado won't make any remarkable turnarounds in 2013. Many expect them to be better, but better might only equal three or four wins. Still, with a player like Richardson, they get back an offensive element that was missing in 2012.

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**ESPN.com:** Pac-12[\[Print without images\]](#)

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

## MacIntyre no stranger to rebuilding projects

By Kevin Gemmell

Colorado head coach Mike MacIntyre skillfully sidestepped the question like a quarterback feeling the pressure from the backside -- which seems ironic -- since the team he inherits gave up 50 sacks last season.

Asked to compare the rebuilding project at Colorado to the one he undertook at San Jose State -- where he took a dreadful Spartans' program and turned it into an 11-win team in 2012 -- MacIntyre gave a pretty stock answer.

"I think they're both big challenges," he said. "Every school has a little bit different intricacies and a little different history. A little bit different pressure, so to speak. And I think that San Jose State was a wonderful place and we were able to do really well there and they'll keep doing well. Colorado is a phenomenal place that has had great history and it's our job to get it back to that. I think they are similar in ways, but there are different intricacies at both schools."

In other words, San Jose State was bad when I got there. Now it's not. Colorado is bad now. Hopefully in three years it won't be.

MacIntyre's Spartans won just one game in 2010 -- his first year as a head coach. But they improved to 5-7 in 2011 to 10-2 in 2012 under his guidance (note, MacIntyre didn't coach their bowl game, which they won, giving them 11 wins).

The statistical improvements were almost as dramatic as the overall record. Before he got there, the Spartans ranked 115th nationally in total offense, 118th in scoring offense, 109th in total defense, 109th in scoring defense, 80th in sacks and 103rd in tackles for a loss. By the time he left last year, San Jose State was a top 30 program in all those categories, including sixth nationally in sacks.

That's empirical evidence of a system that works on both sides of the ball. Remember back in the season opener of 2012? Everyone wanted to know what the heck was wrong with Stanford. After all, they only beat lowly San Jose State 20-17. Meanwhile the Stanford coaches were screaming at anyone who would listen that San Jose State was a good team. Turns out they were right.

SJSU's '09 numbers should sound familiar to Colorado fans, because they are strikingly similar. Last year Colorado was 116th in total offense, 117th in scoring offense, 117th in total defense, 120th in scoring defense, 87th in sacks and 60th in tackles for a loss.



**"I saw that as spring went along how our attitude changed from just grudgingly doing practice and meetings to enjoying practice and meetings," new Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre said.**

Colorado fans are, naturally, cautiously optimistic. MacIntyre's first go-around as a head coach was outstanding. But with that optimism comes a need for patience -- something that wasn't granted to MacIntyre's predecessor, Jon Embree.

MacIntyre's first spring at Colorado was less about Xs and Os and more about finding out what's left in the cupboard. And he noted that from a personnel standpoint, things didn't look particularly crisp early in the process of transitioning to the pistol.

"The first part of it looked ugly, the first few practices and the first scrimmage and all of the different concepts that we're doing on offense and defense," he said. "We didn't put everything in, of course. You have to take it in stages. But I feel like at the end of the spring that we had understood the concepts that we wanted to get in and the kids felt comfortable with them on both sides of the ball and we started to see improvement.

"Then you're able to start coaching all the little fundamentals and intricacies that make the whole thing work. That's what we're in the process of doing. Hopefully they won't forget it all this summer and be able to do it when we crank it up back in August."

Like every team, the Buffs have on-going position battles and more than a little tweaking is needed to improve on last year's 1-11 season. But the new coach hinted at maybe the most important progress of all -- that his players are starting to enjoy football again. Something they probably weren't doing while being outscored, on average, 46-18 in 2012.

"I saw that as spring went along how our attitude changed from just grudgingly doing practice and meetings to enjoying practice and meetings and having fun with it," MacIntyre said. "I think if you don't have a passion for what you're doing, you don't have a chance to be successful. I think we built that building block this spring to have a little bit of a passion about what our kids are doing.

"I think we definitely have some players that can make plays. They've been improving daily. I feel good about the team. It's all relative until you get out there in a Pac-12 football game and see exactly where you stack up. But I feel that we do have some talent and that we need to utilize it correctly and make the most of it."

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