



# COLORADO BUFFALOES

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**Bill McCartney will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame December 10 in New York.**

Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



## Bill McCartney To Enter College Football Hall of Fame

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Bill McCartney

**BOULDER — Bill McCartney** first set foot on the University of Colorado campus in Boulder in June 1982; little did he know at the time that just over a dozen years later he would retire as the winningest coach in CU football history.

And now the turnaround “Mac” orchestrated in Boulder with a program that won just 14 games over a six-year span to one that claimed three Big 8 Conference titles and the 1990 consensus national championship is being rewarded on college football’s biggest stage.

McCartney has been selected by the National Football Foundation for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame this December 10 in New York City. He will join 12 players and two coaches in the Class of 2013.

### BUFFALO EXTRAS

- [McCartney Plati-'Tudes 2007 Interview](#)
- [CU Athletic Hall of Fame Profile](#)
- [2013 College Football Hall of Fame Class](#)

He will become the seventh Buffalo enshrined in the Hall, joining **Byron White** (inducted in 1952), **Joe Romig** (1984), **Dick Anderson** (1993), **Bobby Anderson** (2006), **Alfred Williams** (2010) and **John Wooten** (2012). He is the school's first coach to be so-honored.

"It's a surprise and it is very humbling when you look at the men that have been recognized with this honor over the years," McCartney said. "It's very gratifying and rewarding. Keep in mind I've been out of coaching almost 20 years, so to be remembered after such a long absence was a complete surprise to me."

McCartney was 93-55-5 in 13 seasons at the reins of the Buffaloes, guiding the program to its first and only national championship in football in 1990, doing so by playing the nation's toughest schedule, just the second time that feat was ever accomplished. He coached CU in more bowl games, nine, than anyone before or after him, as well as to three consecutive Big 8 titles in 1989-90-91 during a run of 10 consecutive winning seasons in league competition. After a 4-16-1 start in conference games, the Buffs finished 58-29-4 against Big 8 competition, going an impressive 54-13-3 over his last 10 seasons.

In the six-year span from 1989-94, Mac's last six seasons, Colorado was 58-11-4, the fifth-best record in the nation behind Miami, Fla. (63-9), Florida State (64-9-1), Nebraska (61-11-1) and Alabama (62-12-1). CU's 36-3-3 record in the conference games in the same period was the nation's best. CU finished in the nation's top 20 each of those six years, including a No. 3 ranking his final season.

All 93 wins came against Division I-A/FBS competition, with just nine against so-called non-BCS schools (though five of those versus in-state rival Colorado State). He coached the most games ever (153) at Colorado, with his 13 seasons are second to only the legendary Fred Folsom (15) in the number of seasons working on the "hilltop."

"This is one of our strongest classes of Hall of Famers," said **Steve Hatchell**, the president and CEO of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame. "Mac had tremendous support and received a strong vote from the Honors Court. We're very proud to have someone like Bill McCartney make it into the Hall, and he will be part of the first class to be enshrined in the new Hall of Fame in Atlanta in the summer of 2014."

"Bill McCartney is the seventh Colorado affiliate to be recognized by the College Football Hall of Fame," said **Philip P. DiStefano**, chancellor of the Boulder campus. "This honor is both a testimony to the legacy of our program and to the hard work and vision that culminated in the 1990 national championship. We wish him all the best in receiving this award."

"Coach McCartney possesses a relentless passion for his profession and the Colorado Buffaloes," CU athletic director **Mike Bohn** said. "We join his coaching staff, players, loyal fans and alumni in congratulating him on this national recognition."



Bill McCartney is Colorado's seventh member of the College Football Hall of Fame

Mac was quick to credit two specific groups for his election to the Hall.

"It all started with my first recruiting class, that winter of '83," he recalled. "I asked all the in-state players not to make a decision until they visited CU, and we wanted them to come in the last weekend before signing day. They gave their word and most of them held to it. They stuck together, and they helped recruit our great class in '87 that made up the core of the national championship team."

"That's how I am in the Hall of Fame," he said boldly. "This means something to the state of Colorado, it's part of our history. What led us to the national championship is that seven years earlier, the in-state kids stayed home."



He also had great assistant coaches through the years, coaches he only hired because they could recruit; he would pass on coaches they were great with X's and O's if they couldn't recruit.



And those who worked under him formed a pool that eventually would produce 12 future collegiate head coaches: **Gary Barnett, Jim Caldwell, Ron Dickerson, Gerry DiNardo, Karl Dorrell, Jon Embree, Les Miles, Rick Neuheisel, Bob Simmons, Lou Tepper, Ron Vanderlinden and John Wristen.**

McCartney, 72, had coaching in his blood almost from the get-go.

"When I was 7 years old, I knew I was going to be a coach," he said. "My friends, other kids at that age were going to president, businessmen, attorneys, firemen. Ever since I was a little kid, I imitated my coaches, critiqued them, always followed and studied them. I was a student of the great coaches. I was a disciple of Bobby Knight's when I was (high school) basketball coach."

McCartney attended the University of Missouri on a football scholarship and lettered three times as a center-linebacker for the Tigers. He played in two Orange Bowl games and was named second-team All-Big 8 as a senior.

Bill McCartney with assistant and future head coach Gary Barnett.

He graduated from Missouri in 1962 with a degree in education and immediately turned his attention to coaching. His first job was as an

assistant at Joplin (Mo.) High in 1963 and 1964. He then returned to Michigan to coach the basketball team at Holy Redeemer High School in Detroit. He coached there from 1964 to 1968.

The next stop for Mac was at Divine Child High in Dearborn, where he was the head basketball coach from 1969 to 1973 and the head football coach from 1971 to 1973. His '69 hoops team won the Detroit Catholic League title, and his '73 team won the state class B crown. His three Divine Child football teams compiled a 30-5 record, winning the DCL title all three years and the state championship in '71 and '73.

His feats of winning state title in football and basketball in 1973 made him the first coach ever in Michigan high school history to win both the same season, and it would be his entry into the college ranks.

"After we won the state championship in both sports, (the University of Michigan's) Bo Schembechler and Johnny Orr both offered me an assistant's job within one week of each other," McCartney said. "I played college football but wasn't good enough to play college basketball, so that settled that," he jested. "My first love really was football, and being a Michigan native (born and raised in Riverview), to become a part of Schembechler's staff was the opportunity of a lifetime."

He joined the Michigan coaching staff as a defensive aide in 1974, coaching outside linebackers for the next three seasons. In 1977, he took over the chores as Michigan's defensive coordinator, a position he held until he departed for CU. One publication had Mac rated as one of the top five defensive coordinators in the nation in 1981, and he was considered one of the finest recruiters in the country.

McCartney gained national recognition at Michigan in 1980 when he devised a scheme to stop Purdue quarterback Mark Herrmann (using six defensive backs to neutralize Herrmann and his receivers). He was named the Big Ten's "player" of the week for his plan.

He points to Schembechler as the coach he owes the most for his successful coaching career.

"Bo won more games in a 20-year stretch than any other coach in history," he said. "Fame comes in a moment, but greatness comes with longevity. I had the privilege of serving under him for eight and half years, and that's what prepared me for the Colorado job."

That call came the first week of June in 1982. The late **Chuck Fairbanks** abruptly resigned on June 1 to become president and head coach of the New Jersey Generals in the fledgling United States Football League. (The late) athletic director **Eddie Crowder** was faced with hiring a new coaching staff with the season opener just 102 days away.

Mac had started entertaining thoughts about becoming a head coach.

"I went in to talk to Bo, and I told him that if the right opportunity came along, I'd be interested. He said, 'Okay, when the right job comes along, come see me.' The Michigan State job opened shortly after that, and I went in to see him and he said, 'You do not want to go there and I am not considering helping you get there. Get that out of your mind.' And I did. So that was the first one that came along I was interested in and I didn't pursue it."



Bill McCartney was a successful assistant at Michigan before coming to Colorado in 1982.

"When the Colorado job opened, it was the perfect time for me," McCartney recalled. "Because of the timing, there was really no head coach in America who could have applied for the job, because if you didn't get it, you would have been run out of town because you were willing to abandon your team. Chuck Shelton interviewed from Drake, which had just beat CU twice, but I didn't have to fight several head coaches who would have been interested had the job opened at a more opportune time. When I saw that Chuck resigned, I was immediately interested, I went in and saw Bo. At the appropriate time, Bo called Eddie Crowder. He was instrumental in my getting strong consideration."

"It was my good fortune, the timing was such that I was in position to be a candidate because of the success Michigan had had and the fact that I worked for Bo."

"Colorado was one of the premier jobs in the country," he continued. "It was in a prestigious conference, the location, the history, and there was something about raising your family in a college town. All the opportunities you can ask for in a dynamic collegiate environment. Boulder is just the right size, not too big, not too small and has access to a major city in Denver. The populace and all that goes with that, the professional teams, the arts, a major airport providing access to wherever you'd want to go. The aesthetic

beauty of Boulder, Colorado is that it has no parallel, and offers what I call the 'maximum experience.'

"You look at its extraordinary beauty, when every day you wake and say, 'All right, let's get up and get it on.' When you look at the academic experience, there's none better. But when you look around at everything, raising your family, tell me there's a safer place than Boulder. We have more winter sunshine than Phoenix, Miami or L.A. You look at the whole experience and not just focus on football and say, 'What do you want out of life?' When you add all those things up, Boulder and CU can't be matched. I've been looking around all these years, and nobody else can match what Colorado can offer—the premier college experience in America. And I say that not trying to recruit anybody—I'm done."

On a roll, he continued on: "When I was recruiting, I would say there are other schools that have won more games, others that have better academics, others that might have a better campus. But not all three in a package like the University of Colorado. I personally believed I had the greatest product to sell, and I truly believed what I was saying. I never had a kid say to me even once, 'Coach, you oversold me on Boulder.'"

It wasn't a slam dunk that Crowder was going to hire him, though. In fact, he was the longshot. He wasn't even contacted until six days into the search. He told the story best to CUBuffs.com back in 2007:

*"What happened was that Eddie Crowder called me on a Sunday night (June 6) and asked if would I be interested; I said absolutely. He said 'When can you be here?' And I said the next morning. So I took the first flight out of Detroit and got to Colorado pretty early in the day, but I got here so fast that they weren't ready to interview me. It took him until Tuesday morning to put together an interview panel. That gave me a day here where nothing was happening and I was able to get acquainted. I had been here before as an assistant with Michigan and as a player with Missouri, so I had a little familiarity with the place. Eddie assigned me to (the late associate AD) **Fred Casotti**; when the interview took place Tuesday morning, there were about 15 people representing all kind of factions on campus and the alumni. About 15 minutes before I was going to go before them for the interview, I said to Fred, 'What do you think my chances are?' He said, 'Coach, it's third and long. You'd better make a big play.'*

*"That was the best thing he could have told me, otherwise I might have tip-toed into the interview. But after Fred told me that, I threw caution to the wind, decided to get aggressive and put my best foot forward. The format was for them to ask me questions, or that's what they had in mind. But I stood up, and I said before I take any questions, I want to make a statement. I spoke for about 20 minutes and told them who I was, my background, what I had done at the University of Michigan, my philosophies and values, and what I would bring to the University of Colorado if I was to get the job. I was the only one talking, and after I was done speaking, nobody asked me a question.*

*"I went from there to meet the president, **Arnold Weber**, and he had already gotten a phone call following the first interview. He was energized and anxious to see me, and was warm and welcoming. Later that night, they took me to meet the Board of Regents, as by chance they were having their monthly meeting in Denver. I was waiting with Casotti in the car, waiting for a break in their meeting to be introduced, and I asked Fred again, 'What do you think my chances are?' And Fred said, 'Coach, fourth and short. You just need to make a first down.' So I just needed to move the chains. That Tuesday night, Eddie offered me the job. Really it all happened so fast, we didn't have a lot of time because of the unusual circumstances."*

McCartney was hired as the 20th head coach in CU history on June 9, 1982, taking over a team which had just suffered through three of its worst seasons in an otherwise tradition-rich football program.

Upon his arrival in Boulder, he had but 94 days to hire a staff and prepare for his first season. When the season opener against California rolled around some three months later, he had only 77 players on scholarship, and only 73 in uniform to line up and play.

His first three teams posted records of 2-8-1, 4-7 and 1-10. The offense came alive his second season, primarily the passing game, helping CU to improve its record. His third team was better than the record showed (four of the ten losses by seven points or less), but was also injury plagued. Though those three teams passed for over 6,700 yards, the rushing game was almost nonexistent and the defense



Bill McCartney led Colorado to nine bowl games including back to back Orange Bowls following the 1989 and '90 seasons.





Bill McCartney, greeting Oklahoma's Barry Switzer, led Colorado to a 58-29-4 record against Big 8 competition, including an impressive 54-13-3 over his last 10 seasons.

nowhere near McCartney's standards.

The foresight of athletic director **Bill Marolt**, just two months into the job, also played a tremendous role. Despite a 1-7 record at the time, Marolt extended McCartney's contract. Mac was now working with a net, and it led to one of the boldest and most daring moves in CU history, if not college football's.

He announced in March ahead of the 1985 season that the Buffaloes were switching to the wishbone formation on offense. What did switching from a passing to a running game do for CU? Colorado posted a 7-5 mark, the most wins in seven years at the school, and netted the Buffs the NCAA's Most Improved Team honor. CU also went from last to ninth

in rushing offense and from last to first in net punting, two of the most dramatic turnabouts in NCAA history. And CU's 4-3 league mark, which tied the Buffs for third place, helped McCartney gain the Big Eight's "Coach of the Year" award. Colorado also earned its first bowl appearance in almost a decade in 1985, opposite Washington in the Freedom Bowl, but dropped the contest by a 20-17 count.

In 1986, the Buffs staggered to an 0-4 start, but McCartney's fifth team never threw in the towel. Colorado rebounded to post a 6-1 mark in the Big Eight, finishing second in the league's race, CU's best effort since winning it in 1976. And McCartney's Buffs became the first at CU to defeat Nebraska (20-10) since 1967. Colorado made its second straight bowl appearance (a 21-9 loss against Baylor in the Bluebonnet Bowl). His 1987 team posted a 7-4 record, but the team was left out when the bowl committees made their selections.

The 1988 Buffaloes posted the best record at CU since 1976 by going 8-4 (with a new-fangled "I-bone" offense), which included a win at No. 19 Iowa. Mac's team again battled the Big Eight's top two to the wire, losing 17-14 to Oklahoma and 7-0 at Nebraska; CU placed fourth with a 4-3 mark. However, the Buffs fell short again in postseason play, losing 20-17 to Brigham Young in the Freedom Bowl. The biggest stride the 1988 team made was a return to the national Top 20 for the first time in over a decade.

As the unanimous National Coach-of-the-Year selection for 1989 (UPI, Kodak/ AFCA, Bear Bryant/ FWAA, The Sporting News, Dodge/ Maxwell Football Club, CBS/ Chevrolet), McCartney's eighth CU team roared to an 11-0 regular season record and the first ever No. 1 national ranking in CU's 100-year football history. The Buffs won their second outright Big Eight title, to go with 1961, which earned McCartney unanimous Coach-of-the-Year honors in the league. Colorado became the first team since 1969 to defeat Oklahoma and Nebraska in the same year and all told the Buffs defeated five top 25 and three bowl teams. Only a 21-6 loss to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl kept CU from being crowned the national champion, but the No. 4 final ranking was still the second best ever for the Buffaloes at that time.

His ninth Colorado team won the biggest prize possible in college football: the national championship. The 1990 team, with an 11-1-1 record, was also the first Buffalo team to claim back-to-back Big Eight titles. He was once again named as the league's Coach-of-the-Year, the third time he



Bill McCartney, along with athletic director Bill Marolt, celebrates on of Colorado's three straight Big 8 titles between 1989-91.

was afforded that honor.

Colorado's 10-9 win over Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl paved the way for the *Associated Press* along with most of the other recognized organizations to select the Buffaloes as the 1990 national champion. Nine members of the 1990 team were drafted into the NFL, and three players earned Colorado's first ever unanimous All-America honors (**Eric Bieniemy**, **Joe Garten** and **Alfred Williams**). Williams won the Butkus Award, with Garten finishing second for the Outland Trophy and Bieniemy third in the Heisman Trophy race. With wins over Stanford, Texas, Washington, Oklahoma and Nebraska among others, CU played the nation's toughest schedule and joined the '82 Penn State team as the only schools at the time to win the national championship while doing so.

His 1991 team became the first at CU to win three straight Big Eight titles, going 6-0-1 in league play. He did this despite having the second youngest team in the nation's top 25, as he started nine freshmen or sophomores and utilizes 24 of the pups in each week's game plan. Center **Jay Leeuwenburg** earned unanimous All-America honors, Mac's fourth unanimous selection in two years. His 10th team went 8-3-1 overall, earning McCartney's sixth bowl appearance (the Buffs lost to the following season's national champion, Alabama, 30-25, in the Blockbuster Bowl).

McCartney and his staff did another excellent coaching job in 1992, leading the Buffs to a 9-2-1 record, despite a total overhaul in the offensive system. The Buffs switched gears to a one-back, more pass-oriented attack, and the season produced a school and conference record 3,271 yards passing. The team was also McCartney's best defensively, surrendering only 278 yards a game and boasting the Thorpe award winner in cornerback Deon Figures. The '92 squad also featured tackle **Jim Hansen**, CU's first Rhodes Scholar in 30 years. The 9-1-1 regular season mark was the fifth best in school history, and CU went to its seventh bowl under McCartney, a 26-22 loss to Syracuse in the Fiesta Bowl.



Bill McCartney and his wife, Lyndi, pose with 1994 Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam.

In 1993, he assumed the responsibilities of coaching the quarterbacks, the first time during his head coaching career that he worked with a specific position other than special teams. This team posted an 8-3-1 mark, the losses by a combined 14 points. The team earned a sixth consecutive bowl appearance, defeating Fresno State by a 41-30 count in the Aloha Bowl. The offense continued to evolve, finishing 10th in the nation, averaging 470 yard per game. It was the first CU team in history to average over 200 yards in both rushing and passing, and the first time since 1975 that Colorado led the league in total offense. A youthful defense matured during the league season, overcoming five seniors' graduation from the

previous year's team into the NFL.

What would be his final CU team in 1994 posted an 11-1 record and was ranked in the nation's top 10 the entire season (17 consecutive weeks, a school record). His 13th and last Buffalo team had several memorable moments, from **Kordell Stewart's** 64-yard touchdown pass to **Michael Westbrook** (via a **Blake Anderson** tip) to beat Michigan, 27-26, on the final play of the game, to **Rashaan Salaam's** dramatic 67-yard touchdown run in the season finale against Iowa State that pushed the eventual Heisman Trophy winner's season rushing total to 2,055 yards. The Buffs finished second in the Big Eight with a 6-1 record, losing only at Nebraska, which cost CU a chance at the national championship in what would eventually be the last year McCartney strolled the CU sideline.

From 1985, when he made the bold move to the wishbone, until the end of his career, McCartney's teams posted an 86-30-4 record in registering 10 straight winning seasons, both overall and in league play. His 1988 to 1992 teams went 25 straight games (23-0-2) without a loss in the Big Eight, the fourth longest streak in the now-defunct conference's history.

He worked under four contracts at CU, with a 15-year deal signed in 1990 one of the longest contracts ever in college football history. It would have expired in the year 2005, but he had the option after five years of stepping down if he so chose. He did just that on November 19, 1994, deciding to retire after that team's final game, a New Year's appearance in the Fiesta Bowl.

The Buffs were inspired to send him out a winner, and Stewart, Salaam and company had huge games as Colorado routed the Irish, 41-24, the game literally over in the second quarter after CU built a 31-3 lead.



Mac's two favorite games during his CU tenure resonate with most of the fan base. Bill McCartney, with current CU President Bruce Benson, led Colorado "Without a doubt, when we beat Nebraska in to the 1990 national championship, and returned to Boulder to Lincoln when we were behind 12-0 going celebrate with his players at a 20-year reunion in October 2010. into the fourth quarter. We scored 27 in the fourth quarter. And then the second Orange Bowl against Notre Dame, because it was our only national championship. That Notre Dame team was as good a Notre Dame team as (coach) Lou Holtz had. We lost our QB at halftime and still found a way to win that game."

In 1999, he was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, just the sixth coach at the University of Colorado to be honored so. He was enshrined in CU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.

Born on Aug. 22, 1940, McCartney was raised in Riverview, Mich., and graduated from Riverview High School in 1958, having earned 11 letters in three sports (football, basketball, and baseball). He was captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year.

Bill was married to the former Lynne (Lyndi) Taussig of Santa Monica, Calif., for just over 50 years until her death this past March 21. The couple has four grown children, Michael, Thomas, Kristy and Marc, and 10 grandchildren, two of whom are currently in the CU football program, brothers T.C. (a graduate assistant coach) and Derek (a freshman defensive lineman).

McCartney was extremely active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and was voted the FCA's "Man-of-the-Year" in Colorado for 1986. He was also one of the co-founders of "Promise Keepers," one of the nation's fastest-growing Christian organizations in the late 1990s and whom he worked and represented for almost a decade after retiring from coaching.

"All you have to is recruit, and if you recruit the right kids and get them, you'll find yourself playing in a lot of big games," he concluded. "So it's not about me, it's about the University, what a great place it is, it's about all the good assistants we had, and it's about that first recruiting class that got things going for us."

### The 2013 College Football Hall of Fame Class:

Players: **Ted Brown** (TB, North Carolina State, 1975-78); **Tedy Bruschi** (DE, Arizona, 1992-95); **Ron Dayne** (RB, Wisconsin, 1996-99); **Tommie Frazier** (QB, Nebraska, 1992-95); **Jerry Gray** (DB, Texas, 1981-84); **Steve Meilinger** (E, Kentucky, 1951-53); **Orlando Pace** (OT, Ohio State, 1994-96); **Rod Shoate** (LB, Oklahoma, 1972-74); **Percy Snow** (LB, Michigan State, 1986-89); **Vinny Testaverde** (QB, Miami, Fla., 1982, 84-86); **Don Trull** (QB, Baylor, 1961-63); **Danny Wuerffel** (QB, Florida, 1993-96).

Coaches: **Wayne Hardin** (118-74-5; Navy 1959-64 & Temple 1970-82); **Bill McCartney** (93-55-5; Colorado, 1982-84).



## Seventh Heaven: Former CU Buffs coach Bill McCartney elected to College Football Hall of Fame

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Bill McCartney grew up the son of a factory worker in Michigan attending Detroit Lions football games with his father when he was little. By the age of 7 he decided he wanted to be a coach and 65 years later it looks like a pretty good decision.

The National Football Foundation announced Tuesday morning McCartney has earned a place in the College Football Hall of Fame for his remarkable 13-year run as head coach at the University of Colorado from 1982 to 1994.

McCartney coached the Buffs to a national title, a Heisman Trophy, three Big Eight Conference titles and nine bowl games.

He is the seventh CU representative in the hall and the first coach from the school to receive the honor. He will be officially inducted in New York City on Dec. 10 and is a member of the first class scheduled to be enshrined in the new hall of fame in Atlanta in the summer of 2014.

"It's a surprise," McCartney said Tuesday afternoon at Benders restaurant in Westminster where he met members of the media to discuss the milestone day. "I knew that it was a long shot but I didn't ever let myself believe that this would happen. So now that it has, I'm overjoyed."

McCartney joins Byron White (1952), Joe Romig (1984), Dick Anderson (1993), Bobby Anderson (2006), Alfred Williams (2010) and John Wooten (2012) as hall inductees from Colorado.

McCartney spent a lot of time smiling Tuesday while surrounded by family members and former players who drove across the city and the surrounding area to share the moment with him. McCartney admitted he hasn't done much smiling or much of anything recently after the death of his wife Lyndi in March.

"I've been very sad, very sad," McCartney said. "I can't let go of her, but this has really raised my spirits."

"...I wish Lyndi were here for this. She made so many sacrifices so that I could coach and Lyndi was all in. Lyndi hurt when we lost and she celebrated when we won. She was all in. She was everything you would look for in a coach's wife."

McCartney accepted congratulations from dozens of people, including CU athletic director Mike Bohn, with whom he shook hands. McCartney was publicly critical of Bohn and his bosses last year after they fired former CU coach Jon Embree after just two seasons on the job.

But McCartney, while making it clear he still stands behind Embree, said he has put the issue behind him and is moving forward.

"I'm not bitter," he said. "I'm a Buff."

"I'm past that now. The new coach Mac, I'm 100 percent behind him. I mean, his name is coach Mac."

Coach Mike MacIntyre now has even more to live up to in sharing the 'Coach Mac' moniker in Boulder with McCartney who was one of 14 members of the 2013 hall of fame class. The NFF wanted McCartney to come to New York and be a part of the announcement Tuesday morning but he chose not to preferring to be close to home, close to Boulder and place he raves about each chance he gets.

McCartney said he decided he wanted to be a coach at such a young age that it gave him time to prepare to be a good one and to learn from those who had gone before him. He said some of his primary influences were Dan Devine, Bo Schembechler, Adolph Rupp and Bobby Knight.

"Because I knew I was going to be a coach, I studied my coaches, I tried to imitate them and then I never wavered on that," he said. "I never thought, 'Well, I might want to do something else.'"

McCartney's coaching success began at the high school level in Michigan where he coached football, basketball and baseball. He coached the same school to the state titles in football and basketball in the 1973-74 school year, earning him job offers at the University of Michigan from both Schembechler and former Michigan basketball coach Johnny Orr.

McCartney's success then also infected his oldest son, Tom, with the coaching bug. Tom McCartney has been the football coach at Fairview High School since the 1990s. McCartney's grandson, T.C. McCartney, is also following in his grandfather's shoes as a graduate assistant coach for the CU football team.

When McCartney arrived in Boulder in 1982, he inherited a program that had gone 7-26 in the three previous seasons combined. He won seven games in his first three seasons combined and received a contract extension, something he says would not be allowed to happen in today's culture.

McCartney is responsible for pointing his finger at Nebraska shortly after being hired and saying the Cornhuskers were the team the Buffs would consider their rival and would aim to beat. By the end of the decade, McCartney had made that vision a reality by winning three straight Big Eight Conference titles and not losing to the Huskers in 1989, 1990 or 1991.

Colorado played for the national championship twice under McCartney in 1989 and 1990. Both times the opponent was Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl.

The Buffs were the sentimental favorite in 1989 entering the game unbeaten after rallying all season around the death of quarterback Sal Aunese to stomach cancer. But Notre Dame crushed CU's dream season by beating the Buffs to claim the title.

The Buffs won the rematch the next year, despite what was certainly one of the most questionable decisions of McCartney's coaching career. Late in a tight game he chose to punt to electric return man Raghib Ismael, who returned the kick for a touchdown. The return was called back by a clipping penalty and the Buffs beat the Fighting Irish 10-9.

The Associated Press voted the Buffs national champions, but McCartney's peers in the coaches' poll gave the title to Georgia Tech.

Some of the coaches were likely persuaded against the Buffs by a controversial win for the Buffs earlier in the 1990 season at Missouri. CU scored the winning touchdown over the Tigers on a fifth down mistakenly allowed by officials. It remains one of the iconic blunders in the history of the game.

McCartney coached 18 first-team All-Americans, including fellow hall of fame inductee Williams, who earned the honor three years ago. During his tenure, 43 Buffs were drafted into the NFL, including five first-round selections.

"He meant everything to me. He meant the world to me," former CU coach Darian Hagan said of playing for McCartney. "I think to me and a lot of other kids who come from the inner city and didn't have fathers in their lives we were all looking for that in a coach. He provided that guidance, that discipline and that tough love for us."

McCartney went 93-55-5 in his 13 seasons as coach to become the career leader in wins at the school.

McCartney was asked what the low point was for him during a CU career that included so many magical highs. He needed only a moment before providing the answer -- the 1986 loss to Colorado State.

"I can't remember ever going hard after a kid and him saying, 'Coach, I'm going to go to Fort Collins.'" McCartney said. "It never happened. So if you're not losing off the field, you shouldn't lose on the field. We only lost to them once. That was easily the lowest point of my coaching at Colorado."

McCartney nearly left CU that year to take over the program at Southern Methodist but he said he read a bible verse that addressed commitment and decided to stay in Boulder and see things through. It turned out to be another good decision.

He cut short his coaching career by at least a decade 19 years ago in his mid-50s in 1994 to devote more time and attention to his wife and family and found the Promise Keepers organization rooted in the same purpose.

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo.



## Kiszla: Coach Mac's heart bigger than any bowl victory

By Mark Kiszla *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

We all know Bill McCartney put a national championship in the University of Colorado's trophy case. The College Football Hall of Fame announced Tuesday it's reserving him a place in the Class of 2013. But ask Coach Mac the greatest honor he has ever received, and the answer makes him cry.

It's a Valentine's Day card.

"Nine years after I got out of coaching, I got a Valentine's card from my wife," McCartney said. "And you know what it said? My wife wrote: 'I finally found the guy I thought I married.' "

Nearly 20 years ago, McCartney suddenly gave up coaching, leaving behind the Buffaloes, the adrenaline rush of the sideline and the riches of the job.

"I have never regretted it," McCartney said. "The truth is: I'm so thankful I got out of coaching. I was taught that a man can be judged by the countenance of his wife's face. In 1994, I looked in my wife's face. And I saw pain. I saw anguish. And that's why when I knew it was time to resign."

For men defined by a job, what McCartney did would be terrifying.

For the greatest coach in Colorado history, it was easy.

Here is what was far harder: Saying goodbye to his true love. Lyndi McCartney, the coach's wife of 50 years, died a little more than six weeks ago.

"I'm a wounded duck," McCartney admitted. "The Bible says when two people get married, they become one. Well, the best half is gone, and we're left with me. It hurts. I'm so thankful for this honor from the College Football Hall of Fame. I've been very sad and isolated since my wife died. This honor has really helped me through a tough time."

As a coach, what Mac did best was put the fire in brimstone. X's and O's? He left the strategy to his assistant coaches, from Gary Barnett to Rick Neuheisel, who went on to lead teams of their own.

McCartney's job was shaking down motivational thunder. He instilled a belief in the players that anything was possible, if they were selfless and fearless. He preached so loudly it could roil the blood of every bleeding heart in the Republic of Boulder. Long before Tim Tebow could find Colorado on a map, Mac mixed sports and religion. Endorsing trucks or tacos would have been safer and more profitable.

On the spring day when the National Football Foundation tapped Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier, Ohio State offensive tackle Orlando Pace and McCartney among this year's Hall of Fame inductees, a happy CU coach stood in Bender's Bar & Grill, bending ears about the Rocky Mountains' beauty with the lyrical rhapsody of John Denver.

From a safe distance, Charles Johnson, the Buffs quarterback who made the fifth down famous, stood and watched the old lion roar, shaking his head with admiration for McCartney.

"Look at him. Look at the strength in that jaw. Listen to his passion when he speaks," Johnson said. "How old is Coach Mac? It doesn't matter. The man is still coaching. He is always coaching."

Lowering my voice half an octave so Mac would not hear, I leaned close to Johnson and said: "Coach? He could still whip your butt."

"Without question," replied C.J., his response punctuated by a spontaneous chuckle. "And he would coach you all the way through the butt-whipping."

During 13 seasons at Colorado, McCartney's record was 93-55-5.

The Buffaloes won the national championship in 1990.

In Mac's final season, Rashaan Salaam rushed for 2,055 yards and won the Heisman Trophy.

Then, on Nov. 19, 1994, the best coach in CU history turned out the lights in his office and told his wife he was coming home. Forever. For the good of their marriage. At the height of his power, Coach Mac quit.

And Lyndi McCartney's reaction was the same as the rest of Buffs Nation: "You did what?"

At age 72, the eyes of Mac still glow and his voice can awake angels when he quotes favorite Bible passages. But McCartney walks slower. He tells the same story twice in the same sitting, the way men do when they squeeze a little tighter as the glory days begin to slip away.

After fighting emphysema for more than a decade, Lyndi McCartney passed away March 21.

But gone? No way. On Tuesday, you could see Lyndi in the coach's smile.

"I've been a coach all my life," confided McCartney, tears forming at the corner of his eyes. "But I wanted to be remembered as a man who laid down his life for his wife."

The College Football Hall of Fame will enshrine him.

A love bigger than football, however, defines him.

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## McCartney still bringing glory to CU

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

WESTMINSTER — He arrived in Boulder in 1982, back when Colorado football looked up at the rest of the Big Eight, not to mention Drake. Twice.

He didn't just point his finger to respectability. He pointed it east and with an angry shake and a scowl made Nebraska the archrival the Buffaloes never had. Nearly three decades after three awful seasons and an athletic director who saw something in him few others in the state could see, Bill McCartney gave Colorado football some glory Tuesday.

The school's winningest coach was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Wearing a black-and-gold school sweatshirt and a grin no one had seen since his wife of 50 years, Lyndi, died March 21, McCartney entertained media, fans and family at Bender's Bar and Grill.

"To be honest with you, I was surprised I got elected into the Hall of Fame," the 72-year-old McCartney said. "In light of the fact that I just lost my wife and I've been very sad and very isolated, it has really helped me through a tough time in my life."

The Hall elected 12 players and two coaches, all of whom will be inducted Dec. 10 in New York. Of the four coaching candidates, McCartney was the only one who won a national and three conference titles.

His 13-year mark of 93-55-5 includes a 58-11-4 record from 1989-94 and the 1990 Associated Press national championship. In 1989, he was unanimous national coach of the year when he led Colorado to an 11-0 mark before losing to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl.

Tuesday, he spun tales of his early sales pitches to key in-state recruits and of his Orange Bowl victory over Notre Dame for the 1990 crown. But on this occasion, his most poignant story came from growing up in Riverview, Mich.

The son of a factory worker who was a huge sports fan, McCartney followed Michigan and coach Bo Schembechler. Later, McCartney's prowess as Schembechler's defensive coordinator caught Colorado's attention.

"When I was 7 years old, I knew I was going to be a coach," McCartney said. "How many guys when they're 7 years old know what they're going to do? So because I knew I was going to be a coach, I studied my coaches. I tried to imitate them and then I never wavered."

He played linebacker and center for Dan Devine at Missouri and became the first coach in Michigan high school history to win football and basketball state titles when he led Divine Child High in Dearborn, Mich., in 1973-74.

"You know who I studied? Adolph Rupp," McCartney said. "You know who else? Bobby Knight. I went everywhere Knight went. I put in the offense and defense that he ran at Army."



His coaching acumen didn't pay off immediately in Boulder. From 1982-84, he won seven games, and lost 25. That's the same number of victories as his predecessor, Chuck Fairbanks, who twice lost to Drake while going 7-26.

However, late in 1984, then-new athletic director Bill Marolt looked at McCartney's 1-7 record and gave him an extension. The next year, the Buffaloes went 7-5 and to the Freedom Bowl. In 1989 they won the first of three consecutive Big Eight titles.

Of McCartney's lowest points, one low-water mark stands out.

"CSU," McCartney said. "We lost to them one time. I had to die (lose) to get better. It was 1986. This will sound wrong but we never lost a kid to them in recruiting. I can't remember ever going hard after a kid and him saying, 'Coach, I'm going to go to Fort Collins.' Never happened."

McCartney wasn't just about wins. He also coached 19 first-team All-Americans, including Heisman Trophy-winner Rashaan Salaam, a 2,055-yard tailback in 1994. Another was linebacker Alfred Williams, the 1990 Butkus Award winner who entered the Hall of Fame in 2010.

"He should've led me in, to tell you the truth," said Williams, now a sports radio talk show host. "It's fantastic. I just think the world of Bill McCartney, and I just thank the Lord every day for what he meant to me and my journey."

McCartney is the seventh representative from the Buffs' program to go to the Hall, but he's the school's first coach to be selected.

Larry Zimmer, Colorado's play-by-play announcer since 1973, goes back to 1960 when McCartney was a Missouri player and Zimmer covered the Tigers for KFRU in Columbia.

"He's very worthy," Zimmer said. "You look at Nick Saban and he's won four national championships. But anytime you win a national championship your name has to be up there. He certainly ranks there, taking the program where he took it the first three years and he recruited local kids."

Twelve of McCartney's assistants went on to become collegiate head coaches. That doesn't include Tom, his son, the coach at Fairview High.

"I've always said when anyone ever asked," Tom said, "I told them I already had a Hall of Fame dad."

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## On the record

Career highlights for former Colorado coach Bill McCartney, who was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame on Tuesday:

93-55-5 record in 13 seasons (7-25-1 in first three years at CU)

1990 Associated Press national champions (11-1-1 record)

All of McCartney's 93 wins came against Division I-A teams

Nine bowl games (3-6)

Three consecutive Big Eight titles (1989-91)

## Bill McCartney, ex-CU coach, elected to College Football Hall of Fame

By John Henderson The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

Bill McCartney, Colorado's all-time winningest football coach who led the Buffaloes to their only national title, was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame on Tuesday.

McCartney, 72, was one of two coaches selected, the other being Wayne Hardin. The two coaches will be inducted into the Hall of Fame along with 12 players on Dec. 10 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York.

McCartney had a 93-55-5 record in 13 seasons, including an 11-1-1 record and a victory over Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl to win the 1990 Associated Press national title.

"It's a surprise and it is very humbling when you look at the men that have been recognized with this honor over the years," McCartney said in a statement from the school. He is expected to meet with the local media later Tuesday afternoon.

"It's very gratifying and rewarding. Keep in mind I've been out of coaching almost 20 years, so to be remembered after such a long absence was a complete surprise to me."

McCartney took over in 1982 for Chuck Fairbanks, and the Buffs were 7-25-1 in McCartney's first three seasons. His first winning season was 7-5 mark in 1985.

After going 11-0 in the 1989 regular season before losing to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl, Colorado started the 1990 season 1-1-1 — with a tie vs. Tennessee, a win over Stanford and a one-point loss at Illinois. Colorado then won its next 10 games, including a 10-9 victory in the rematch with Notre Dame at the Orange Bowl.

All of McCartney's 93 wins came against Division I-A teams. He won three consecutive Big Eight titles (1989-91) and went to nine bowl games. He retired after the 1994 season when the Buffs went 11-1 and beat Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl.

McCartney will be the school's first coach and the seventh Buffalo enshrined in the Hall. He will join Byron White (inducted in 1952), Joe Romig (1984), Dick Anderson (1993), Bobby Anderson (2006), Alfred Williams (2010) and John Wooten (2012).

McCartney joins Hardin, who was 118-74-5 overall at Navy (1959-64) and Temple (1970-82), in the Class of 2013.

The 12 players in this year's class are: Ted Brown (TB, North Carolina State, 1975-78); Tedy Bruschi (DE, Arizona, 1992-95); Ron Dayne (RB, Wisconsin, 1996-99); Tommie Frazier (QB, Nebraska, 1992-95); Jerry Gray (DB, Texas, 1981-84); Steve Meilinger (E, Kentucky, 1951-53); Orlando Pace (OT, Ohio State, 1994-96); Rod Shoate (LB, Oklahoma, 1972-74); Percy Snow (LB, Michigan State, 1986-89); Vinny Testaverde (QB, Miami, Fla., 1982, 84-86); Don Trull (QB, Baylor, 1961-63); and Danny Wuerffel (QB, Florida, 1993-96).

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## Wayne Hardin, Bill McCartney linked by more than Hall of Fame

Posted By [John Henderson](#) On May 8, 2013 @ 5:40 pm In [College Sports, Football, University of Colorado](#) | [No Comments](#)

WESTMINSTER — The two coaches elected into the College Football Hall of Fame Tuesday are linked by more than success in a profession. Wayne Hardin and Bill McCartney may not have ever met, but they once competed on the same football field.

Hardin coached Navy from 1959-64 and became Temple's winningest coach from 1970-82. In 1960 he coached Navy and Joe Bellino, one of his two Heisman Trophy winners he coached, to the 1961 Orange Bowl.

The Midshipmen played Missouri which had a senior captain in linebacker-center Bill McCartney. Missouri won, 21-14, to finish 11-0 and fifth in the country. Curiously, Navy dropped to 9-2 and finished fourth.

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## Alfred Williams said he chose Colorado because it was clean (he doesn't mean the air)

Posted By [John Henderson](#) On May 8, 2013 @ 12:42 pm In [College Sports, Football, University of Colorado](#) | [1 Comment](#)

WESTMINSTER — I asked Alfred Williams why he signed with Bill McCartney and Colorado way back in 1987 when the Buffaloes were coming off a 6-6 record.

Out of Houston, the eventual Butkus Award winner chose Colorado over Oklahoma State. Others he heavily considered were Oklahoma, LSU and Georgia.

I expected him to say McCartney's legendary sales pitch, that the Buffaloes had turned the corner, that he loved the Boulder campus.

Nope.

"I thought they would never be on probation," Williams said during Tuesday's celebration of McCartney's election into the College Football Hall of Fame. "That was THE factor."

That was back when the NCAA rulebook received as much attention in coaches' offices as supermarket fliers. I've been told by coaches that the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport during Christmas break back then looked like Grand Central Station with so many Southwest Conference football players flying around on the schools' dime.

"I thought everybody cheated," Williams said. "This was the wild '80s. Things were a lot different. Some of the schools that didn't get penalties, I was just waiting for someone to drop the bomb and say, 'This school is on probation.' I thought, Well, it hasn't happened so some members of the NCAA must be OK with it."

Williams told a story about a head coach not from one of the above schools.

"True story," he said. "A coach came to my house and he opened a briefcase and it was filled with cash. This was in my house. I am not making this up."

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## Bill McCartney said he didn't tell Tom Rouen to punt to Raghib Ismail in Orange Bowl

Posted By [John Henderson](#) On May 8, 2013 @ 11:34 am In [College Sports, Football, University of Colorado](#) | [No Comments](#)

WESTMINSTER — While Bill McCartney won the 1990 Associated Press national title, he did receive a lot of criticism after his Colorado Buffaloes beat Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl, 10-9.

Trying to close out the win and forced to punt with 1:05 left, Colorado actually punted to Raghib Ismail, the nation's top return threat. He returned it 91 yards for a touchdown but alas, a clip on Tim James nullified the score and the Buffaloes wound up winning the game and the AP title.

I covered the game and was on the sideline during Tom Rouen's punt. Standing behind Colorado's team, I didn't see the clip. However, I did see one identified Buffalo fall over in shock as Ismail ran past the team and the Orange Bowl exploded.

At Bender's Bar and Grill Tuesday to celebrate his College Football Hall of Fame election, McCartney explained why Rouen kicked to Ismail from the Buffalo 47.

"Our kicker was good," McCartney said. "The reason I kicked to (Ismail) is I believed (Rouen) could kick it out of the end zone so there'd be no return. I said, 'Kick it outta here.' And he kicked it right to him."

However, McCartney told the punt team that at 3rd-and-22 from the Notre Dame 39. Charles Johnson was then sacked back to the Irish 48 and a delay of game penalty took it to the Buffalo 47. By that time, Rouen had to kick it 53 yards to reach the end zone.

Rouen did what he was told. The All-American, who averaged 40.8 yards gross that year, wound up kicking it 45 to the 9. McCartney said kicking it out of bounds wasn't a viable option.

"When you kick it out of bounds, it's an imperfect science," McCartney said. "But if you have a thunder leg like he had, kick it out of the end zone."

The clip, still controversial to Notre Dame fans, stuck with then-Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz five years later. While together again at the Orange Bowl in 1995, when Notre Dame would play Florida State and McCartney received an honor, McCartney stood at the dais and turned to Holtz.

"I said, 'Coach Holtz, you'll be glad to hear that that kid that you clipped, that scar on his back is healing nicely,'" McCartney said. "So Holtz — you know how quick he is — he said, 'If that was a clip, your kid had his helmet on backwards.'"

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## Bill McCartney said writers' AP vote more important than coaches' UPI vote in 1990

Posted By [John Henderson](#) On May 8, 2013 @ 9:54 am In [College Sports, Football, University of Colorado](#) | [2 Comments](#)

WESTMINSTER — I had a wonderful visit with Bill McCartney Tuesday after he was elected to the College Hall of Fame. I haven't seen him this happy since — well, I don't remember when. He was happier than when he beat Nebraska in 1990. He was happier than when he beat Notre Dame for the 1990 national title.

Speaking of which, I asked him now that 23 years have passed, how he feels about sharing the national title with Georgia Tech. The Yellow Jackets, which finished 11-0-1, won the UPI title voted on by the coaches. Colorado, which went 11-1-1, won The Associated Press vote from the writers.

It was never confirmed, but many in Boulder believe Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, who voted in the UPI poll, voted Colorado as low as fourth. In his defense, Georgia Tech did trash the Cornhuskers in the Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando, 45-21, just before the vote. Colorado won in Lincoln, 27-12.

It's clear McCartney still sees red when someone brings up Nebraska. Always a straight shooter, he sideswiped the question yet gave every indication how he felt about it.

"You guys all know you're smarter than coaches, right?" McCartney told the media gathering at Bender's Bar and Grill. "So we got the more important vote. We got the higher end weighing in on our side."

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## Goodman: Coach Mac finally gets his due

When Bill McCartney took over a beleaguered Colorado football program in 1982, he did what many thought would be impossible; he snapped the Nebraska/Oklahoma stranglehold on the Big Eight.

The Cornhuskers and Sooners dominated the conference for 27 years, either sharing or winning the Big Eight title outright from 1962 until 1989. But by the end of the '80s, there was a most unlikely changing of the guard. McCartney's Buffaloes, a program that went 1-10 just five years prior, was atop the conference.

The athletic department, players and recruits who believed in McCartney's vision were rewarded in 1989. The little program that couldn't suddenly burst onto the national stage, charging up the football rankings like a buffalo.

The big two and the little six was no more. Colorado became part of the conversation and was suddenly a national power.

It was an unlikely journey few could have predicted when McCartney interviewed for the job in the summer of 1982. Not contacted until six days after the search began and clearly not Colorado's first option, he finally got a call from athletic director Eddie Crowder on Sunday, June 6.

So eager to get to Boulder, he took the first morning flight from Detroit. McCartney arrived so quickly that the interview panel wasn't yet set up; he was forced to wait an extra 24 hours.

The wait was a blessing. Upon advice from associate athletic director Fred Casotti, McCartney treated the interview like a halftime speech in the biggest game of his life. He spoke uninterrupted for 20 minutes, talking about his background, what he had done at Michigan as an assistant under the legendary Bo Schembechler, his philosophies and values, and what he planned on doing in Boulder.

Like a preacher in front of a captive congregation, he left the room speechless with no questions. He got the job.

His interview mirrored how he coached – a man of many words and few X's and O's. McCartney could recruit mice into a mousetrap, while making Knute Rockne blush at his Thursday night and pregame speeches.

McCartney was a spiritual leader more than a football coach and had a profound influence on many of his young men well beyond the field. He is revered by his legion of followers, yet reviled by some in the community.

His outspoken and sometimes divisive rhetoric alienated more than a few during his time in Boulder. This has continued since he left the sidelines in 1994.

Most recently, his claim that the university fired Jon Embree because he was black was thought to have put a permanent wedge between the former coach and the program he helped put on the map.

All isn't forgotten, but celebrating the career of a Hall of Fame coach is what matters today. And McCartney richly deserves the praise and recognition.

He's the man who brought a national championship to Boulder. He's the man who made it en vogue to not



wear red during Nebraska week. He's the man that'll forever be associated with lifting up a program to national prominence with his words and actions.

Yet his greatest contribution is how he has touched so many around him. McCartney and his ever-expansive coaching tree have not only led dozens into the National Football League, but just as many into the boardrooms of major companies.

His words are inspirational and his message is undeniable. "Big dreams create the magic that stir men's souls to greatness," he famously said.

McCartney had big dreams when he came to Boulder four decades ago. And this summer at the College Football Hall of Fame, he will be recognized for his vision that led the University of Colorado and himself to greatness.

*Eric Goodman hosts Afternoon Drive with Mac and Goodman 3p-6p Monday through Friday on Mile High Sports Radio (AM1510 | FM 93.7). You can also follow Eric Goodman on Twitter@ericgoodman*

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Wednesday, May 8, 2013

## Colorado Buffaloes spring wrap

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By Kevin Gemmell

### [COLORADO BUFFALOES](#)

**2012 record:** 1-11**2012 conference record:** 1-8 (Last in South Division)**Returning starters:** Offense 9; Defense 7; Kick/punt 2**Top returners:** WR [Paul Richardson](#), WR [Nelson Spruce](#), LB [Derrick Webb](#), RB [Christian Powell](#), C [Gus Handler](#), DE [Chidera Uzo-Diribe](#), CB [Kenneth Crawley](#).**Key losses:** TE Nick Kasa, OL David Bakhtiari, LB [Jon Major](#), DB Ray Polk.

### **2012 statistical leaders (\*returners)**

**Rushing:** Christian Powell\* (691)**Passing:** [Jordan Webb](#)\* (1,434, out indefinitely with knee injury)**Receiving:** Nelson Spruce\* (446)**Tackles:** Derrick Webb\* (88)**Sacks:** Chidera Uzo-Diribe (7)**Interceptions:** [Jered Bell](#)\*, Jon Major, [Marques Mosley](#)\* (1)

### **Spring answers**

### **2013 Schedule**

Sept. 1 Colorado State (in Denver)

Sept. 7 Central Arkansas

Sept. 14 Fresno State

Sept. 28 at Oregon State

Oct. 5 Oregon

Oct. 12 at Arizona State

Oct. 26 Arizona

Nov. 2 at UCLA

Nov. 9 at Washington

Nov. 16 California

Nov. 23 USC

Nov. 30 at Utah

1. **He's back:** After missing all of 2012 with a torn ACL, wide receiver Paul Richardson is back and healthy. This is a huge boost for an offense that was lacking an explosive playmaker. In four Colorado scrimmages this spring, he had eight catches for 294 yards and three touchdowns. It's not the greatest barometer, but the fact he's on the field and running by defenders is a very positive sign.
2. **Starting from scratch:** Colorado has an entirely new coaching staff for the first time since 1979. So a good chunk of spring was spent reading name tags. It was also spent getting the team used to running a no-huddle offense. New coach Mike MacIntyre noted that the 15 practices were simply about introducing concepts -- which was accomplished. Translating those concepts into progress on the field will be a bigger task this fall.
3. **Filling holes:** Obviously, nothing is set in stone. A new coaching staff means a complete evaluation of every position. But there were some names that jumped out as candidates. [D.D. Goodson](#) made the move from tailback to wide receiver -- giving them a little more speed and depth at the position. January enrollee Addison Gillam jumped to the top of the depth chart at linebacker and cornerback [John Walker](#) made a big push in the secondary -- probably Colorado's deepest and most hotly contested position group.

## Fall questions

1. **QB questions:** Last year there were three -- Jordan Webb, [Nick Hirschman](#) and [Connor Wood](#). This year there are three -- Wood, [Shane Dillon](#) and incoming freshman Sefo Liufau. There are rumblings Webb might make it back by October -- but even then you have to wonder if he'll be close to 100 percent. Still, there are lots and lots of question about who will be running the new offense.
  2. **Sorting out the line:** Just when it seems like the Buffs are starting to get a little continuity on the offensive line, right guard [Daniel Munyer](#) breaks his fibula during a fumble drill. It's not all completely up in the air -- and they do have a solid returning center in Gus Handler -- who should again be on the Rimington Trophy watch list. But there is still a lot of evaluation to be done.
  3. **Time to grow up:** By now we all know about Colorado's youth in the secondary. A lot of freshmen played last year (1,476 snaps between a trio of freshmen defenders) and they learned the hard way what it's like to guard Pac-12 receivers. The maturation of this group is critical because improved secondary play will trickle down and take some of the pressure off of the front seven. This group has the athleticism and potential to be very good. The question is, will they?
-