

Third-year sophomore will stay enrolled and focus on studies

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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Colorado has lost another quarterback.

Third-year sophomore John Schrock has decided to give up football and focus more of his time on school, head coach Mike MacIntyre said on Saturday.

Schrock plans to attend medical school after completing his undergraduate degree in integrative physiology. He plans to stay at CU as a student.

"It was a tough decision for John as he does love football, but we talked and he is serious about becoming a doctor," MacIntyre said. "He decided it was in his best interests to leave the team to concentrate on his academics. He is a fine young man and I think he will be successful in his pursuits."

A native of Kansas City, Kan., Schrock is the third quarterback to leave the team since the end of spring drills in April.

Nick Hirschman decided to transfer to Akron, where he plans to play football and hopes to earn a starting job. Last week, redshirt freshman Shane Dillon announced he is leaving CU and plans to pursue playing basketball at another school.

The Buffs also lost senior Jordan Webb, who started the first nine games in 2012, to a knee injury during the spring. Webb is hoping to return at some point this season, but certainly won't be ready to compete for the starting quarterback job when camp opens next month.

The 6-foot-4, 220-pound Schrock was a walk-on from Shawnee Mission East High School in Kansas City. He has been a valuable member of scout team in both of his seasons in the program and was expected to give the Buffs some good depth under center this year.

He played in two games late last season, completing the only pass he threw, for 7 yards. He also ran once for a 1-yard loss.

During the four main scrimmages this past spring, Schrock went 13-for-22 for 124 yards and two interceptions.

Schrock's departure leaves CU with just four healthy quarterbacks going into fall camp.

Junior Connor Wood is listed atop the depth chart after a solid performance in the spring. Wood has also been named a captain and has taken on a leadership role for the team over the summer. Wood, who is 6-3, 230 pounds, started one game in 2012 and completed 21-of-42 passes for 265 yards, one touchdown and four interceptions last season.

Sophomore Stevie Joe Dorman is the only other quarterback who went through spring drills with the team. The 6-2, 220-pounder is entering his third season at CU.

Junior college transfer Jordan Gehrke and true freshman Sefo Liufau joined the program this summer. Both are expected to battle Wood for the starting job this fall.

Gehrke is a 6-2, 190-pound transfer from Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College. Last year at Scottsdale, he completed 174 of 366 passes for 2,388 yards, 22 touchdowns and 14 interceptions. He has four years to use three years of eligibility.

Liufau is hoping to become the first true freshman in CU history to open the season as the starter. As a senior at Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma, Wash., he completed 193 of 280 passes for 2,518 yards with 24 touchdowns and only five interceptions. He also ran for 291 yard and eight touchdowns.

MacIntyre has said he will open the competition for the starting job to all of his quarterbacks.

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Former CU cornerback and current student moves from field to boardroom

By Andy Vuong *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

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DenverPost.com

As a standout defensive back in high school, Sherrard Harrington received 15 scholarship offers to play Division I college football. The Washington, D.C., native chose the University of Colorado at Boulder, in part, because he had a chance to start right away. But a hip fracture wiped out his freshman year in 2011. A broken ankle and torn meniscus took out his second. He reinjured the hip this spring, setting the stage for a difficult meeting with then-CU athletic director Mike Bohn and new head coach Mike MacIntyre.

"They basically told me, 'Sherrard, we'll pay for your scholarship, but you can't play football anymore. You keep getting injured,'" Harrington recalled in a recent interview.

It was the latest setback for a 21-year-old who faced plenty of hard knocks as an inner-city youth surrounded by gang violence.

"I had seven best friends, and four of them were killed on my way growing up, two are locked up and one is on the streets," Harrington said.

His only brother was incarcerated in 2004 and is serving a 30-year-term.

His father died of prostate cancer two years ago.

When Bohn and MacIntyre asked Harrington to consider accepting the "medical disqualification" — which would end his football career but allow him to continue his education — he immediately thought of his mother.

"I always told my mom that when I graduate from college — assuming I was going to go to the NFL — I was going to buy her the house that she always wanted," Harrington said.

Football was his ticket out of the inner city. Now he needed something else to fulfill that promise to his mom.

With the help of a program CU launched three years ago, Harrington believes he has found the answer: entrepreneurship.

No longer a CU Buffs cornerback or hopeful pro football player, Harrington is now CEO of Marvel Capital Group, an investment asset management company he co-founded with fellow CU student Olivia Taylor.

Backed by private investors who are friends with Taylor's family, Marvel owns a couple of rental properties in Boulder and is eyeing investments in local technology startups.

Harrington is developing his business chops under the college's cross-campus entrepreneurship program, created amid the Great Recession as a growing number of graduates nationwide

struggled to find jobs.

In 2011, more than half of bachelor's degree-holders under the age of 25 were jobless or underemployed, the highest that rate had reached in 11 years, according to an analysis of government data commissioned by The Associated Press. The report found that about three out of five young college graduates in the Mountain West region were jobless or underemployed.

Sharon Matusik, an associate professor at the CU Leeds School of Business, said the Cross Campus Entrepreneurship Certificate program "is designed to provide entrepreneurship skills to our non-business students, from the poet to the engineer."

"It has been a tremendously successful program, growing more than 10 times in its first full year of operation and receiving some of the highest student-satisfaction scores across campus," she said.

The program complements activities and courses within CU's Deming Center for Entrepreneurship, which was established about 30 years ago.

Bob Bunting, a serial entrepreneur and an instructor in the cross-campus entrepreneurship program, said plans are in the works to establish a system to track businesses created by students who earn their certificate.

As it is, it's not hard to spot those who will ultimately join the entrepreneurial ranks, he said.

"You can pick them out pretty quickly — the ones who are taking the courses because they have an elective or they have to fill out some requirement," Bunting said. "And then you see the ones who are salivating over being an entrepreneur. Sherrard was one of those students. He's very bright. He's a really charming young man."

Bunting teaches a course that covers entrepreneurial environments, from A to Z, with topics such as how to develop a business idea. Harrington took the class in the spring.

"Once he accepted the fact he wasn't going to play football, he shifted gears right into what he could do," Bunting said. "He definitely has the traits of an entrepreneur."

Those include curiosity, drive and charisma, Bunting said.

Harrington's first foray into the business world came late last year when he helped launch an online startup in Boulder called MusikFly, which aims to help music blogs monetize music submissions.

"We both have the same kind of passion," said MusikFly co-founder and CEO Fletcher Richman, who met Harrington at a CU student entrepreneurs meet-up last fall. "He was doing the initial marketing and sales for us while we were building out the product. He was building up the hype."

Richman said MusikFly has reeled in some revenue and attracted interest from angel investors. But because all of the founders are either current students or recent graduates, they decided to keep it as a bootstrap operation. The site has more than 20 blogs signed up, and a couple

hundred artists have used the service, which is still in beta.

Harrington's experience with MusikFly was a key reason 20-year-old Denver native Olivia Taylor wanted to partner with him on Marvel.

Friends of Taylor's family, which is in oil, gas and other businesses, provided Marvel with an initial \$500,000 investment.

Taylor and Harrington used some of the money to buy two condos in Boulder, which they are renting out to students.

Asked why she formed the company while still in college, Taylor said, "I felt like I wanted a head start with business because there's such a big unemployment rate."

"College is such an opportunity that people take (for granted)," she said. "I just decided to take advantage of my money and the school I'm going to."

Harrington recently left MusikFly so he could focus on Marvel. He hopes to expand the business to Denver and New York and also is considering potential investments in technology firms in Boulder, fertile ground for such startups.

A spokesman for the CU athletic department said Harrington's arrangement, where he maintains his scholarship even though he's no longer playing football, is "very common at most schools as the scholarship no longer counts against the maximum you can have for a particular sport, and you want to graduate your athletes."

"This would apply for a five-year time period," he said.

A communications major working on an entrepreneur certificate through the business school program, Harrington is on track to graduate next spring after his third year in college.

Buying his mom a house and hiring an attorney for his brother remain his primary aspirations.

"It's the same goal, just a different path," Harrington said. "It's a marathon, not a race."

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