

Football: CU Buffs' Mike MacIntyre waiting to see what Sefo Liufau can do

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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Mike MacIntyre doesn't know if he will play true freshman quarterback Sefo Liufau this season or if he will have the luxury of redshirting him.

He does know the odds of Liufau getting on the field have vastly increased over what they were at the end of spring football.

CU has seen three of the six quarterbacks on the roster in the spring leave the program. A fourth, last season's primary starter Jordan Webb, suffered a torn ACL and was arrested for an off-campus assault, significantly dimming his chances of playing a major role once again.

That leaves Connor Wood entrenched as the likely starter unless Liufau, junior college transfer Jordan Gehrke or third-year sophomore Stevie Joe Dorman wrestles the job away.

"All four of those kids are phenomenal workers," MacIntyre said. "It will be a good competition."

MacIntyre said whether he plays the 6-foot-4, 215 pound freshman from Tacoma, Wash., will largely depend on where he finishes fall camp in the pecking order of the four quarterbacks.

"If he is like the next guy and there is a big separation, I'm going to have to have him ready to play," MacIntyre said. "If I feel like another guy can be the second teamer or whatever and I feel like there is not a big separation, then it would be smart on my side to redshirt him. We don't know that yet, but I have thought about that exact question.

"Gosh, if he just plays a half or a game-and-a-half because he's your backup, that's not too smart. But if he's that much better than everybody else"

MacIntyre said he likes having only four quarterbacks on the roster, though he will add a fifth in the 2014 recruiting class, assuming the four on the team now remain in the program for the next year. MacIntyre only had three quarterbacks on his roster a year ago at San Jose State and he needed all three at points in the season because of injuries.

In all three years MacIntyre has been a head coach, he has used at least three quarterbacks. It's a trend he would like to end this year. If the trend continues, it could mean the Buffs have a true freshman under center at some point this fall.

But that could happen without Liufau playing a starting role.

MacIntyre said the coaching staff will also be open to using Liufau in certain situations if they feel he can make plays and help the team win. What those situations are and how it all works remains to be seen and is dependent on how he performs in August.

"That would be something I would think about definitely doing because if they know they're going

to go in the game, they focus so much better in practice, too," MacIntyre said.

Neuheisel returning to Boulder

Former Buffs coach Rick Neuheisel will be in Boulder Aug. 8, the third day of training camp, working on stories with the Pac-12 Network. Neuheisel is in his second season working as an analyst for the fledgling network.

Fans could get a chance to catch up with the program's former head coach (1995-98) at that day's practice.

Single-game tickets on sale Tuesday

Fans can purchase single game tickets to CU football games beginning Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. Single-game tickets start at \$30 each and tickets for every home game are still available.

CU is offering three-game flex plans in additions to season tickets and single-game tickets. The three-game plans start at \$126. Tickets can be purchased at CUBuffs.com/tickets or at the ticket office at Folsom Field or by calling 303-492-8337.

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Kyle Ringo Blog: MacIntyre plans five two-a-day practices in camp

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

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First-year Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre has not yet reached a point where he's losing sleep over the Buffs' first opponent, Colorado State.

MacIntyre said the thing that wakes him up in the middle of the night as the start of fall camp approaches is his practice schedule. He's been over it and over it numerous times and will probably revise it a few more times in the coming days in an effort to maximize his team's time and the number of repetitions he can get his players.

MacIntyre said he plans to use five two-a-day practices, which is about the maximum he can fit into camp. NCAA rules prohibit two-a-days on any of the first five days of practice and at any time after classes begin. Two-a-days are also prohibited on back-to-back days. That leaves about two weeks for two-a-days.

"The last couple will be dictated on injuries and how we go," MacIntyre said. "...I don't plan on cutting any out cause I think we're going to need em all. They're spaced out far enough and the last two-a-day is far enough away from the first game that our legs will be able to recover."

MacIntyre said one full day of two-a-day practices will be dedicated almost entirely to special teams work. The Buffs report on Aug. 5 and begin fall camp in Aug. 6. CU opens the season against CSU in Denver on Sept. 1 at 4 p.m.

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Pac-12 football: Hard work gets Richardson back on field

By Ron Guild, Sports Editor | Posted: Monday, July 29, 2013 12:31 pm

As tough as the 2012 season was for the Colorado football team, it was even tougher for wide receiver Paul Richardson.

While the Buffaloes were going 1-11, the product of Gardena's Serra High School was powerless to do anything about it.

Because he was sidelined by a season-ending knee injury suffered during spring ball, all he could do was watch as his teammates struggled mightily, only avoiding a winless season with a 35-34 victory at Washington State in game four, and their coach, Jon Embree, being dismissed at the conclusion of the season.

Richardson, who caught 39 passes for 555 yards and five touchdowns two seasons ago, admitted at Pac-12 football media day in Culver City just how difficult it was not being able to contribute.

"It was a humbling experience not being able to compete with my teammates," he said. "You can't help but wonder and think about what I could be doing to help them."

That's why he worked so hard to get back.

"During the offseason, I took time to gain weight, get stronger, faster, get healthy so I could be able to help my guys coming into fall camp," he said.

New coach Mike McIntyre, who came to Boulder after completely rebuilding the San Jose State program in just three years, was impressed with Richardson right from the start.

"When I got there, I met with our trainer and talked about Paul," he said. "Paul was relentless in getting well, in pushing back to get going. He had an opportunity, probably last year.

"He pushed himself so hard about the middle of the season he may have been able to come back. But they made a decision to make sure he was 'full go' when we went out to spring practice."

There was no easing Richardson back into the swing of things, either, according to the coach.

"We made him put on a gold shirt at first," he said. "He didn't want that on. He took it off in practice and went by himself. I think his effort and determination, the players saw. They know how good of a player he is and how hard he worked to get back."

Though, just two years into his college career, the 6-1, 170-pound Richardson is high in the all-time receiving ranks at Colorado.

He is 21st in career yards (1,069), 25th in career receptions (73) and tied for ninth in touchdown receptions (11). His 11 TD catches have covered 371 yards, or 33.7 per score. He has six plays over 50 yards and five for TDs.

Notes

Woodson Greer III, another Serra product, will be starting at outside linebacker for the Buffaloes.

The junior had 12 tackles (seven solo) and a sack in six games a year ago.

Season opener: Sept. 1 vs. Colorado State in Denver