

Colorado football: Buffs to honor Bill McCartney on Oct. 5

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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When the Colorado football team finally returns to Folsom Field for its next home game Oct. 5 against No. 2 Oregon, there will be added incentive for the Buffs to play well.

In addition to it being the first home game since historic flooding wrecked parts of the city and killed four Boulder County residents, the school had previously designated the weekend to honor former coach Bill McCartney for earning induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Needless to say, with all of those ingredients, emotions will be running high.

McCartney said Friday he is excited by the opportunity to return to the stadium where he built the Buffs into a national champion and share his accomplishment with Buffs fans and the other men who helped him become a hall of fame coach.

"You know how this works, is one guy gets credit for what a lot of people accomplished," McCartney said. "Looking back on the coaching staffs I had then. They were really good coaching staffs and good recruiters. I just want to make sure they get some acknowledgement here."

Eleven of the men who served as assistant coaches under McCartney during his tenure from 1982-1994 went on to become head coaches at the college or NFL levels. Two others members of his staffs became athletic directors, including current CU athletic director Rick George.

He is the first CU coach to earn the honor and the seventh CU hall of famer, joining former players Byron 'Whizzer' White, Joe Romig, Dick Anderson, Bobby Anderson, Alfred Williams and Jon Wooten.

More than two dozen of McCartney's former players have pledged to attend the celebration on Oct. 5. It's unclear how many of his former assistants will be able to make it, considering some are still in coaching or have careers in radio or television as football analysts.

McCartney learned he had earned induction to the hall in May when the National Football Foundation announced its 2013 class. He will be inducted at the NFF annual banquet in December and officially enshrined next summer.

"It really is humbling and honoring that guys would want to come back," McCartney said. "The whole thing is something I want to share. I don't want to be receiving a lot of recognition. I want to share it with all the guys who deserve it. I was just a small part of it."

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Colorado football: Marques Mosley knows he must get better to see field more

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Two times in Colorado's season opener three weeks ago, sophomore Marques Mosley caught kickoffs deep in his end zone and slapped the ball in frustration at being forced to take a knee.

Mosley wants nothing more than to show he can make plays and help the Buffs win football games, but he's not getting the opportunities so far this season that came so easily a year ago when he was a true freshman.

He started this season as a backup free safety after finishing last year as a starter at strong safety when several of his older teammates were dealing with injuries.

"I'm kind of upset but it's not a big deal," Mosley said. "I know I'm a sophomore so I have time to grow. I have to get bigger and smarter on the field."

"... I just tell myself I have to get better regardless of who is playing in front of me or if I'm playing as a starter. Either way it goes, I need to get better."

Mosley said the parts of the game he believes he needs to improve on most are "being football smart, knowing the plays and knowing what they're going to do."

He is playing behind fourth-year junior Jered Bell, who made one of the pivotal plays in the Buffs' win two weeks ago over Central Arkansas. Bell picked off a pass in the fourth quarter and returned it for a touchdown.

Parker Orms, a senior starter at strong safety, is one of the team's most seasoned players and true freshman Chidobe Awuzie has been a consistent playmaker winning the No. 1 nickel back job. Coach Mike MacIntyre said he is pleased with Mosley's effort and work to this point. It's just that it has been tough for him to get on the field with teammates ahead of him on the depth chart playing well and staying healthy.

"I think his attitude has been phenomenal every day," MacIntyre said. "I've really been pleased with his attitude, his work ethic."

"You know in his situation, Jered Bell and Parker Orms are both older guys that have played a lot and both of them had bad knees last year and so far both their knees have stayed well. If they would have both had good knees last year, he might not have played as much."

Mosley played in 12 games as a true freshman and was sixth in tackles for the Buffs. He started seven games, three at nickel back and four at strong safety. He earned honorable mention All-Pac-12 honors from the league's coaches.

He also was the Buffs' primary kickoff return man for much of the season and the highlight of his season came in the finale against Utah when he returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown to tie the score in the fourth quarter. It was the Buffs' first kickoff return for a touchdown in three years.

Mosley has gone from averaging 44 plays a game on defense in 2012 to getting on the field for just 14 plays in the first two games of this season combined. He also appears to have lost the kickoff return job to true freshman Ryan Severson, who has returned three kickoffs this season to Mosley's one.

Mosley isn't just trying to out-play teammates, he's also fighting a battle to keep weight on his 6-foot frame. He is listed at 175 pounds, but has trouble staying at or near that weight, which can be a problem for a safety.

Mosley said his metabolism hasn't cooperated in his efforts to put on weight. He said he added some weight in the winter and again between spring and summer practices, but when he begins practicing on regular basis in the spring and summer, he drops weight again.

He said he eats a lot and drinks shakes to beef up his calories but it hasn't helped so far.

"There is nothing I can do really but tell myself I have to get better and go out every day focused and do my part on the team and make the team better," Mosley said.

Recruiting needs

While Colorado players will enjoy a weekend off, CU coaches will be on the road primarily in California, Texas and Colorado recruiting.

MacIntyre has 13 commitments for a class he expects to number approximately 22 on national signing day in February. He said the staff is recruiting a class spread evenly across all positions on the depth chart with a few exceptions.

"Our numbers are pretty good where we can get a little bit at every position," MacIntyre said. "I would say we're targeting a little bit the D-line and I would say we're targeting a little bit trying to get some tall tackles."

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