



Hawk has few holes to fill in '08 class

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
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One month remains in the 2008 recruiting cycle for college football coaches, but the Colorado staff already has finished most of its hard work.

Coach Dan Hawkins will spend much of the month keeping in touch with his current commitments in an effort to make sure they are not lured away by other programs. CU is close to filling its recruiting class and has no more than three scholarships to give. The number could be as few as two or even one, but many factors will impact that determination over the coming days.

CU is limited to 24 initial scholarships for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 recruiting classes as part of a punishment doled out by the NCAA last summer for self-reported rules violations involving the way the athletic department handled its training table meals for athletes between 2001 and 2005.

Hawkins said this week he plans to use all 24 scholarships this year. CU has 17 known commitments according to both rivals.com and scout.com. Hawkins has said he plans to give scholarships to current walk-on wide receiver Scotty McKnight and safety D.J. Dykes, bringing the total to 19.

Place-kicker Jameson Davis, who originally committed to Boise State when Hawkins coached there, has told the Idaho Statesman and rivals.com he has been awarded a scholarship at CU, bringing the total to 20.

Davis actually participated in spring practices at Boise State in 2005 before going on a two-year church mission he completed this fall.

Colorado coaches are also expecting junior college running back P.T. Gates to finally enroll in classes at CU this week. Gates was a part of the 2007 recruiting class but did not complete course work at Saddleback College in California in time to join the team this season. If Gates does indeed finally make it to Boulder, he brings the scholarship count to 21.

That leaves three available scholarships.

One of them will go to Devan Johnson, another member of the 2007 class who greyshirted this fall because he had not received a passing score on his college entrance exams in time to join the program last summer. As of last week, Johnson's status remained in doubt because he had still not received the passing score after several more attempts this fall.

The bruising running back/tight end prospect from the Pittsburgh area would be a nice addition if his score finally comes through, but without it the Buffs still have three scholarships available.

Another scholarship could go to another talented running back — the nation's best in fact.

Darrell Scott, rated as the best prep tailback in the nation by every major recruiting service, has listed CU at the top of his list for several months. His uncle is CU wide receiver Josh Smith. Scott will wait until national signing day Feb. 6 to announce his decision, but assuming he comes to CU, that leaves only two available scholarships (one if Johnson qualifies).

Whether the number is one, two or three, CU has no shortage of prospects to award its final scholarships.

The major recruiting services list a number of promising prospects at various positions as still considering CU. Hawkins might also be able to buy himself a little wiggle room if one member of the class will agree to delay his enrollment to next January, thereby opening another scholarship.

Offensive lineman Vaughn Dotsy, defensive lineman Tevita Finau, running back Milton Knox, tight end Dion Jordan and wide receivers Philip Pierre-Louis, Nelson Rosario and Ed Tinker are among the list of prospects who could still end up being a part of the 2008 CU class.

But if one or two of them commit, the others would have to go elsewhere.

Another name of note is E.J. Woods, a four-star safety from Crespi High School in Encino, Calif. Woods made an official visit to CU last month but has been committed to UCLA. He was said to be impressed with the Buffs after his trip to Boulder, but has since added Texas A&M and Florida State to his list of possibilities.

UCLA is probably on better footing with Woods once again as well now that the school hired former CU coach Rick Neuheisel.

Today is the first day of a brief dead period. A two-day quiet period, in which contact with recruits is only allowed on campus, begins Friday and recruiting kicks in to high gear again Sunday through Feb. 2. National signing day arrives Feb. 6.



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