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obituary

Consultant nurtured leadership potential

By Virginia Culver
The Denver Post

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Kevin May taught at Regis and had played football at CU. (Special to The Denver Post)

Kevin May, who taught at Regis University and was a consultant in leadership training and a former University of Colorado football player, died June 13 after a five-year battle with colon cancer. He was 41.

A service is planned at 1 p.m. Friday at King Baptist Church, 3370 Ivy St. He will lie in state there from noon to 1 p.m.

Viewing will be today from 4 to 9 p.m. at Caldwell-Kirk Mortuary, 2101 Marion St.

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May was founder and president of Ascend Human and Organizational Development Co., aimed at teaching people how to uncover their leadership abilities.

He was an affiliate professor at Regis in the master's of nonprofit management program.

Kristy Martin, a former student of May's, said he taught class members to determine "what is holding us back from moving forward" and led the class to assess their emotional journeys.

"Kevin was always fully committed with his heart, intelligence and passion," said Lauren Casteel, vice president of the Denver Foundation's philanthropic partnerships.

"He had a sincere interest in what was going on around him and could pick up the nuances in what people said," Casteel said. May was on the foundation's advisory committee.

He specialized in teaching those in nonprofits to be inclusive and diverse.

"He was unbelievably good at what he did," said Mike Johnson, who works with Project PAVE (Promoting Alternatives to Violence Through Education).

May was active in Democratic politics and campaigned door-to-door for Barack Obama, said his wife, Angela May. "He was so glad our daughters will never know a time when it wasn't possible for an African-American to be anything he wants," she said.

Kevin D. May was born in Montclair, Calif., on Dec. 2, 1967, and graduated from Pomona (Calif.) High School. He got a football scholarship to the University of Colorado and played guard for the Buffaloes from 1986 to 1990.

One Sunday, he spotted Angela Gosha at King Baptist Church. About a week later he saw her at a club, she said. "Can you believe he said, 'Don't I know you from somewhere?'" she recalled. "I said, 'Yeah, right.' He replied, 'I saw you at church.'" They were married on June 26, 1993.

May earned his bachelor of science and business administration degree at CU and later earned a master's in nonprofit management.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Aisha, 14, and Bria, 15; his mother, Patricia Caraway, and sister, Pamela Mshana, both of Ontario, Calif.; and his grandmother, Malinda Spotville of Denver.

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Woelk: Landing top-rated QB rare for CU football team

By Neill Woelk
Thursday, June 18, 2009

Cleaning up odds and ends from the notebook ...

As another football recruiting season starts to heat up (seriously -- does it ever end?), a couple of my friends have been wondering why Colorado has had such a rough time over the years attracting a highly rated prep quarterback.

Wish I had the answer.

For whatever reason, a four- or five-star QB signing with the Buffs is a rarity. The last was Craig Ochs, who signed on with Gary Barnett in 2000. Before that, it was Koy Detmer, part of Bill McCartney's 1992 class.

That's two in the last 18 classes.

It's not as if the Buffs haven't landed highly rated players at other positions at a decent rate. Linebacker, O-line, running back -- just about every place on the field.

Not that you can't win without a big-name QB recruit. It's been done. But when you take a look around the country, it does seem to help. Here's hoping the Buffs can take it up a notch in the next couple of years -- or that some of the lesser-known players who have signed or are committed to sign turn out to be diamonds in the rough. ...

Speaking of QBs, can you name the most productive quarterback in the last 10 years to spend time on the CU campus? (Answer below). ...

Here's a plug for the upcoming Buffs 4 Life Charity Golf Tournament on June 29 at Omni Interlocken, the fourth annual event produced by the group. It's a good event for a great cause.

Buffs 4 Life is a group of former CU athletes who have banded together to help Buffs who have hit upon hard times. A few years ago, they pitched in to help the family of the late Anthony Weatherspoon, and the group continues to grow and expand its charitable causes.

This year, along with helping the families of former players who have been stricken with medical issues, the tournament will also benefit the Denver Safe House and the American Cancer Society.

One of the leaders of the group, former CU player and assistant coach Jon Embree, said the words of Bill McCartney still ring true.

"One thing about Coach Mac (Bill McCartney) is that he always preached that we were a family," Embree said. "That thought continues. What everyone has been able to do has been amazing. What guys have done for teammates, for charities, and how much everyone has helped, has been a terrific experience."

This year's tournament has some nice prizes as part of the "Ultimate Putt" competition. The grand prize is a one-week stay for 16 folks at Casa de Golf resort in Costa Rica. Second place includes a one-week stay in a Grand Park mountain home near Winter Park.

The tournament will feature a long list of former players and coaches, and Embree said there are still a few open spots.

For more information on Buffs 4 Life or the charity event, go to www.Buffs4Life.com. ...

Just a guess, but here's betting that Sept. 20 will find former Fairview coach Sam Pagano and his wife, Diana, at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego when the Chargers meet the Baltimore Ravens.

Their cheering interests will be split. One son, John, is the linebackers coach for the Chargers. Another, Chuck, is the secondary coach for the Ravens.

Where will it leave their parents? Mom will most likely be in the stands watching. But from what we know about Dad, he'll be outside, circling the stadium, too nervous to watch. ...

On the hoops front, the list of instructors at Jeff Bzdelik's Buff basketball camp on campus this week is an impressive one.

Helping young hoopsters hone their skills are former NBA players Sven Nater, Harvey Grant and Brent Price. For the young 'uns out there who don't remember, Nater played for legend John Wooden at UCLA and alongside a guy by the name of Bill Walton before enjoying a long NBA career. Grant, a Clemson product, also had a long NBA career and Price (along with enjoying a solid pro career) is a great trivia answer: he still owns the Oklahoma single-game 3-point record (11 vs. Loyola-Marymount in 1990). ...

And, speaking of hoops, word is there are some outstanding pick-up games being played these days on the CU campus. Along with new and veteran CU players, a number of other Division I players home in Denver for the summer are making the trek to Boulder on a regular basis, including Gonzaga guard Matt Bouldin. ...

A Buff fan called me last week to let me know of the passing of former Buff standout Harold Punches recently in St. Louis.

Don't feel bad if you don't recognize the name. I didn't either -- but I'm glad the fan called. A little investigation revealed that Harold Punches lettered three years for the Buffs at tackle, (1938-39-40) and he was good enough to be drafted by the Cleveland Rams in 1941.

But Harold never played pro ball. Instead, he did what many young men were doing in the days that produced the "Greatest Generation." He joined the military, enlisting with the Navy in 1942. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor, where he commanded a sub-chaser until the end of World War II. After an honorable discharge, he became a teacher and businessman -- and remained a Buff fan for his entire life.

Punches, from Wymore, Neb., had two brothers who also played and lettered for the Buffs. Max

Punches played the same years that Harold played, and little brother Dick lettered in 1949-50. It was indeed a Buff family.

We lose more members of that Greatest Generation every day. Here's a nod of recognition and thanks not only to Harold Punches for his service to our country, but to all his brethren from an era we would be wise to remember. ...

From the Department of Quick Results, we bring you Colorado National Golf Club (formerly Vista Ridge) in Erie.

Just a couple of months ago, Colorado National was named the home course for the Buffs. Last week, the course was awarded an NCAA regional in 2011.

That's a major boost for the program and Colorado National, and a feather in the cap of owner and former CU golfer Steve Kerr, who is proving to be a great supporter of Buff sports. ...

Quarterback answer: Try former walk-on Colt Brennan, who never played a down for the Buffs, but instead transferred to Hawaii, where he broke all kinds of passing records. ...

And finally, those of us who already are feeling their age will feel a little older with this reminder: Next fall will mark the 15-year anniversary of Bill McCartney's last season in Boulder, as well as the 2,000-yard season from Rashaan Salaam that produced CU's only Heisman Trophy.

Just doesn't seem that long ago.



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