

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

college football

CU-CSU extended, but where?

By Natalie Meisler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 09/24/2008 12:36:50 AM MDT

Colorado and Colorado State have agreed to continue their football series, but left undecided is where the games will be played.

The rival schools beat their self-imposed deadline by a week with an announcement Tuesday that they intend to keep playing beyond the 2010 game, which is scheduled for Fort Collins.

"This simply addressed the need for a commitment to play prior to Oct. 1 (the deadline)," CU athletic director Mike Bohn said. "We have a lot of work to do engaging Denver, Fort Collins, Boulder and all the entities involved. I'm not prepared to say it will be in Denver only. We have a lot of groups to visit with."

CU has been amenable to playing the game at Invesco Field at Mile High as long as it has at least six games in Boulder on the schedule. That wasn't the case for 2009, so Bohn elected to take the game back to Boulder.

CSU athletic director Paul Kowalczyk and coach Steve Fairchild have said they want the game in Denver every year. After Bohn announced earlier this month he would exercise CU's option to have the game played at Folsom Field in 2009, CSU

immediately announced it would play the 2010 game at Hughes Stadium.

CU coach Dan Hawkins prefers having the game at Folsom Field but was happy the sides agreed to extending the series.

"I think it's great for the state. It brings a lot of attention to football in the state. From that standpoint, it's really awesome," Hawkins said.

The Denver Metro Sports Commission is trying to help bring the game back to Invesco.

"We need to get the groups together to sit down and see what kind of deal we and Denver can put on the table and entice them to bring the games here," Commission president KieAnn Brownell said.

With a seating capacity in excess of 76,000 (compared to 53,750 in Boulder and 34,000 in Fort Collins) and opportunities for corporate sponsorship, games at Invesco provide bigger paydays to both schools, particularly to CSU.

There has been some subtle pressure from the state level in past contract extensions. After this year's game, Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter said he hoped the series would continue in Denver. Bohn said he talked with Ritter on Thursday during CU's overtime win against West Virginia and the governor inquired about progress in talks.

"I told him we're both working hard to commit to keep playing," Bohn said. "He's certainly supportive."

Kowalczyk said: "We're extremely excited about continuing the series for the good of our respective institutions and the state. We look forward to working with the leadership of Denver as we get closer to finalizing the details of the agreement."

Advertisement

FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!

Leather High-Back \$219

Leather Mid-Back \$199

Bookcases Various Sizes \$149-\$259

2-Drawer Lateral File \$399

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience

11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD
Between Kipling & Simms

303-759-3375
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

The series, held sporadically from 1983-1992, has been played continuously since 1995. Since 1998, every game except 2004 and 2005 (both at Folsom Field) was played in Denver. The current agreement expires in 2010.

The rivalry assures CSU of an opponent beyond 2010 from a BCS conference. The Mountain West's three teams in the top 25 (No. 11 BYU, No. 17 Utah and No. 24 TCU) are a combined 4-0 against BCS teams with two to go this weekend.

Natalie Meisler: 303-954-1295 or
nmeisler@denverpost.com

Advertisement

FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!

Leather High-Back
\$219

Leather Mid-Back
\$199

Bookcases
Various Sizes
\$149-\$259

2-Drawer Lateral File
\$399

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience

11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD
Between Kipling & Simms

303-759-3375
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

sports

Bowden's long coaching run amazes Hawkins

Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 09/23/2008 11:24:36 PM MDT

BOULDER — Colorado's Dan Hawkins could not imagine himself or others coaching in 500 college football games, a milestone that will be reached Saturday by Florida State's venerable Bobby Bowden when CU plays against the Seminoles in Jacksonville, Fla.

"It's an amazing feat," Hawkins said Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon. "I'm one of those guys who says, 'Never say never,' but that has become very hard to do.

"There is so much attention and scrutiny on programs now. Eventually people get tired of your offense, they get tired of your recruiting, you get tired of press conferences. 'We want a new face. We want new jokes.' That's just the nature of our society."

Bowden is surpassed only by Amos Alonzo Stagg (548) and Joe Paterno (504). Saturday will mark college game No. 145 for Hawkins as a head coach.

Colorado Football

- [View](#) slide show of West Virginia-CU football
- [View](#) slide show of former CU coach and AD Eddie Crowder, who died Sept. 9
- [View](#) slide show of E. Washington-CU football
- [Watch](#) video of CU fans at the Rocky Mountain Showdown
- [Visit](#) the CU Stats Page for boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more
- [Visit](#) Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports
- [Play](#) Pick'em for the upcoming CU football game

"I think if you added up every basketball, baseball, rec league . . . every game I've ever been in, that's probably about 300," Hawkins said with a grin.

Early games next season?

Colorado could play two nationally televised nonconference games on weekdays in 2009, CU athletic director Mike Bohn said Tuesday.

Bohn declined to say which games may be played on Thursday night or Friday night. Nonconference opponents next year are Colorado State (in Boulder), Miami (Ohio) at Oxford, Wyoming (Boulder) and West Virginia (Morgantown). ESPN and ESPN2 televise weekday games.

Advertisement

FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!

Leather High-Back

\$219



Leather Mid-Back

\$199



Bookcases
Various Sizes

\$149-\$259



2-Drawer Lateral File

\$399





OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience

11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD
Between Kipling & Simms

303-759-3375
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Celestine departure.

Although the depth at wide receiver has been thinned with the departure of sophomore Kendrick Celestine this week, CU wide receivers coach Eric Kiesau said burning the redshirt of freshman Chance Blackmon is not a consideration — at least not at this point.

"We can use some other people," Kiesau said. "(But) Chance is going to travel. He's going to prepare. If something tragic happens, he might be forced into action."

Celestine, from Mamou, La., caught 11 passes for 151 yards in 2007 as a true freshman and had five receptions for 46 yards this season. He quit the team to attend to a family matter in Louisiana and is not expected to return, Kiesau said.

Footnote.

Starting strong safety D.J. Dykes has been cleared to play against Florida State. Dykes, a senior, missed the West Virginia game because of a virus that sapped his strength.

*Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or
tkensler@denverpost.com*

Advertisement



FACTORY OVERSTOCK BLOWOUT!

Leather High-Back \$219		Leather Mid-Back \$199	
Bookcases Various Sizes \$149-\$259		2-Drawer Lateral File \$399	

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W. 6th Ave/ LAKEWOOD
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375
www.OfficeLiquidators.com

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado
Thursday, September 25,
2008



Publish Date: 9/24/2008

500 for CU's Hawk? Not likely

By Patrick Ridgell
Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — It's a story Dan Hawkins has told before. But it's worth hearing again.

When he was early in his Boise State tenure, Hawkins joined several other college football coaches on a large yacht for the annual NIKE coaches trip off the coast of Aruba. Upon seeing the likes of Penn State's Joe Paterno and Florida State's Bobby Bowden on board, Hawkins wondered if he belonged. More specifically, he wondered if he should be "scrubbing the deck or something."

Bowden approached the wide-eyed Hawkins and asked, "What are you looking at?"

Hawkins answered, "I'm looking at all of these guys, going, 'What in the heck am I doing here?'"

Bowden said, "Hey, you're one of the boys now."

Hawkins elbowed his wife, Misti, and said, "Did you hear that? I'm one of the boys."

History will be made Saturday when Hawkins takes his Colorado team to face Bowden and Florida State in Jacksonville (1:30 p.m., ABC). Bowden will become the third man to coach 500 collegiate football games, joining Amos Alonzo Stagg and Paterno, who reached the mark in last year's Alamo Bowl.

Hawkins, who will be coach his 145th collegiate football game, said that as years go by, it's going to become even more difficult to reach the number.

"There's so much scrutiny and so much attention given to coaches and programs now," he said. "Part of that is what makes college football awesome. But people get tired of your offense, they get tired of your recruiting, you get tired of press conferences, we want a new face, we want new jokes. That's just the nature of our society.

"It's not enough anymore, I think, for a coach to do a good job, because eventually, those parameters change of what's good."

Saturday's game will be Bowden's 395th at Florida State. He's faced teams from 31 states. In 42 seasons — Bowden, 78, began coaching Samford in 1959 — he's had two losing teams.

"There ain't nothing I can do to stop it," Bowden said Monday. "No doubt about it, you have to coach a long time, and you have to win a lot of games, too.

"I probably still feel about the same now before a ballgame as I did before my first game. That never really changes much."

A few Buffs echoed Bowden's point.

Coaching longevity

The top five leaders in number of games coached in college football:

1. Amos Alonzo Stagg: 548 games (1890-1946)
2. Joe Paterno: 504 (1966-present)
3. Bobby Bowden: 499 (1959-62; 1970-present)
4. Pop Warner: 457 (1895-1938)
5. Bear Bryant: 425 (1945-1982)

"I don't know many coaches who lose a lot of games who coach 500 games," CU quarterback Cody Hawkins said.

Dan Hawkins said the urge to make a change has driven certain programs to fire "some pretty good coaches."

Frequently, those changes don't get the team close to where it expects to be, or even where it was before.

"I've joked about even 'Cats' got canceled; they took 'M*A*S*H' off the air," Hawkins said.

"If you talk to coach Bowden and you talk to coach Paterno, it is way different than it was before. Teams that are going 10-2, you're not going, 'That guy does a good job; he runs a good program.' They're going, 'Why can't you be 12-0? ... We want somebody who can win the national championship.'"

With ABC's telecast and a large Jacksonville crowd on hand, Saturday's history won't be lost on the Buffaloes.

"It's awesome, because I've always had a lot of respect for coach Bowden," Cody Hawkins said. "If you can be in this business for that long and be successful, you're really something special.

"To be able to go down there and be part of that will be special. Hopefully, we can wreck the party for them."

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at pridgell@times-call.com.

[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado
Thursday, September 25,
2008



Publish Date: 9/24/2008

Buffs, CSU extend series past 2010

By Patrick Ridgell
Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — The Colorado-Colorado State football series will continue.

The schools announced Tuesday that they have agreed to continue the series past 2010, the final season of their current deal. While sites and dates remain to be determined, athletic director Mike Bohn said the announcement was made Tuesday so the programs could meet CU's stated goal of extending the series by Oct. 1.

"Now the process continues with meeting with various entities and different constituent groups to see where we go from here," he said.

Asked if both schools are agreeable to playing in Denver, Bohn said: "We will have to work through all of those (details) in the collaboration and spirit of partnership with CSU and the Buffs."

In a release, CSU athletic director Paul Kowalczyk said: "We're extremely excited about continuing the series for the good of our respective institutions and the state. We look forward to working with the leadership of Denver as we get closer to finalizing some of the details of the agreement."

Bohn would not say whether the teams will meet in 2011. As of Tuesday, CU still had an open date on Sept. 17 scheduled that year. The Buffs will host California, Fresno State, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska in 2011. Bohn maintains that CU wants to schedule at least six home games a year.

The programs' 2009 game will be played in Boulder. In 2010, they'll go to Fort Collins.

In order to meet its call for at least six home games a year, CU needs to schedule visiting opponents in 2012 and 2015.

"I think it's great for the state," CU coach Dan Hawkins said about the series. "I think it brings a lot of attention to college football in the state. From that standpoint, I think it's really awesome."

In other scheduling matters, Bohn said there are "potential opportunities" about a series with Air Force. It's also possible that CU's road games at Miami (Ohio) and West Virginia in 2009 could be nationally televised and played on weeknights.

CELESTINE QUILTS: Sophomore receiver Kendrick Celestine informed coaches Sunday that he has quit the team.

"Kendrick is having some personnel issues that he has to kind of deal with back home, so he decided it's best for him and his family to go back home and take care of that with him and his mom," receiver coach Eric Kiesau said.

Celestine, from Mamou, La., declined to be interviewed Tuesday. Kiesau said he "highly doubts" Celestine will return.

Kiesau said freshman receiver Chance Blackmon will prepare to play, but coaches still want to redshirt him. They will play Blackmon only "if something tragic were to happen," according to Kiesau.

Receiver Jason Espinoza, out since August with a broken collarbone, is expected to return to practice within the next

week or two and could add depth.

Celestine caught five passes in the first two games but did not play against West Virginia. Kiesau said Celestine's playing time was "some of the issue (for his departure), but a very small amount."

Near the end of the season opener against CSU on Aug. 31, as the Buffs were putting the game away, Celestine was sitting alone on the bench while most of his teammates were standing on the sideline. He entered the game on CU's final drive and caught a 35-yard pass that set up its final touchdown.

Asked the week after the CSU win how CU can keep all of its young receivers happy, offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said: "That's part of everybody's maturity and growth. Kendrick is a young guy that wants to be in the game."

EXTRA POINTS: Hawkins said safety D.J. Dykes will play Saturday against Florida State in Jacksonville (1:30 p.m., ABC). Dykes missed Thursday's defeat of West Virginia with an illness. Hawkins said Dykes wanted to play but coaches wouldn't let him. ... CU will receive \$600,000 from Florida State for Saturday's game. The Buffs paid Florida State \$400,000 when it visited Boulder last year. ... A handful of tickets remain for CU's Big 12 opener, Oct. 4 against Texas, at Folsom Field. ... CU will learn Monday if its Oct. 11 game at Kansas will be televised. Bohn said he anticipates it will be, with the way CU (3-0) and Kansas (3-1) are playing.

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at pridgell@times-call.com.



CU report: WR Celestine leaving Buffs

By B.G. Brooks

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Promising sophomore receiver **Kendrick Celestine** told University of Colorado coaches on Sunday he was leaving the team.

A three-sentence announcement in CU's weekly football release said Celestine, of Mamou, La., was leaving for personal reasons. Saying he was headed for a study session, Celestine declined interview requests Tuesday.

Position coach **Eric Kiesau** said Celestine's decision was based on "personal issues back home" instead of displeasure with playing time or how he was being utilized.

"It's very unfortunate. We just wish him the best, really," Kiesau said, adding he believed Celestine, one of the Buffaloes' fastest receivers, was leaving school. "That's more of a day-to-day thing. We'll know more as his situation develops."

Celestine, who did not play in last week's 17-14 overtime win against then-No. 21 West Virginia, had five receptions for 46 yards in CU's first two games. His career totals: 16 catches, 197 yards; six carries, 27 yards.

Kiesau said freshman receiver **Chance Blackmon**, a redshirt candidate, will travel with the team for the Florida State game in Jacksonville, Fla. (1:30 p.m. MDT Saturday, KMGH-Channel 7).

"Hopefully, he won't have to (play)," Kiesau said. "But he's going to travel, prepare and take the tests like he would. If something tragic were to happen, he might be forced into action."

Kiesau said receiver/return specialist **Jason Espinoza** (broken collarbone) is about "a week and a half away" from returning.

Thursday night review

BOULDER - In an open letter to members of the CU community, athletic director **Mike Bohn** expressed his gratitude for "your hard work, flexibility and sacrifices" during last week's game. Bohn acknowledged how disruptive the game could have been on a number of campus fronts but said overall he believed it was a positive experience for the university.

The game was nationally televised by ESPN and discussions are expected with the network and respective schools to air two CU nonconference road games next season (Miami of Ohio and West Virginia) in possible weeknight games.

Florida payday

CU will be paid \$600,000 for the game, Bohn said - \$200,000 more than the Seminoles earned for last year's trip to Boulder.

© Rocky Mountain News



Wide receiver Celestine quits Buffs

By Kyle Ringo

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Colorado wide receiver Kendrick Celestine has quit the team to return home to Louisiana for personal reasons, coaches said Tuesday.

The sophomore reserve had played in two games this season, making five catches for 46 yards. Wide receivers coach Eric Kiesau said playing time was only a small part of the reason Celestine gave for parting ways with the CU program.

"Kendrick has some personal issues that he needs to kind of deal with back home," Kiesau said. "So he decided it would be best for him and his family to go back home and take of everything with him and his mom."

Celestine remained on campus Tuesday and declined several interview requests. Kiesau said it was unclear whether Celestine would immediately withdraw from school. Celestine struggled to keep himself academically eligible last spring but made the grades he needed over the summer.

Celestine played in 12 games as a true freshman last fall and made two starts against Oklahoma and Alabama. He finished the season with 11 catches for 151 yards and six carries for 27 yards. He leaves CU without ever having scored a touchdown.

Celestine admitted in the summer that he had considered leaving CU last spring but chose to stay.

Kiesau said he hopes to avoid using true freshman receiver Chance Blackmon this season, but Blackmon will travel with the team and prepare each week as if he will play. Losing Celestine more likely means a boost in playing time for players such as Steve Melton and Cody Crawford.

"If something tragic were to happen, then he might be forced into action," Kiesau said of Blackmon.

More weekday

games coming

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn said it is likely the Buffs will play nonconference, nationally televised road games on Thursday and Friday next season, but plans haven't been finalized.

The Buffs are scheduled to play on Saturdays at this point at Miami (Ohio) on Sept. 12 and at West Virginia on Sept. 26.

Bohn said he has received numerous calls from boosters and alumni from around the nation expressing positive feedback on how the school was portrayed during the ESPN broadcast of CU's win over West

Virginia last Thursday.

Bohn also said the game didn't come without its sacrifices and he wrote a letter to the editor for Boulder newspapers Tuesday, expressing his appreciation to faculty, students and CU employees for dealing with the inconvenience of the midweek game.

Florida still a target

During his Tuesday luncheon with reporters, Dan Hawkins said his program will continue to target Florida for recruits in the years to come. Six current Buffs spent all or part of their childhoods in the talent-rich Sunshine State.

"It's always just about finding the right guy, the right fit," Hawkins said. "Sometimes you find the guy who wants a change, he wants to do something different, he wants to get out of the box, wants to see another part of the world. Every kid is different. Some definitely want to stay home, they like it or there's family there, or comfort level, whatever it is. So it's just about finding that right kid that says, 'Yeah, I'm looking for change and I want to go. I like Colorado and I like what you guys are all about.'"

Notable

The Oct. 4 Colorado homecoming game against Texas will be televised on Fox Sports Net and will begin at 5 p.m. ... Safety D.J. Dykes is listed as questionable on the CU injury report, but he said after Tuesday's practice that he is healthy and ready to play after battling a severe stomach virus last week. ...

The Buffs 17-14 win last week was the first for Hawkins at CU when his team has scored less than 20 points. ... Florida State will pay Colorado \$600,000 for Saturday's game. The Buffs paid FSU \$400,000 to come to Boulder last season. ... Walk-on Jason Espinoza, who was the leading candidate to be the starting punt return man and a contributing wideout before breaking his collarbone in training camp, is about 10 days from being cleared to practice.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Bufs, Rams extend football rivalry

Camera staff

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Colorado and Colorado State will continue to play each other in football beyond 2010 when the current five-year contract expires, but how often and where those games take place is still far from decided.

Tuesday's announcement was, in large part, a formality meant to meet the Oct. 1 deadline for an agreement stipulated in the current contract. But neither athletic director had specific details to offer about the future of the series.

The programs are under contract to play in Boulder in 2009 and in Fort Collins in 2010. Locations, dates and financial details beyond that are still up in the air.

"Those are all nuances we're working on," CU athletic director Mike Bohn said.

Bohn said he remains committed to hosting six true homes games each year at Folsom Field. The Bufs have only five such games scheduled in 2012 and 2015 and CSU will likely have to agree to play those games at Folsom Field or skip that year in the series.

CSU turned down a 10-year deal Bohn proposed earlier this year in which three games would have been played at Folsom Field and the other seven at Invesco Field at Mile High in Denver.

That deal also included greater financial incentives for the Rams in the years in which the games would be in Boulder.

Bohn said the agreement, announced Tuesday, does not necessarily mean the contract will be extended for another five years as has been done in the past. It also doesn't necessarily mean the series will continue uninterrupted.

Bohn did say he believes the series is valuable to both schools and the state.

"We just don't have all the pieces together," he said. "So we wanted to get this out to so we could end any speculation about what we were doing, so that when we're ready with all the other pieces, we'll be able to address those."

Some have proposed adding Air Force to future schedules. Bohn refused to rule out that possibility, but the schedule is full through the 2012 season, assuming the Bufs play the Rams in 2011 and 2012.

The only way the Bufs could play both the Rams and Falcons in the same season in the next five years would be if CU used the available exception under NCAA rules to play a 13th regular season game in 2011, when they travel to Hawaii.

Cincinnati and Washington State both play 13 games this season because they used the exception for playing nonconference games at Hawaii.

Bohn said there is no timetable for finalizing the next contract with CSU, but he is continuing to work with Rams' athletic director Paul Kowalczyk on problems, such as the need to have some games in Folsom Field in the future.

"I am pleased that Mike and I have been able to reach an agreement," Kowalczyk said in a statement "We're extremely excited about continuing the series for the good of our respective institutions and the state. We look forward to working with the leadership of Denver as we get closer to finalizing some of the details of the agreement."



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Woelk: CU offense tries to find balance

By Neill Woelk

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

It's a delicate balance these days in the Colorado Buffaloes' backfield.

Talent abounds. Experience doesn't.

The result is a highwire act by the coaching staff as they attempt to find the midpoint of being too complicated and too simple.

Throw too much at the young Buffs in the ways of formations, and the risk of information overload is very real. The result can be broken plays (at best) and turnovers (at worst) when assignments are missed.

Keep it too simple — i.e. run one basic formation for an entire game — and opposing defenses will figure it out in a hurry.

It is, as head coach Dan Hawkins loves to note, a work in progress.

Earlier this week, progress meant Buff offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich spending his lunch hour in the film room, food on the table and Florida State's defense on the big screen.

One had his complete attention. The food went ignored.

Not that watching FSU's big, fast and athletic defense caused Helfrich to completely lose his appetite. But trying to find a way to attack a team that is among the nation's best on the defensive side of the ball no doubt at least diverted his attention from such mundane duties as eating.

"You try to find that balance with your offense, and it's a fluid approach," Helfrich said. "You want to be as multiple as possible and still have confidence in what you are doing. It's a fine line.

"What we know is that West Virginia and Florida State are two very different defensive teams."

After last week's win over then-No. 21 West Virginia, Buff fans were chattering about CU's occasional jump into a traditional I-formation. It was the first time the Buffs had shown the look for any length of time this season, and it produced some solid results.

But folks who think the Buffs should abandon their spread formation in favor of a full-time I-back attack will be sorely disappointed.

"Our schedule doesn't get any easier," said Helfrich. "We know that if we sit in one formation the whole day, people will get through in a hurry. We want to continue pushing that envelope."

In other words, the Buffs want to keep people guessing.

What's become clear this year is that the Buffs have more offensive weapons than they've had for several seasons. Newcomers Rodney Stewart and Darrell Scott give the Buffs a powerful one-two punch in the backfield. Sophomores Josh Smith and Scotty McKnight keep secondaries honest, and junior tight end Patrick Devenny has been CU's money guy on third and fourth downs.

But anyone who has watched the Buffs has also seen CU's young running backs constantly adjusting their positions in the no-huddle attack. At least one of CU's turnovers against West Virginia — when the Buffs were deep in WVU territory — can be directly attributed to a missed assignment.

“You have all the experts out there who want you to line up and do this or line up and do that, but as we continue to grow the package, you have to be multiple enough to get some things done, but simple enough that people know what they're supposed to do,” Hawkins said. “You have to keep pushing the envelope, but also, they have to be able to handle it. You're always just trying to be on the edge.”



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Woelk: Bowden likely last of a breed

By Neill Woelk

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Saturday afternoon, Bobby Bowden will step on the sidelines for his 500th game as a collegiate head coach.

Bowden, now 78, made his head coaching debut on Sept. 9, 1959, when he led Samford to a 14-0 win over Maryville (Tenn.).

Now, put that into perspective: Dwight D. Eisenhower was the U.S. president at the time; it was the same year that Alaska and Hawaii were admitted to the union; and a young rebel by the name of Fidel Castro became the prime minister of Cuba.

On the sports front, the Denver Broncos didn't exist, Johnny Unitas and his high tops were hot stuff and the Los Angeles Dodgers -- two seasons removed from Brooklyn -- would win the World Series later that fall.

(And yes, yours truly was alive at the time).

On the other sideline Saturday, Colorado's Dan Hawkins will coach his 145th game as a collegiate head coach. If you can read this, you don't need a history lesson. There's a good chance you not only were alive when Hawk coached his first game (1993), but you can remember what happened that year.

"I think if you added up every basketball, baseball, softball, rec league, every game I've ever been in, I think it would probably add up to about 300," Hawkins said Tuesday afternoon. "It's an amazing feat. I'm one of those guys who never says never, but I think as the years go on, you're going to see that become very hard to do anymore."

For Hawk to catch Bowden in terms of games coached, two things must happen: Hawk has to win (losing coaches don't keep their jobs) and he must have the tenacity to stay in the business for roughly 29 more seasons.

We like the odds of the first part.

We're not betting on the second.

Longevity in the coaching ranks is becoming extinct.

"One of the things that's changed over the years is that there is so much scrutiny and so much attention on coaches and programs now," Hawkins said. "Part of that is what makes college football awesome -- but eventually people get tired of your offense, they get tired of your recruiting ... that's just the nature of our society."

"It's not enough anymore for a coach to do a good job, because eventually those parameters change. What's good? ... Look at some of the programs in the recent past that have gotten rid of some pretty good coaches and look at them now. They aren't even close to where they were before."

A couple names that come to mind? Nebraska fired Frank Solich after he went 9-3 in 2003. The Huskers haven't sniffed that kind of season since and they're on their second head coach since Solich.

Then there's Texas A&M's R.C. Slocum, who never had a losing season in 14 years with the Aggies, but found himself unemployed after the 2002 season. The Aggies are now on their second head coach since Slocum's departure and nowhere near as good as they were when Slocum left.

"Teams that are going 10-2, you're not saying, 'Well, that guy does a good job, runs a clean program,' " Hawkins said. "People are saying, 'Why can't you be 12-0? We want someone that can be 12-0, someone who can win a national championship.' "

But not even a national championship buys you a lifetime deal. Larry Coker won a national title at Miami in 2001; he was gone after 2006. Lloyd Carr won the prize in 1997 at Michigan; then found himself not-so-gently pushed out last season.

Next in line? Phil Fulmer won it all in Tennessee in 1998, but unless he turns it around in a hurry this year, he'll be a mandatory former Volunteer.

It's the nature of the business. As Hawk said, the intense scrutiny that comes with the job leaves little room for patience. It's also easy to point the finger of blame at the media, and to a certain extent, that's correct.

But part of that scrutiny is also attached to the salaries coaches command today.

Figure this: in 1963, when Eddie Crowder took over as Colorado's coach, he signed a four-year contract worth \$15,000 per year. Even adjusted for inflation, that's barely \$100,000 in today's dollars.

Today, the low-end salary for a BCS head coach is \$1 million. When people see that kind of money, they want results.

Yes, longevity is indeed becoming extinct. The chances of seeing more head coaches stay at the same school for 33 years -- the length of time Bowden has been at FSU -- are slim. Patience for coaches is indeed in short supply.

But, the trade-off has been skyrocketing salaries for those coaches -- and that's a price they all seem willing to pay.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.