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Game against CU tough to fit in AFA schedule

By Irv Moss
The Denver Post

Posted: 06/21/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

AIR FORCE ACADEMY — No matter how much it appears to be the case, Air Force athletic director Hans Mueh can't yet admit that the chances of renewing the AFA-Colorado football rivalry is a dead issue.

Mueh said last week there had been discussions about the Falcons and Buffaloes playing a home-and-home series in 2008 and 2009, but their schedules couldn't be matched to accommodate the games.

"I'm willing to discuss it, but it's not one of those things I will spend a lot of time on," Mueh said. "A home-and-home rivalry just wouldn't fit in our schedule. We have only two openings each year, and we have to take advantage of those opportunities."

The Falcons play eight games in the Mountain West Conference and Army and Navy each year,

leaving just two additional games. One of the openings is reserved for a home game in the opening week of the season.

"We've agreed that for the first five years of coach Troy Calhoun's term as coach that we would attempt to play an opponent where we're favored to win in the Parents Weekend game," Mueh said.

He added that if the Falcons are going to draw attention from higher-level bowl games, they must upgrade their schedule and play more teams from BCS-affiliated conferences.

Mueh said one of the biggest problems in trying to schedule CU is the Buffs' contract to play Colorado State the first week of the season. The Falcons have an opening in their schedule for the first game of the 2012 season, but CU is committed to play CSU.

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Hawkins discusses Smith's departure

CU coach says some players feel 'grass is always greener' elsewhere

By Chris Shelton
Saturday, June 20, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins didn't sound upset about the loss of receiver/returner Josh Smith when Hawkins was interviewed on KKFN "The Fan" radio station Friday.

Hawkins announced earlier this month that Smith would not be returning for his junior season after Smith set CU records for kickoff returns (50) and yards (1,286); and caught 52 passes for 838 yards in two seasons at CU.

Hawkins has not returned phone calls to the Camera this summer, but he did address Smith's departure on the radio.

"Back when I played it wasn't the same type of environment," Hawkins said. "Nowadays you see a lot of guys transferring.

"If it's not always working out exactly like a guy wants, they go. The grass is always greener."

Smith asked for his release because CU does not offer the music major or program he wants to study. Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn granted Smith a release to USC only because the Trojans offer the music program Smith wants. USC is also close to Smith's home in Moorpark, Calif.

It's also possible that Smith will change his mind and stay at CU, but that didn't sound too likely during Hawkins' radio interview.

Hawkins said he believes his staff has laid a solid foundation in his program, one which looks out for the best interest of his players.

"You can't lower your standards," Hawkins said. "At the end of the day, you need to be all-in or all-out."

But Hawkins did say it was a "good-news, bad news" situation. The Buffs did gain Toney Clemons, who was one of the top receivers out of high school in 2007. Clemons transferred from Michigan to Colorado and is enrolled in summer school at CU.



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