



Smith's appeal denied

By Ryan Thorburn
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BOULDER, Colo. — If there is room for Josh Smith in the University of Southern California's football program, that's likely where Colorado's talented wide receiver/kick returner is headed.

A transfer appeal committee upheld the decision made earlier this month by CU football coach Dan Hawkins and athletic director Mike Bohn to only grant Smith's release to USC.

Smith, who had a list of between eight and 10 schools he was interested in contacting after informing Hawkins of his intention to transfer from CU, had appealed the decision to the three-person panel made of professors.

"That would be final," Julie Manning, CU associate athletic director for compliance, said of the decision. "There is no other recourse for the student-athlete."

Smith's options are now limited to transferring to USC, paying his way to another school for one year before being allowed to receive financial aid or returning to CU.

"Back when I played it wasn't the same type of environment," Hawkins said during a radio interview with KKFN earlier this week. "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 told Hawkins that his motivation for leaving was because CU does not offer the music major or program he wants to study. Apparently, the Moorpark, Calif., product's academic desires can be fulfilled at USC.

As for football, the Trojans are already deep at wide receiver. If Pete Carroll was interested in giving Smith a scholarship he would have to sit out the 2009 season, but seven of the top eight receivers on USC's depth chart are either juniors or underclassmen, which means cracking the lineup in 2010 could be a difficult task.

Meanwhile, Smith was on the verge of becoming a star at CU, where he set single-season school records with 50 kickoff returns for 1,286 yards in 2008 as a sophomore, and also grabbed 52 receptions for 838 yards in two seasons with the Buffs.

Hawkins named himself the new wide receivers coach this offseason to help get the most out of what is a currently super model-thin position at CU.

Manning reiterated that Smith can remain at CU if he decides not to transfer. However, Hawkins has made it clear that he needs full commitment from any player who wants to be in his program.

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

out.”



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[Smith appeal denied by CU transfer committee](#)

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Posted by ESPN.com's Tim Griffin

Colorado wide receiver [Josh Smith](#) now appears headed for USC after a Colorado transfer committee upheld a decision made by Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn and coach Dan Hawkins to grant Smith's release only to the Trojans.

Smith had appealed the school's decision to a three-member panel of Colorado faculty members to allow him to attend other schools from a group of eight to 10 potential transfer locations. But that group [upheld the athletic department's decision](#), the Boulder Daily Camera reported.

"That would be final," Colorado assistant athletic director Julie Manning told the Camera of the panel's decision. "There is no other recourse for the student-athlete."

Smith's options now are limited to transferring to USC, paying his own way to transfer to another school or remaining at Colorado.

With the Buffaloes, Smith had emerged as the Buffaloes' top breakaway threats, where he set single-season school records last season with 50 kickoff returns for 1,286 yards as a sophomore. He also snagged 52 receptions for 838 yards in two seasons with the Buffaloes.

Smith had told Hawkins that he wants to leave Colorado because the school does not offer the music major he hopes to pursue. Those academic aims can be fulfilled by attending USC, Smith has said.

Playing time for the Trojans might be a different matter. Smith would have to sit out the 2009 season with hopes of joining the team next year. Seven of USC's eight receivers are either juniors or underclassmen, making his chances of getting much playing time problematic at best. It would also be closer to his Moorpark, Calif., home.

But kick returns might be a different matter. Smith's talents in the kicking game clearly would be attractive to any program.

Among the other schools where Smith has talked about attending is Arizona State, where he is a close friend with Sun Devils quarterback [Samson Szakacsy](#). They spent time in the Phoenix area after the 2008 season recording tracks. Smith has announced he wants to pursue a musical career after producing rap demos and CDs since high school.

But if Smith wants to attend ASU with his friend, he would have to pay his own way to the school. Smith's cousin, heralded tailback Darrell Scott, has tried to talk him into remaining with the Buffaloes.

His chances of now staying with the Buffaloes might be more difficult because Hawkins is handling coaching the wide receiver position on his reconfigured coaching staff. And he made it clear in some comments to Denver radio station KKFN last week that he wants a commitment from players who are remaining on his roster.

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

Hawkins also lamented to the radio station an attitudinal change in athletes today compared to his own generation.

"Back when I played it wasn't the same type of environment," Hawkins told the radio station. "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."

• Tim Griffin



Tim Griffin joined ESPN.com in February

2008. He has covered the Big 12 since its inception, among a variety of beats during a 24-year career at the San Antonio Express-News. Griffin, a Memphis State University graduate, lives in San Antonio with his wife and son.

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It will be interesting to see where Smith surfaces. His easiest option would be to remain at Colorado, but it will take bending on both sides to make that happen.

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