



Hawk viewing: CU coach to open 10 practices to public

By Kyle Ringo
Thursday, July 2, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — Colorado football fans will be allowed once again to watch their beloved Buffaloes during the first week — 10 practices total — of fall camp in August.

Coach Dan Hawkins and his assistants have approved a tentative schedule that could still be adjusted in the next month leading up to the first practice on Aug. 7. It will allow fans an early look from the sidelines at the team, including approximately 30 newcomers.

CU generally splits its squad for the first week of fall camp into different practice sessions for veterans and newcomers.

Fans will be able to see all of those sessions this year, as well as the first scrimmage of fall camp. Practices will be closed to the public beginning on Aug. 14.

Hawkins closed practices to the public this spring after becoming annoyed by the amount of information being disseminated on the Internet from reporters and fans alike who attended the first six practice sessions.

Hawkins debated about also barring media from practices in the spring but decided against it.

Hawkins said he did not believe it was fair or wise to allow opposing coaches to scout his team during the spring by reading detailed reports of what was taking place at CU practices.

Some “practice reports” published on fan blogs and message boards were very detailed, including providing passing statistics, formations and players’ roles, assignments and performance within those formations.

“I’d love to have fans come,” Hawkins said in April. “It’s great. We want fans to come. We want fans to be a part of it and all that, but I don’t think we should be scouted in the spring. I’m the kind of guy who is a trusting guy. Unfortunately that trust doesn’t always go very far.”

Sports information director Dave Plati confirmed Thursday that Hawkins plans to welcome fans back inside the gates for the first week of drills in August. The program has routinely made that portion of fall drills open to fans for years, according to Plati.

He said he was not aware of any changes to the rules governing fan or media access this fall. In the past, fans have been asked to refrain from using cell phones during practices and the public is not allowed to take notes, video or pictures of what they see at practice.

Hawkins was angered two years ago when an onlooker posted video of a CU spring scrimmage on the Internet.

Regular season practices are always closed to the public and media members are allowed to watch practice only three days each week. Hawkins has a strict policy that reporters are not allowed to report anything they see during practices.

“The reality is, I think we try to be as fan friendly and as media friendly as we possibly can,” Hawkins said this spring.



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