



# Bohn not playing numbers game

## A.D. won't predict wins needed to make football season a success

By Kyle Ringo  
Tuesday, July 21, 2009

WINDSOR, Colo. — WINDSOR -- Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn might have a specific number of wins in mind for the football program this fall that will define whether it's a successful season. It might even be significantly shy of the "10-and-2 and no excuses" standard coach Dan Hawkins set forth in December.

But if Bohn does have a number in his head, he's not sharing it.

Bohn met with media members Monday afternoon at Pelican Lakes Golf Course after the annual Fred Casotti Classic tournament, named in honor of the school's former sports information director. He took questions and provided updates as he has done in past years usually surrounded by his head football coach and head basketball coaches.

Hawkins was unable to make Monday's tournament because he continues to recover from a procedure late last week to help him pass a kidney stone. Basketball coaches Jeff Bzdelik and Kathy McConnell-Miller were on the road recruiting.

Hawkins is entering his fourth year in Boulder and is still looking for his first winning campaign. Bohn was asked how many wins Hawkins' Buffs must achieve this season for it to be a successful year in his view.

"I think it's too early to say that, but in a lot of ways, we're having an awesome season already," Bohn said.

He used the word synergy repeatedly as he discussed the state of his department, budget challenges, football ticket sales, basketball scheduling and facilities improvements and construction. He said much of the news in those areas is positive and reason to be optimistic about the future.

At the same time, he acknowledged the department must sell 3,000 season tickets between now and the season opener Sept. 6 at home against CSU just to meet last year's numbers in football, the life blood of the athletic department. He also said the Buffs' three highest profile programs must now begin to turn the corner in the win column after several years of building.

"We understand winning is important," Bohn said.

Toward that end, Bohn said the department has introduced a new "passion to win" slogan for its student-athletes, encouraging a winning approach toward everything they do. He said the department is searching for ways to help its coaches be more successful in recruiting better athletes in all sports.

Bohn said the 2009-2010 athletic department budget will remain at about \$45 million. He said while it is always a concern to be behind in football ticket sales, the end of July and all of August are traditionally strong periods. He said he expects to sell out 12,000 student season tickets for the fourth consecutive year.

Bohn cited the fact that five games this season already are scheduled for national television as a reason "we're having an awesome season already." He said overall he believes fans feel a positive energy around the school's programs.

### **Under the lights**

CU will become the last school in the Big 12 Conference to install permanent lighting throughout its entire football stadium, when lights go up on the west side of Folsom Field next month.

Bohn said 19-foot holes are being dug right now for the poles that will hold the new banks, which will provide more overhead lighting than temporary lights used in the past on the west side. The east side of the stadium has had permanent lighting for years.

### **CSU contract**

#### **talks continue**

Bohn said he hopes to announce a long-term contract extension in football with Colorado State before the teams meet in Folsom Field on Sept. 6. The schools have been discussing a 10-year deal that would run through 2020. He said the schools continue to try to work out problems in years in which Colorado is slated to have only five home games if the Buffs play the Rams in Denver. He said moving the 2010 game back to Denver instead of playing in Fort Collins is a possibility.

"I think that's still something we're trying to obviously resolve," Bohn said.

### **More money needed**

#### **for practice gym**

Bohn said he hopes to announce in the next month a new target date for groundbreaking on the basketball and volleyball practice facility at the Coors Events Center.

The project was initially supposed to get underway in August and cost about \$10 million, but the funding has not come through in donations fast enough for that to occur. Bohn said the project will now cost about \$10.8 million because the heating and cooling plant that had been planned to be built at the same time has been scrapped altogether. He hopes to break ground later this fall, but the target date could be in the first three months of 2010.

### **Web savvy**

CU is one of five schools in the nation using a new interactive marketing software program in which a user inputs their name and phone number and then watches members of the football team and coaches talk to them in a video on a Web site. The segment ends with a recorded phone call from Hawkins timed to coincide with the video. To try it out, visit [www.joinyourteam.com](http://www.joinyourteam.com).

The department is e-mailing an invitation to try out the program to everyone on its ticket information mailing list.

### **Notable**

No one in the CU athletic department received a pay raise for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, Bohn said. ... Bohn said basketball schedules are nearly finalized for both the men's and women's teams. Both programs are waiting to finalize one non-conference game before releasing the 2009-2010 slate. ... Bohn said he has not been contacted by anyone in an attempt to interview Bzdelik for another coaching job. Bzdelik acknowledged having an informal conversation with the Minnesota Timberwolves last week about that team's head coaching vacancy.



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## Scott loyal to CU despite Smith's absence

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WINDSOR — Colorado running backs coach Darian Hagan said Monday he was "never concerned" that sophomore tailback Darrell Scott might follow the lead of Scott's uncle and transfer out of the program.

Josh Smith, a junior wide receiver, announced in late May that he wants to pursue football and a planned career in music at a school closer to his Los Angeles home. Many Buffaloes fans might have assumed that Scott would join his uncle because the two are close and had vowed as youngsters to play college football together.

"I wasn't worried about Darrell leaving," Hagan said, "because I know for a fact that Darrell didn't come to Colorado because of Josh, although a lot of people think that."

Hagan said Scott told him Smith was crazy for deciding to leave. "Darrell said he loves it here, that he is excited for the season and isn't going anywhere," Hagan said. "Darrell tried to talk Josh

out of it, but Josh had his mind made up."

Interviewed during CU's annual golf day for boosters and media at Pelican Lakes Golf and Country Club, Hagan said being separated from Smith could turn out to be a blessing in disguise for Scott. "He was always having to answer questions about his uncle. Now he won't have to do that," Hagan said.

### Bzdelik staying put.

CU athletic director Mike Bohn said he has not been contacted by the Minnesota Timberwolves or any other NBA team about Buffaloes coach Jeff Bzdelik. Bzdelik engaged in a "casual conversation" with the Timberwolves last week about their coaching vacancy. Bohn said he expects Bzdelik to remain at CU. . . . An announcement on an extension of the Colorado vs. Colorado State football series is forthcoming, Bohn said. CU is not against returning the game to Invesco Field at Mile High in Denver, Bohn said, but CU must ensure that it has at least six home games each year. . . . CU's athletic budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year will remain about the same as the previous year, Bohn said. That's just over \$45 million. CU staffers did not receive pay increases.

### Footnotes.

Dan Hawkins was absent from golf day activities but could return to his office today, CU officials said. Hawkins had surgery Thursday to remove kidney stones. He told assistant coaches the pain felt "deathly." . . . CU is nearing completion on

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permanent light towers for Folsom Field. . . .  
Ground could be broken this fall for the planned practice facility for basketball and volleyball, Bohn said. The anticipated cost of the structure adjacent to the Coors Events Center has jumped almost \$1 million to about \$11 million. . . .  
Football season ticket sales are about 3,000 below last year's total of 22,000, but August is typically a big month for ticket sales. "We're at about where we were last year at this time," Bohn said.

*Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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## Rams, Buffs working to renew annual football series

BY KELLY LYELL

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CSU and the University of Colorado are close to completing a long-term agreement to renew their annual series in football, athletic directors of both schools said Monday.

But that agreement, CU athletic director Mike Bohn said, might allow the Buffs to avoid the trip to Fort Collins next year that CSU athletic director Paul Kowalczyk insisted upon within hours of CU moving this year's season-opening game to Boulder.

Asked during a media roundtable discussion if he expected to play the 2010 game in Fort Collins, Bohn, a one-time associate AD at CSU, said, "I think that that's something that we're still trying to obviously resolve. It's part of the entire long-term process."

Kowalczyk, told of Bohn's comment to reporters attending a CU golf event at Pelican Lakes Golf Course in Windsor, said, "I'm not going to get into any of the details. As of right now, all systems are go from where we first started."

Kowalczyk wants to move the series to Denver permanently to capitalize on the expanded seating without giving either team a home-field advantage. Both schools have included games between the two played in Denver as part of their season-ticket packages for that season, while the visiting team receives a minimum of 3,000 and maximum of 5,000 tickets for games played in Boulder and Fort Collins.

"I've stood pretty firm in my desire, publicly and privately, to get the series in Denver," Kowalczyk said. "I'm not in a position to speculate where all this is going to land yet, because we're not home yet. We haven't gotten to where we need to be yet."

CU's Folsom Field, where the Rams and Buffs will meet in their Sept. 6 season-opener, seats 53,750. CSU's Hughes Stadium seats 34,400, while Denver's Invesco Field at Mile High, site of the past three games between the two schools and six of the past eight, seats 76,125.

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