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CU recruit planning arrival in two weeks

Things worth thinking about as summer flies by...

By Patrick Ridgell
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I'm not a big believer that one guy frequently makes a huge impact on a college football program. But all evidence suggest the Colorado Buffaloes need receiver Andre Simmons.

The most obvious evidence came last April, when new offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau, who's not one to mince words, said, "We need Andre Simmons."

Simmons, a junior college recruit from Independence Community College in Kansas, said Saturday during a phone conversation that he's "on the road to getting it done."

Simmons has had to complete six spring courses and three on-line courses this summer. He said he has all passing grades. He thinks he'll be in Boulder the week before camp starts. Players are due to report by Aug. 6; the first practice is Aug. 7. He said he expects to be admitted to the university.

Simmons on the transfer of receiver Josh Smith: "We were pretty close. I talked to him the most. He told me (his transfer) opens the door for me. I just have to try and get it."

You can't begrudge Buffs hoops coach Jeff Bzdelik for "talking" — whatever "talking" means — with an NBA club about its coaching vacancy. CU basketball isn't exactly a top gig. Even if it was, the NBA is in the guy's blood.

It's clear Bzdelik's frustration, after consecutive last-place Big 12 finishes, has gone from simmering to boiling, though.

"The bottom line is we have to start turning the corner this year," Bzdelik recently said. "Otherwise, they need to get a new coach because I'm not the guy to get the job done."

The good news is nine of his scholarship players have been on campus working this summer, Bzdelik said. Cory Higgins worked out with the Charlotte Bobcats, as usual, and also attended the Paul Pierce Nike Skills camp. According to Bzdelik, that camp had eight or nine of the top two-guards in the country there.

Incoming Australian center Shane Harris-Tunks played in the 19-and-under world championships in New Zealand. Bzdelik flew there to check it out. And guard Nate Tomlinson played in the World University Games in Serbia.

Bzdelik said all five incoming recruits have been academically cleared.

He also said Harris-Tunks would have been a higher-rated prospect if he hadn't been playing on the other side of the world.

If you like the Broncos, don't expect a lot. Then it won't hurt so much.

Left field is unsettled, the bullpen has turned over almost everyone, their start was so bad the manager had to be fired,

and Garrett Atkins still can't reclaim his third-base job even though his replacement sports a .220 average. Yet, as August nears, the Rockies are in contention.

Crazy thing, baseball.

Too bad every game can't be against the Padres.

Please, please, please let "Desk Jock" come out of retirement this fall.

CU's football schedule is as user-friendly in 2009 as it has been in years, or will be for years.

In next year's non-conference, the Buffs go to Cal and Colorado State, and host Georgia. In the Big 12, they go to Oklahoma, Nebraska and Missouri.

CU is 2-13 in road games since 2006, including its loss in Jacksonville, Fla., last year to Florida State.

And, finally, because it's not all about sports, "The Hangover" is even funnier the second time.

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