



CU bringing Showdown home

Rams A.D. follows Bohn, plans to play 2010 game in Fort Collins

By Kyle Ringo
Friday, August 29, 2008

The 2009 football game between the University of Colorado and Colorado State will be at Folsom Field, CU athletic director Mike Bohn confirmed Friday.

Bohn said he notified Colorado State officials of the decision, fulfilling a clause in the five-year agreement between the schools. The 2009 location is CU's choice because it is a Buffs home game.

Bohn said he wants the game in Boulder so he can keep a promise he made to season-ticket holders to have at least six true home games in Boulder every year. Prior to the announcement Friday, CU had just five true home games scheduled for 2009 and 2012.

"We will continue a dialogue with our colleagues at CSU on the future of this great series beyond 2010, but it is very important that we host a sixth home game next year to live up to our commitment to our fans, and to remain consistent with the standards of our Big 12 Conference," Bohn said.

In response to Bohn's decision to move the 2009 game to Boulder, Colorado State athletic director Paul Kowalczyk announced Friday that the Rams will host the 2010 game in Fort Collins.

"We are disappointed by CU's decision as we believe the series ultimately belongs in Denver. However, in light of CU's decision to play the 2009 game in Boulder, we believe we owe it to Colorado State University, our alumni, fans, students and the City of Fort Collins to bring the 2010 game back to Hughes Stadium," Kowalczyk said in a statement. "We look forward to working with CU to ensure the continuation of the series beyond 2010."

Said Bohn, "Our existing agreement permits CSU to exercise that option (to host in 2010). We have respect for the series and the Rams. But we think the importance of six games in Boulder is clear."

CU and CSU are in negotiations to continue the series beyond 2010 and hope to have the situation resolved by Oct. 1. Bohn said earlier this year there is a possibility the Buffs could decide to replace CSU on the schedule in some years in the future.

The in-state rivalry moved to Denver's Invesco Field in 1998, and has been in the state's largest stadium for all but two years since. Those two games at Folsom satisfied CU's commitment to season ticket-holders to have six true home games each season.

The two teams meet for the 80th time at 5:30 p.m. Sunday at Invesco Field.



DNC takes toll on Invesco turf

Crews working to improve conditions for Sunday's game

By Kyle Ringo

Friday, August 29, 2008

DENVER -- Denver Broncos turf manager Ross Kurcab might need to be a miracle worker to get the playing surface at Invesco Field whipped into shape in time for the Rocky Mountain Showdown at 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

Workers continued on Friday to disassemble stages and platforms that had been on the field for a week following the closing of the Democratic National Convention on Thursday night.

The stage on which Sen. Barack Obama gave his acceptance speech for the Democratic Party presidential nomination left a large circle of browning grass from the east sideline extending out to the middle of the field at the 50-yard line.

Both sidelines also looked worn with what appeared to be dead or very brown patches of grass.

Both Colorado coach Dan Hawkins and Colorado State coach Steve Fairchild viewed the field Friday during a noon-hour kickoff luncheon sponsored by the Denver Metro Sports Commission.

If they were unhappy with the field's condition, they didn't say so.

"It looks like it was a heck of an event last night," Hawkins said when asked about the turf's condition as he stood overlooking the field from suite level. "I wish I was here for it."

Fairchild surveyed the field from the same vantage point.

"We play wherever we play," Fairchild said. "I'm sure they will have it ready to go."

Sports commission president KieAnn Brownell downplayed the poor condition of the turf and said she is confident Kurcab and his crew will be able to get it back into shape in time for the game.

Sprinklers were already running Friday while crews continued to remove equipment from the field.

"These guys are world class," Brownell said. "I'm sure they will get it ready."

"They had six games here last year within one week."

Kurcab was not available for comment Friday afternoon.

The Buffs and Rams meet Sunday for the 80th time in what could be the final time in Denver for the foreseeable future. CU athletic director Mike Bohn announced Friday he has notified CSU officials that Colorado has elected to play next year's game in Folsom Field. Colorado State athletic director Paul Kowalczyk responded with a statement that the

Rams will host the 2010 game in Fort Collins.



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Showdown also to pit CU vs. CSU in voter registration

Students battle to register most sober voters before game

By Vanessa Miller
Friday, August 29, 2008

Denver's historic role in this year's Democratic National Convention will be just a memory Sunday when rival CU and CSU footballers strap on their pads and step onto Invesco Field for the 80th annual Rocky Mountain Showdown.

But the political air that's invigorated the city all week won't be entirely deflated: The University of Colorado and Colorado State University student governments are competing before the game to register the most voters.

CU volunteers plan to race from tailgate to tailgate in Denver's Mile High parking lot before the 5:30 p.m. kickoff to sign up students who aren't legal to vote here. CSU volunteers will be doing the same — passing over black and gold tents and stopping at green and gold tailgates in their pursuit to win the inaugural registration competition.

"It's such a big election, so it's important to get as many people registered as possible," said Ryan Biehle, one of three heads of CU's student government.

Both sides must stop registering at 5 p.m. so officials with the Boulder and Larimer county clerk's offices can tally the number of "gets," Biehle said. At half time, he said, someone from the Colorado Secretary of State's Office will declare the registration victor.

Biehle said this year's contest could become an annual challenge done in concert with the showdown: "Hopefully we're starting a new tradition."

Volunteers, who plan to begin collection efforts about 1 p.m. Sunday, could face some challenges outside Invesco Field at Mile High. In a sea of tailgates, the clipboard-toting registration gurus must find students who aren't registered — and also aren't inebriated.

"It's illegal to register a voter who's intoxicated," said Taylor Smoot, CSU student body president. "We'll have some literature telling people they can't register people to vote if they are drunk."

Students also must have an ID to register, and student leaders are reminding their peers — especially freshmen — that even if they're registered in another state, they must be registered in Colorado if they want to vote here this fall.

"This is a friendly competition because we think it's important, as a state, to make sure that our voices are heard," Smoot said.

Beyond this weekend, student governments at both universities have big plans for campus registration this fall.

CU's goal is to register 5,000 students by Oct. 6, and CSU is aiming to sign up 10,000 voters.

“We shoot high,” Smoot said. “It’s a national record, so we thought we’d shoot for it. But if we get 10,000 voters, that would be remarkable.”



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college football

CU, CSU take Showdown back to campus

By Natalie Meisler
The Denver Post

Article Last Updated: 08/29/2008 06:17:00 PM MDT

Colorado Football

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BOULDER — The Rocky Mountain Showdown will move to Boulder next year and Fort Collins in 2010, with the future beyond that date up for negotiation.

Citing a need to play six games in Boulder in 2009,

CU announced today it would exercise its contractual option to play at Folsom Field in 2009. Within two hours, CSU fired out a news release taking its 2010 option in Fort Collins.

"We are disappointed by CU's decision, as we believe the series ultimately belongs in Denver," CSU athletic director Paul Kowalczyk said. "However, in light of CU's decision to play the 2009 game in Boulder, we believe we owe it to Colorado State University, our alumni, fans, students and the city of Fort Collins to bring the 2010 game back to Hughes

Colorado State Football

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Stadium. We look forward to working with CU to ensure the continuation of the series beyond 2010."

Kowalczyk said he would not have moved the game to Fort Collins in 2010 had it remained in Denver in 2009 and CSU would have benefitted more financially with the game in Denver in 2010.

"This isn't just about the money," the CSU AD said. "It's about the institutional image and institutional pride. In this instance it's more important to fans

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and those associated with the program to bring it back to Fort Collins."

He called Denver "the perfect stage to showcase both institutions" and hopes futures games can be played in Denver.

Both schools make well over \$1 million if the game is held in Denver. According to the contract, each school must guarantee the other \$650,000 at a campus site.

CU athletic director Mike Bohn said: "We will continue a dialogue with our colleagues at CSU on the future of this great series beyond 2010, but it is very important that we host a sixth home game next year to live up to our commitment to our fans, and to remain consistent with the standards of our Big 12 Conference."

Were CU to play in Denver next year, it would mean the Buffs would have only five home games in Boulder. CSU likewise had only five home games slated for 2010 unless it played the Buffs at home.

"Forty-four of the 66 BCS schools are playing at least a seven-game home schedule this season," Bohn said. "And four of those teams are playing eight home games, including Nebraska from our own conference."

Both schools have used the game in their home ticket packages regardless of host status. The series' last game in Boulder was CU's 31-28 win in 2005 in front of 54,972. The last Fort Collins game was CU's 48-34 win in 1996 front of an over-capacity 36,371.

Every team in the Big 12 Conference will play a minimum of six home games in 2008, according to CU.

CU has been in negotiations with CSU to extend the series, Bohn said, in a way that would meet CU's minimum home game commitment while continuing a strong presence for the game in Denver beyond 2010. He said his intention is to complete that process by Oct. 1.

The contract stipulated that CU notify CSU of its desired location for the 2009 game prior to the playing of this year's game at Invesco Field at Mile High.

With the Colorado State game now set for Boulder as the 2009 opener on Sept. 5, CU's home schedule is complete with Wyoming (Sept. 19), Kansas (Oct. 17), Missouri (Oct. 31), Texas A&M (Nov. 7) and Nebraska (Nov. 27).

Ironically, both schools met at an Invesco Field luncheon following separate pep rallies today. While not specifically appealing to keep the game in Denver, Mayor John Hickenlooper, still hoarse from the previous night's Democratic National Convention, said going out for the coin toss with his 6-year-old son would definitely be the high point of the week.

"This game means more than football," Hickenlooper said. "These are our two signature universities. They are both underfunded. We think that's a disgrace. This football game should be a fulcrum by which we can elevate that discussion issue."

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CU-CSU Showdown gets start with lunch

By Natalie Meisler
The Denver Post

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Colorado Football

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- [Play](#) Pick'em for the upcoming CU football game

FORT COLLINS — Here's a novel way to decide the Colorado-Colorado State rivalry: Dress up the coaches in coats and ties, sit them down in Denver for a luncheon and then time their dash to the parking lot to get back to campus for practice two days before the big game.

CU coach Dan Hawkins told a bipartisan gathering

at Invesco Field on Friday that he and CSU counterpart Steve Fairchild were both mentally in "practice modes" while physically in Denver.

Two days before their first meeting in the Rocky Mountain Showdown, Hawkins and Fairchild shook hands and set a more than civil stage.

Hawkins naturally won the battle of the one-liners, although Fairchild averted a shutout.

The CU coach was asked by the program moderator

Colorado State Football

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about going into the season with No. 1 running back recruit Darrell Scott as opposed to "lesser talent" at Boise State. Hawkins fired back, "There's a kid playing left tackle for the Broncos " referring to first-round draft pick Ryan Clady out of Boise State.

When Fairchild, who spent seven years in the NFL since last coaching in the CU-CSU series, was asked about the difference between college and the NFL, Fairchild said, "You can't cut 'em and you can't fine 'em."

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The \$100-a-plate function was used as a fundraiser for both schools. In the auction battle, a trip and ticket package to CSU's game at San Diego State took a \$1,300 winning bid compared to \$1,000 for the CU-Florida State game. Lunch with CU president Bruce Benson cost \$450 compared to \$250 for counterpart Larry Penley. A lunch with CU athletic director Mike Bohn brought in \$400 compared to \$100 for CSU AD Paul Kowalczyk.

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CU, CSU bring showdown to home fields for 2009, 2010

By Jim Benton

Friday, August 29, 2008

The Rocky Mountain Showdown will leave Invesco Field at Mile High after Sunday's game between Colorado and Colorado State and will be played the next two years at smaller campus stadiums.

CU athletic director Mike Bohn announced Friday that Colorado would exercise the option in the contract between the schools and play the game next year in Boulder.

Then, CSU athletic director Paul Kowalczyk announced the 2010 game would be played in Fort Collins.

No games are scheduled between the schools after 2010.

Invesco Field has a capacity of 76,125, Folsom Field in Boulder holds 53,750 and CSU's Hughes Stadium has a capacity of 34,400.

In explaining its decision, CU said it was important to have a sixth game next season in Boulder.

"We will continue a dialogue with our colleagues at CSU on the future of this great series beyond 2010," Bohn said in a statement, "but it is very important that we host a sixth home game next year to live up to our commitment to our fans, and to remain consistent with the standards of our Big 12 Conference."

Bohn said 44 of 66 BCS schools are playing at least a seven-game home schedule this season. Four teams, including Nebraska from the Big 12, are playing eight home games.

Kowalczyk said he wasn't surprised by CU's decision but was disappointed.

"We really believe the game belongs in Denver," he said. "It's really a showcase opportunity for the universities. It gives us a chance to educate those fringe folks about what the universities mean to the state, and to me, this hasn't just been about a football game. It's bigger than that."

"However, in light of CU's decision to play the 2009 game in Boulder, we believe we should have the same opportunities to play the game in Fort Collins. We think that's important to our university, fans, students and the city of Fort Collins."

Heading into Sunday night, eight of the past 10 games in the series have been played in Denver. The future of the series hinges on future talks between the schools.

"I really think those discussions will be held," Kowalczyk said. "We look forward to working with CU to ensure the continuation of the series."



Frosh approach at Colorado

Handful of newcomers likely find selves in thick of things Sunday

By B.G. Brooks

Friday, August 29, 2008

For all the reasons floating out there to play true freshmen, most college football coaches aren't *that* pressed to list just as many reasons to sit them.

Someone -- maybe it was a disgruntled alum, a harried coach -- offered a formula that predicted a loss for every true freshman played. Sounds good on a talk show or in a chat room, but too many factors are involved to give it anything resembling substance.

At the University of Colorado, where coach Dan Hawkins in 2008 assembled the best recruiting class (No. 15 nationally, per rivals.com) of his short CU tenure, a handful of the Buffaloes' 20 signees are likely to make their college debuts Sunday in the Rocky Mountain Showdown against Colorado State (5:30 p.m., Invesco Field at Mile High, FSN Rocky Mountain).

And for CSU, where coach Steve Fairchild is set to make his college debut, a similar number of newcomers likely will play -- three true freshmen and three junior-college transfers.

On national signing day in February, CU fans were certain they would see the Buffs' top recruit, tailback Darrell Scott, in the opener -- and they probably won't be disappointed. But they could see more of largely unheralded Rodney Stewart, a fellow tailback.

Last season, CU called on only two true freshmen in its opener -- receiver Kendrick Celestine and kicker Tyler Cope, who no longer is with the team -- although more entered the lineup as the season progressed.

Of the bulk of his celebrated 2008 signing class, Hawkins said, "I have confidence they're going to emerge (in time) and be really good players. We wouldn't attempt to play a guy if we felt there was going to be a large margin for error. We try not to do that. You want them to have confidence, have a good experience, get meaningful playing time. I'm always very sensitive about that with these guys.

"It's fun to see the whole team play, but it's not like, 'Well, I wonder how he's going to do?' I think we have a pretty good idea of how guys are going to do -- or you wouldn't expose them."

If fans and alumni are eager for glimpses of tomorrow's stars today, Hawkins offers this advice: Stick around for tomorrow. Be patient.

"I don't worry about that, I really don't," he said. "(Fans and alums are) not here at practice every day, they're not in the meetings. We can't be governed by that. We've been doing this for a lot of years; we know if a kid's ready to go.

"I know it's real popular and easy to go, 'Yeah, play 'em!' But you've got to do what's best for that kid. If he's not ready to play meaningful downs, you're doing him a disservice, and ultimately your team a disservice."

Two CU freshmen, offensive lineman Bryce Givens and defensive lineman Will Pericak, are scheduled to redshirt, but also are on their position coaches' "ready list."

Five others and the Buffs' lone junior-college signee likely will play in the opener Sunday. A capsule look:

Darrell Scott

* **Position:** Tailback.

* **Height:** 6-foot-2.

* **Weight:** 210 pounds.

* **High school:** St. Bonaventure (Ventura, Calif.).

* **On the Rocky Mountain Showdown:** "The guys say there's 70,000 people in the stadium, drunk, all wanting to see their team win."

* **The first look:** Scott, the gem of the Buffs' '08 class, has dropped almost 20 pounds since arriving on campus and, according to Hawkins, has shown well in game-week practices. For starters, running backs coach Darian Hagan plans to use Scott as a short-yardage back, but that could change.

For his part, Scott has remained humble and eager to learn. Asked what his first college camp taught him, he quickly answered, "Discipline . . . it's totally different from high school, where you could get away with a couple of things. But you actually have a coach (now) behind you, looking at your every move and talking to you about it."

Rodney Stewart

* **Position:** Tailback.

* **Height:** 5-6.

* **Weight:** 180.

* **High school:** Brookhaven (Westerville, Ohio).

* **On the Rocky Mountain Showdown:** "My teammates have told me it was one of the biggest games of the year, and there's no love for CU if we lose."

* **The first look:** Stewart, nicknamed "Speedy," arguably was the surprise of preseason camp, although he says that, early on, "I was rushing a lot of things, I was harder on myself in trying to get used to playing at a college level. Now, toward the end, I've kind of calmed down. Now, I'm just ready to play."

Don't think of him as an undersized scatback who relies only on speed; upon arriving at CU, he bench-pressed 380 pounds and has hoisted 225 pounds 22 times. Coaches figure to use him in a variety of ways, and he could get the most playing time of any newcomer on either team.

His most pertinent observation: "The game definitely speeded up. I was already kind of faster than everybody in high school, but when you get to college, you've got to take different kinds of angles if you want longer runs . . . you can't really run like you're in a video game."

Max Tuioti-Mariner

* **Position:** Guard.

* **Height:** 6-4.

* **Weight:** 307.

* **High school:** Corona (Corona, Calif.).

* **On the Rocky Mountain Showdown:** "It's played in an NFL stadium, on a Sunday, so it's like an NFL game . . . it's pretty big; it's a fight for who's boss of Colorado."

* **The first look:** After missing his senior football season because of a knee injury, Tuioti-Mariner has shown few aftereffects. "I'm surprised I came this far, at least on the depth chart," he said. "I'm pretty happy on that. . . . I guess I'm just surprised that I'm playing college football."

His biggest camp revelations: "The steps involved, making calls with each other in the line, doing things together, the teamwork. Not that we didn't have any teamwork in high school, but this is more -- and especially because of the no-huddle (offense)."

Patrick Mahnke

* **Position:** Safety.

* **Height:** 6-1.

* **Weight:** 205.

* **High school:** Mountain Vista (Parker).

* **On the Rocky Mountain Showdown:** "I've grown up with it. I know the history between the schools pretty well. I know about the intensity."

* **The first look:** Mahnke is running No. 2 behind D.J. Dykes and could get on the field to spell the senior. He'll definitely be on special teams, starting on the kickoff- and punt-return squads.

Mahnke, obviously impressive in camp, said "being more familiar with the playbook definitely would have helped me. But experience and time definitely will help that. I just need to sharpen up on technical things -- like form."

Ryan Deehan

* **Position:** Tight end.

* **Height:** 6-5.

* **Weight:** 240.

* **High school:** Poway (Poway, Calif.).

* **On the Rocky Mountain Showdown:** "I haven't really asked much about it, but our coaches have told us, 'These guys really want to beat you, and they'll really get geared up for this game.' "

* **The first look:** Riar Geer's knee surgery assured Deehan of early playing time, but he probably would have gotten it anyway. "It's exciting, but disappointing, too, because Riar is someone we really need," Deehan said. "He's a good player -- definitely the best tight end we have."

Deehan's blocking will come around, but he says receiving "kind of comes naturally. I've always been pretty confident in my ability to catch the ball."

Shaun Mohler

* **Position:** Inside linebacker.

* **Height:** 6-3.

* **Weight:** 225 pounds.

* **Junior college:** Orange Coast (Calif.) College.

* **On the Rocky Mountain Showdown:** "I've heard it's pretty intense and gets ugly at times. They (CSU) take it very seriously. So I'm going in taking it seriously."

* **The first look:** Linebackers coach Brian Cabral says Mohler "has done pretty well. We like where he's at, but he's certainly not where we need him to be. But he's working in that direction."

Mohler backs up starting inside linebacker Marcus Burton but is on the No. 1 kickoff- and punt-return teams. Guaranteed of playing Sunday, he said, "I'm excited about it and can't wait to get on the field."

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College football report: CU, CSU coaches trade one-liners

By Staff Reports

Friday, August 29, 2008

Colorado State coach **Steve Fairchild** and Colorado coach **Dan Hawkins** traded one-liners Friday during the Tailgate at Invesco luncheon.

When asked about the difference between the NFL, where he spent seven seasons, and college football, Fairchild said: "You can cut (players) and you can't fine them."

Hawkins admitted he gets jitters and a special feeling on game days.

"I say this when I speak to a group of bankers: I think I know a little about banking, but you all know that you know something about coaching."

On a more serious note, Fairchild said the Rocky Mountain Showdown on Sunday (5:30 p.m., FSN Rocky Mountain) between the Buffaloes and Rams was important.

"I think it's special for everyone at CSU and everyone at CU," Fairchild said. "This game has national recognition from coast to coast being played at Invesco Field at Mile High. (People) identify with this game."

But can he slalom?

CU special-teams coach **Kent Riddle** can't get a read on CSU freshman kicker **Ben DeLine**, who replaces regular kicker **Jason Smith** (broken arm).

Riddle's only pregame insight into DeLine's leg strength, whether his kickoffs reach the end zone or drop 5 or 10 yards short, might come from CU safety **Joel Adams**. But that's a makeshift scouting report, at best.

Like Adams, a former CU skier who left that sport for football, DeLine attended Steamboat Springs High School. Adams is older than DeLine, so their paths didn't cross in high school.

"But he was on my little brother's team, and I know he's got a big leg and is a good kicker," Adams said. "I know he's excited for this opportunity."

Family affair

CU freshman defensive tackle **Will Pericak** probably won't play Sunday, but he doesn't have to be briefed on what to expect from the CU-CSU rivalry. Pericak, a Boulder High School graduate, said, "I've grown up with it. Plus, my parents went to CSU . . . but they're really big CU fans now."

"My brother and sister went here, and (his family) has lived in Boulder for 25 years. I've grown up a CU fan. The rivalry is always there. It's always been such a fun game to watch."

Early in camp, Pericak shifted from tight end to the defensive line, an area he said suits him better overall: "D-line is a good position for my body type (he's 6-4, 260). I actually was getting a little heavy for tight end, a little heavy and slow."

Stop the run - always

Hawkins knows there will be more than a few in-game adjustments required Sunday, but he also believes there is one certainty about Colorado State's game plan: The Rams will run until the Buffs stop them.

Last season, recalled Hawkins, "They pounded it on us. Pounded it . . . They've got two really good backs and a good O-line, so I would assume (they'll emphasize the run). Coach Fairchild's been around for a while, so I'm sure he'll definitely get that running game going."

Hawkins surmised that with CSU starting an untested senior (**Billy Farris**) at quarterback, "You try and take a little pressure off of him by running the ball. . . . You go with your strengths, and obviously, those are two proven guys."

The two Rams backs Hawkins referred to are **Kyle Bell** (6-foot-2, 234 pounds) and **Gartrell Johnson** (6-0, 227). Bell ran 40 times for 135 yards in the Rocky Mountain Showdown last season. With that kind of production from Bell, Johnson (three carries, 11 yards) wasn't called on much.

But the Buffs know they have to be ready to stop both Sunday.

CSU won the statistical battle last season, gaining 386 yards in total offense (157 rushing, 229 passing) to CU's 339 (129, 210). But the Buffs got two late **Kevin Eberhart** field goals, the last in overtime, to tie, then win 31-28.

B.G. Brooks

AIR FORCE

Falcons' Rembert ready to roll

AIR FORCE ACADEMY - **Reggie Rembert** made a lasting impression on his Falcons teammates and coaches during the preseason.

"You stand out in our practice field and you watch all the guys - yeah, he moves differently than the rest of our guys," Air Force coach **Troy Calhoun** said.

The quick and athletic 5-foot-7, 175-pound sophomore from Flower Mound, Texas, seems to have an extra burst that gives players and spectators alike the feeling that something special could happen when he gets the ball.

"He just makes plays," senior quarterback **Shea Smith** said. "He's just one of those guys that has that knack."

For that reason, Calhoun will use Rembert "as much as we possibly can" this season, starting with the season opener today against Southern Utah at Falcon Stadium.

The Gazette

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Longmont, Colorado
Saturday, August 30, 2008

TIMES-CALL

Publish Date: 8/30/2008

Headed back to campus

CU-CSU series put at risk after programs opt for home venues

*By Patrick Ridgell
Longmont Times-Call*

BOULDER — The Colorado-Colorado State football series is returning to campuses.

CU athletic director Mike Bohn announced Friday his department will exercise an option specified in the contract the two schools signed in 2006 that allows the Buffs to host the 2009 game at Folsom Field in Boulder. CU had to notify CSU where it wanted to play the 2009 game prior to this year's edition, the series' 80th game, which is Sunday at Invesco Field.

After receiving the news, CSU athletic director Paul Kowalczyk released a statement voicing disappointment in CU, and stating CSU's intention to play the Buffs in Fort Collins in 2010.

That's the final year the two teams are scheduled — for now — to play each other. Friday's news sparked bitterness, and places the series' future at risk.

"We are disappointed by CU's decision as we believe the series ultimately belongs in Denver," Kowalczyk said in his statement. "However, in light of CU's decision to play the 2009 game in Boulder, we believe we owe it to Colorado State University, our alumni, fans, students and the City of Fort Collins to bring the 2010 game back to Hughes Stadium.

"We look forward to working with CU to ensure the continuation of the series beyond 2010."

In his statement, Bohn said: "We will continue a dialogue with our colleagues at CSU on the future of this great series beyond 2010, but it is very important that we host a sixth home game next year to live up to our commitment to our fans, and to remain consistent with the standards of our Big 12 Conference."

CU has only five other home games scheduled for 2009. If it chose to play the Rams in Denver, CU's second home game in 2009 would fall on Oct. 17, the sixth week of the season.

CU officials believe it's best for the department to play the Rams in Denver when six home games are already set for Boulder and CU is listed as the home team in the series.

CU earns about \$500,000 more when the game is played in Denver instead of Boulder.

The teams have played 31 times in Fort Collins but haven't met there since 1996.

Playing at CSU's Hughes Stadium, with a capacity 34,400, instead of in Denver could cost CU more than \$1 million, according to other sources.

CSU will also lose money playing the game in Fort Collins instead of Denver.

Kowalczyk said CSU will add as many seats as possible at Hughes for the 2010 game to accommodate a larger crowd.

Recent series results

1998, at Denver: CU, 42-14

1999, Denver: CSU, 41-14

2000, Denver: CSU, 28-24

2001, Denver: CU, 41-14

2002, Denver: CSU, 19-14

2003, Denver: CU, 42-35

2004, Boulder: CU, 27-24

2005, Boulder: CU, 31-28

2006, Denver: CSU, 14-10

2007, Denver: CU, 31-28 (OT)

“There’s a considerable financial difference between playing there (and Denver),” Bohn said about CSU’s decision. “But again, that was a provision in the agreement that we signed. They chose to exercise that provision. We’ll honor the contract.”

CSU and CU have met every year since 1995, and in Denver eight times since 1998. They split those eight. CU beat the Rams in Boulder in 2004 and 2005.

CU’s schedule has at least one open date in each year starting in 2011. CU has only five home games scheduled for 2012.

Bohn said the national standard for Bowl Championship Series programs is becoming seven home games. Forty-four of the 66 BCS schools will host seven home games this year, according to Bohn.

Each Big 12 team plays six home games in 2008. Eight host at least seven, and Nebraska hosts eight.

CU and CSU have been in negotiations for weeks to extend the series beyond 2010. Bohn said he wants to complete the negotiations by Oct. 1.

CU coach Dan Hawkins said this week he had no preference where the game is played.

“I’m good either way,” Hawkins said. “I really am. I’m not trying to sit on the fence. I see the positives of being down there. I think going to Denver is a good thing for Denver and a good thing for the state.

“Having the kids play in Invesco is a fun thing. ... I think there are positives to playing on campus and having that home-field advantage and that collegiate environment.”

Hawkins and other CU representatives, as well as CSU coach Steve Fairchild and Kowalczyk, attended a luncheon at Invesco Field on Friday.

They surveyed the field, which is trampled and brown in spots after hosting events Thursday night for the Democratic National Convention.