



Colorado Athletic Director Mike Bohn

Opening Statement—“Good morning. I appreciate everyone coming out on a beautiful Monday morning in Boulder. As everyone knows this is the happiest and healthiest place in the world to live and being outside and having the opportunity to do that in conjunction of naming our new head women’s basketball coach is really special. I’d be remiss in starting if I didn’t take time to salute our search committee, which was headed by Ceal Barry and their hard work. I think it’s really important for people to understand the process that goes through this and to get to this point. So many people talk about ‘they did this, they did that’ I just want to let you know that our search committee, in my opinion, did as thorough of job as I think they have done in the history of my tenure at the University of Colorado.”

On search for head coach—“They spoke to so many different people and did so many different things and when I had an opportunity to sit down and talk with them they said, ‘Mike, what are you looking for? What do you think we need? We have an idea.’ And I said ‘let me tell you what I think we need’. It was a pretty long laundry list. It started out with impeccable character. I said we have to have a coach that is all that’s right about college basketball. I talked about the importance of exemplary work ethic. Think about that, what does that mean? That means someone who has the ability to work hard, to do all the things it takes to be successful, and that’s 24/7 365. That’s what we needed to find and reach out and put that together.”

Bohn’s criteria for head coach—“We needed somebody with a competitive drive, a competitive spirit that represents this university, that represents our alumni, that represents the community. We needed someone with a demonstrated commitment to be fundamentally sound in everything that we do. What does that mean? That means from the way that we conduct practices, to the way we are fundamentally sound on the court with our players, to the way we conduct ourselves in the community to the way that we conduct ourselves academically. That also is a very tall order. I also asked them to find someone who was disciplined, someone who was focused, someone that was a consistent leader in how they run their team, and to have a team that recognizes discipline is very important. I thought it was important to have a veracious recruiter. Someone who thinks about recruiting all the time; I don’t mean just in-state, but across the country. Someone who is not afraid to recruit the best in the country, that also is a very tall order. I also said that we better find a coach with high energy, passion, excitement, someone that loves to come to work every day and is excited about what we are doing. I also thought it was important to find a fit for the University of Colorado.”

On the future of CU basketball—“As many of you know our investment in the basketball enterprise is unprecedented. Our new facility, the new offices, the floor, the baskets that are going in, the fly away that will help with practice, all the different things that we are doing, the new weight room. I forget things because we do so many new initiatives to help us. So I thought that was really important.”

On final decision—“As the committee was going through their process, I would run into them from time to time, and I’m excited about what we’re doing and where we’re going and they’re talking about a lot of different candidates and you know what they were never able to knock Linda Lappe off the top. They were never able to do that. She fits all these categories and so I think that’s incredibly special. I think that’s attributed to Coach Lappe but also the committee that really followed directions and really were focused on putting this together. It is really something special when you see it come together the way it has. There was one thing that the committee was able to come up with that was an added bonus, and that is that Linda Lappe is a Colorado Buffalo. She wore number 13, she was awesome as a player and demonstrated a lot of these points as a player as well, and that’s very special. I think that her passion for CU, for CU women’s basketball, for our community is unprecedented, and we are very excited about that. So it is my great pleasure to introduce the new head women’s basketball coach for your team, the Colorado Buffalos, Linda Lappe.”



Colorado Head Coach Linda Lappe

General—“Thank you all for coming today, the support has been amazing for all of today. I really want to thank President [Bruce] Benson, Chancellor [Phil] DiStefano, [Athletic Director] Mike Bohn, Ceal Barry and the rest of the search committee for giving me this opportunity. I can’t think of another place that I’d rather be than right here on this campus, soon to be wearing the black and gold. When I left here, I knew I always wanted to be back, and today I’m back. I’m looking forward to starting, and I’m looking forward to all of the challenges.”

On the Big 12 Conference—“The Big 12 is an awesome conference, and number one in the nation. There are some great coaches and some great players in this conference, and I know that it’s not going to be easy. At the same time, I know what it takes, and I know what each one of those arenas is like. There will be nothing surprising when it comes to that. I want to help our players to know what it means to go into Texas Tech or Iowa State and win.”

On coaching at CU—“The biggest thing that I want to instill within our players is a sense of Buffalo pride and CU women’s basketball tradition. We have such rich tradition here, and it’s a great thing when you have that tradition. The last couple of years have not necessarily been the best, but there is such a great group of players here that really want to make changes and really want to get on a winning track and make it to the NCAA tournament. I’m willing to do whatever it takes to get them to those goals.”

On team expectations—“The good thing about it is that now I’m here and that the people at Colorado are just as neat. I really look forward to getting started. With that what you can expect from our teams, discipline teams, hardworking teams, and fundamental teams. We will pay special attention to the little details. My players get sick of hearing about the small details and the little things. What separates the good teams from the bad teams is not much. We have a lot of the good players here already, and we will add to that. We will hit the recruiting trail hard starting this weekend. You can expect a team out there that wants to win and knows how to win and is going to do anything necessary to win. You can also expect good students in the classroom and students that will go to class. Also, good people in the community. We will get out in the community, and you will see us a lot doing different things and we look forward to that.”

On wanting to become a coach—“I’ve been preparing myself to coach since about fourth grade. Just studying the game and sitting in the stands and watching the high school teams play and analyzing the game and analyzing what they should be doing offensively and defensively. That continued into junior high by watching and learning and trying to gain as much experience and as much knowledge as I could. As a player, you always want to keep playing as long as you can. Injuries took that away from me, and by my junior year in college, I knew I wanted to be a coach. I knew that I wanted to go through the recruiting battles. I knew I wanted to be on the floor every day, and I knew that I wanted to be on a college campus every single day to help young women become better people, athletes and students.”

On the challenges ahead—“The time table isn’t exactly how I envisioned it but when an opportunity presents itself and this is a goal of mine. There will be challenges, I am young, but at the same time, I utilize my resources around me. I will continue to learn the game. Everything I do is not going to be perfect, but I will hire great people around me and continue to learn and grow to get better every single year.”