



Colorado Head Coach Mike MacIntyre

On The Signing Of Transfer Tailback Travon McMillian

"I do like the running backs that we have, but it's hard to pass up on a guy that's graduated from college and played a lot of football. He's an all-phase running back. He knows how to block and understands pass protections. He's like a vet, it's awesome. I'm really excited about Beau Bisharat, Kyle Evans, Donovan Lee and Alex Fontenot. We've got some guys in there that we're excited about. They all also play on special teams. This was a unique situation that a young man sought us out and really wanted to be here. He had a lot of other opportunities to go to a lot of other places. I'm excited about him and how he's an all-down back who can do everything."

On What He Thinks About The New Signing Periods

"What I meant about a more relaxed January is that you weren't sitting on pins and needles if he was going to go somewhere else. I was just as busy or busier this January than I've ever been, because I was going out and going to high schools all over the country watching 2019 guys play basketball and work out in the weight room. It gave us an advantage. Assistant coaches coming in to tell you about them, in the past you wouldn't have been able to do that, because I would have been going to all of the houses and schools that we had certain [2018] commitments at. December was really hectic, because from after the Utah game to December [20] I went into 21 homes visiting with parents and making sure those young men signed on December 20th. I like the early signing day and I'm still a proponent of it. I'm going to keep pushing it and some people are still going to get mad at me. Now that we have official visits in April, May and June, why don't kids – if they take a few visits and they decide that's where they want to go to school – let's have a signing day in July over the dead period. They sign, and now you have another signing day in February, just like basketball does. They have a signing day in November and then they have a signing day in April. Why don't we have the same thing? That's what I keep proposing to do and I think eventually that'll happen. It's sped up a lot. The other thing that's happened, you have a lot more high school kids graduating early and coming in January. That also helps you with that. If you sign a kid in July and he wants to do that, now you can talk to him all the time, he's able to get with counselors. You have more communication with him to help him be ready to do that. I think that's kind of the wave of the future. I like to recruit a lot of double-sport athletes, so there might be a situation there. But, I think that's something that's trending toward the future."

On If He Learned Anything From The New Signing Period And If He Had Any Remorse Over Any Of The Earlier Signees

"No, we didn't run into any remorse over any of the guys that we signed. Our staff does an excellent job of evaluating, we always have as far as you can tell from our first and second classes that are still playing. The exciting thing about this class to me is that we have more guys developed earlier who can play right away. A Frank Fillip. It's rarely been that we've been able to sign an offense lineman who's going to come in at 280 [pounds] plus, played really good football and really bright that I think right now can step on the field and play as a freshman. Will he? I don't know, but I think he can. Israel Antwine, a defensive tackle that's 285 pounds and built like a Greek god that I think can step on the field as a true freshman and play and play well and win with. Usually you have to develop those guys. That early evaluation and the process of that and where we've moved up in the food chain with kids realizing they can be successful here has helped us. As far as being able to look at some of the things we did, I'm not going to give away any trade secrets. There's definitely some things that we've talked about that we'd do differently along the way that would help us. This year is a whole different ball of wax too with having official visits in April, May and June around recruiting and around camps. You've got to kind of weigh that. You've only got so many visit opportunities, so you've got to look at that. We're really trying to dive into how to do that to be the most successful we can be."

On The Signing Of Hasaan Hypolite

"I love Hasaan. Hasaan's another guy that when you meet him in person, you're going to go, 'That's a freshman?' He's built really well, he'll hit you, he's very physical, he's very athletic and he's explosive. He reminds me a lot of – and I'm not going to put this on him – what Roy Williams was at the Dallas Cowboys. He's built like Roy. He's 200-and-something pounds as an 18-year old. When I coached Roy he was like 220 or 225. He has that explosion and he's built like a running back, but he has great hips and he can flip and he can move. As you can tell, I'm really excited about Hasaan. He's another guy that I want to give him an opportunity to get on special teams early and be a guy that can help us this year. I think he's that physically set and ready to go."

On How The New Signees Will Help The Pass-Rush

"We've got a few guys. We got Nu'umoto [Falo] back and we feel like he has the ability to pass-rush for us. He's not really a signee, but he's a guy who's back. I'm excited to see the changes in his life. His mom I've known forever, because I signed his brother and we're really close. We have [Joshka] Gustav, a young man from Germany by the way of Aquinas High School in California. He's athletic and can run and can rush off the edge. We've got some other guys. Davion Taylor, he's a Buff [Back], outside linebacker. He was ranked the No. 1 outside linebacker in America out of a junior college. He'll play our Buff position that Ryan Moeller played. He's very athletic, very fast. He's 225 pounds and runs a 10.5 [second] 100 meters. I'm really excited about him. He'll be able to pass-rush and do that for us. He's a guy that I see that'll pass-rush out of that class. There are other guys too, but he's a guy that's already here and working out and will practice in the spring."

On Where Linebacker Nu'umoto Falo Will Play On Defense

"We will keep him outside. He's a really good athlete, but sometimes – you see this before, even in the NFL – he kind of freezes up. He's better off the edge. He's sees better and reacts better. We'll keep him on the edge. I've always had a tendency to want to put him in there (at inside linebacker), but he doesn't react as well from there, there's too much going on. When he sees it from the edge, he can run and seek it down. I really believe he'll make a jump in his pass-rushing ability, just like Jimmie [Gilbert] made a jump in his pass-rushing ability in his junior and senior year."

On Falo's Return

"He's always been a good kid. I've known him since he was in the seventh grade. There's a lot of connection there with his mom Becca. His dad died when he was in fifth grade and I started to know him after that with his mom, Becca, and his older brother, Nate, who played for me at San Jose State. I've seen a young man that realizes his opportunities and realizes the responsibility to his family and to himself. I see a new brightness in his eyes if that makes sense. I see that and I'm excited about what he brings to the table, so hopefully he'll do well."

On If Recruiting In January Replaces The Typical Spring Evaluation Period

"It does. The head coach can't go out in May anymore. So it is hard for you when guys come in and say, 'Hey, this guy is a beast. He is six feet, three. He is 220 pounds.' Then they tell you another guy is a beast. He is six feet, three. He is 220 pounds. So you are trying to watch them on film. Now if you see them in person, you go, that guy, he is six feet, 220. That guy, he is six feet, 205 pounds. So you kind of figure it all out when you are watching it. Getting to watch them do something in the weight room, getting to watch them on the track, getting to watch them in a mat workout at their school, getting to watch them play basketball – all of those types of things help you in an evaluation process. As for the head coach, I like that part of it. I went to a ton of schools. I was hitting about six schools a day every day. We do have more guys we are definitely going to offer. We are in the process now of going back over all of those guys, putting our board up like we want. We are excited about some of the guys that we have offered."

On The Assimilation Of The New Assistant Coaches Into The Program Thus Far

"They've done an excellent job. I am excited about all three guys. They are excellent people, excellent coaches. They have been very energetic in our morning workouts with our players in the weight room. They did an excellent job when they went out on the road a little bit. I think it is exciting what they bring. Adding a 10th coach has been good too. I am excited about that. [Assistant coach/cornerbacks] Ashley [Ambrose] has been here before. He was just chomping at the bit to come back. I had talked to him a couple of other times in the process when we had some openings. It all goes back to the fit. This time was a perfect fit for us. [Assistant coach/quarterbacks] Kurt Roper, we've known each other since 1998 – when we started coached together in the Independence Bowl against Texas Tech with Coach Cut [David Cutcliffe]. So we have known each other for a long time. We worked right beside each other on the offensive side of the ball when I was at Ole Miss for Coach Cut. Then I moved to the defense. We have stayed in great contact and in touch throughout the years. It was really a blessing that we were able to get him. He wants to be here and is excited about what he will do with quarterbacks. [Assistant coach/defensive line] Kwahn Drake, we interviewed quite a few defensive line coaches and he blew me away in his interview with his personality, intensity, and his knowledge. His grandfather is a hall of fame coach in New Orleans high school football. So he has been in it his whole life. I am excited about that. With us having so much success in the secondary and our cornerbacks, Ashley [Ambrose] has played 13 years in it. Now he has coached a while. He is really seasoned. He will be able to help those young men. He is a great technician at what he does."

On Why He Is An Advocate Of Athletes Playing Multiple Sports In High School

"For two guys that are even, we watch them on film, they have basically the same grade situation, same size, same athletic ability. For the guy that just plays football, I know he is in the weight room all of the time. He is coached by the same coach. He is kind of in the same environment all of the time. When football is over, he has a little bit of down time. He is not playing games each week. He is not traveling and doing those types of things. Then I look at the other young man, same situation. But he plays football, he plays basketball, he runs track, or he plays baseball. That young man is having to manage time better. He is not in the weight room all of the time. He is playing other sports. So he learning other skills but he is not built up. So he has more of a development stage. He is having to deal with three different head coaches. He is having to be in three different locker rooms. He is having to be in all of these different dynamics of a basketball court situation, a track situation. So to me, he is a little bit more well rounded. I have a better chance of him being successful and having more upside in college than I do the other guy. Now, the other guy might end up being just as good. But percentage wise, there are seven guys that I have coached, [DB] Isaiah [Oliver] being the 7th one in the secondary that were multi-sport athletes, with over a 3.0 coming out of high school. All seven of those played in the NFL five years or longer. So I kind of stick by that. There are some guys out there that we are recruiting that I tell that exact story. That is why I do it and that is my experience from it. It has worked out well for us."

On His Confidence In Quarterback Coach Kurt Roper

"He learned from who I think is the best quarterback coach in America, David Cutcliffe. His first person he coached was a guy named Eli Manning. He was there with Eli Manning his redshirt freshman year. He coached him then, and learned everything from Cut [David Cutcliffe]. He has developed many pro quarterbacks in different stops along the way. I was excited going back and working with him at Duke while we had been away from each other for a little while and to watch what he did with Duke's offense and what he did with the quarterbacks at Duke. He has two quarterbacks from Duke in the NFL right now. He is an unbelievable fundamental coach. He really gets a long well with the staff. We talked in depth. I said all I have is the quarterback spot. I don't have a coordinator position. He said he wanted to work with quarterbacks so I was excited about that. He could've gone to some other places to be a coordinator this year. But he wanted to come here and wants to be a part of what we are doing. He is excited about all of the quarterbacks we have and what we do. I am excited about having Kurt and his whole family with us."

On The Addition Of Coaches On The Defensive Side Of The Ball

"I work with them and we kind of do it all together. I will still be involved. It enables me to have a different view of the entire offense and defense. I kind of enjoy doing drills with the defensive backs. It kind of lets me have an escape during those 10 minutes of practice. I will keep working with them all just like I did with Charles Clark when he was here coaching the corners. It worked out well. I felt like when we switched to the 3-4, we needed two linebacker coaches after going through it a year or two. You've got the outside backers, the buff, the inside backers. If a guy tries to do all four of those, somebody gets neglected. I thought it would be better if I could help the secondary and I knew the 10th coach was coming along. So now every spot gets touched."

On The Potential Of Quarterback Mason Rudolph Playing In The Nfl

"I do believe Mason Rudolph is an excellent quarterback. I think he is a phenomenal deep ball thrower. I know in the NFL you have to be accurate. But big plays are such a critical situation in being on target down the field. I think you saw the other night in the Super Bowl how on target the quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles was on a couple of those deep throws that made a difference in the football game. I think that is something he does excellent. It is funny, you go through all of these drafts every year and it seems like the guy that is a little bit forgotten always ends up being the guy later on. It just kind of seems that way if you even look at the two guys in the Super Bowl the other night. I thought that interesting and it is kind of the way it works out usually. I think somebody will take him. What Bill Parcells used to ask is how many snaps the quarterback got in college. You can't replace that experience out there. He played a lot of snaps at Oklahoma State. I know that Mike Gundy thought a lot of him and he won a lot of football games at Oklahoma State."

On Explaining To Parents If Football Is Safe

"Of course it is all over the media. The things I would say, it's safer than it's ever been. As all of you know the stats and different things, there's more concussions and that type of thing in women soccer. You know there is all these other things. I always tell them, and when they ask me that I'm being serious. I mean we can all sit in front of a television and play X-box right? Now were going to be obese, were going to die of heart disease, there's all of these different things you have going on. I believe in the game tremendously, but at the same time I ask does your son ride a bicycle? Yeah, I said well he is a lot more in trouble riding that bicycle than he is ever is playing football. It's a proven fact. That's a lot more dangerous than playing football. And it's statistically proven and it all weighs out. So, I think that it's a thing on the forefront right now, and yes we've gotten better at the game, we've helped change the rules, the helmets have gotten better, how we teach tackling, all that type of stuff. So I still think it's a phenomenal sport and I do get asked about it some, but those are some things they go, oh that's right he does ride a bicycle, he does skateboard. And they say oh well we have taken him to the hospital for those things. I think there are a lot of issues out there that attack football but I think it's a phenomenal game."

On The Number Of Coaching Changes In The Pac-12 South

"There are a lot of coaching changes. I don't know many of those guys at all, I'll get to meet them, and we also lost some excellent coaches. I'm still scratching my head on a couple of them. That's the beast of our business. Like I always say, we coach, players make plays and players win games. I'm more concerned with the players they have, rather than the coaches they have."

On Assistant Coaches Being Able To Have Multi-Year Contracts

"It's a tremendous benefit. To be honest with you, I would've taken the job anyways but I had no clue when I took the job that I was the only person on the staff that had a contract and that's a tough deal in our world that we live in; it's such a tumultuous world. Yes it was very hard, and yes sometimes it was harder to get coaches or to keep coaches all those types of things. I'm very excited about what we have done. I'm pretty sure Mike Bobo and CSU are happy about it also and I think it's a great benefit. But here's the other side. We talk about football mainly in that, but think about [head soccer coach] Danny Sanchez who just walked out of here. Now he gets a contract but he should, he deserves it, he's earned it. You know all the Olympic sports, those head coaches weren't even on contracts, and that's amazing to me. So I think it benefits everything. It's a win-win for all sports and the stability for all programs. And I'm excited about it. I'm glad people were able to see it, understand it, and the scope of it of what it means."

On The Regulations For Transfer Graduate Students, Particularly Travon

"I have heard a little bit about that. You know all of it is in theory right now of course and we discussed a lot of it at our head coaches meetings and at the AFCA Convention. I definitely hope he comes, I believe he's coming, he's gave his word. But there will be people still trying to talk to him. But I feel very good about Travon. On the other side there has been talk that if you're a grad transfer decides to transfer and you're doing that, that when you sign them, it is binding to just you and the school. So this doesn't happen. You're working on getting them in grad school, applying, doing those type of things so they have to do it in a certain amount of time to get into grad school. That takes someone else's place in grad school because not everybody has all the options of grad school it's not as big of limit as there is in undergraduate, we all understand that. I think there are a lot of situations there that would hold for them to be binding to the both of us. And I think that is something that was brought up."

On The Boom In Salaries Of Assistant Coaches

"I think part of it, the Big10 will probably announce a huge TV revenue they are going to get here in a few days, SEC gets 43 million in the last year and they're probably going to get more this year. I think that's what that's been able to happen. The TV money. But you know, certain conferences are proportionate to that so eventually there might be a gap there. So hopefully it's not, but there might be a gap there on that. People talk about football coaches or basketball coaches in that type of thing and say oh you're making a lot of money. Yes, that's true. But do they say that about the lawyer, do they say that about the doctor, do they say that about people who start their google company then get hired from google to apple. So yes we're in the media, people are making good salaries other places too, so it's all relative."