

SPORTS

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Colorado football coach to resign following bowl game

From Staff Reports and The Associated Press

No longer will Bill McCartney be pointing at the Nebraska game as Colorado's big rivalry.



McCartney

McCartney, 54, announced his resignation on Saturday, moments after his No. 7 Buffaloes beat Iowa State 41-20 to raise their record to 10-1.

McCartney, who will coach through Colorado's bowl game, was vague about his reasons for leaving, saying only that the decision was made for family reasons.

"There are no negatives here," McCartney said. "I've been thinking about this for some time. I've been here 13 years. It's time. There is no reason except it was the best time for us to do this as a family."

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said McCartney's decision to leave Colorado surprised him.

"I have no knowledge of what led him to his decision," he said. "I have a great deal of respect for what Coach McCartney has done at Colorado. He has turned them into a national power, and he'll certainly be missed in the Big Eight."

Colorado athletic director Bill Marolt was as shocked as anyone when McCartney told him he was walking away from one of the nation's most successful football programs.

"I was totally surprised, shocked. As I saw

this program move forward, I thought he'd be in this for the long haul," Marolt said. "He's been a tremendous asset to this program. We're going to miss him."

McCartney refused to rule out any future coaching ventures.

"I don't know," he said. "I don't anticipate coaching soon, but I don't rule it out."

He did deny speculation that he might be interested in the vacant Michigan State coaching position.

"I would put to rest any rumors about going to Michigan State," he said.

Marolt said McCartney "was specific in saying he wasn't doing this because he was looking for another coaching opportunity. There's no health issue; there's no problem with the administration; there's no problem with the NCAA."

McCartney signed a 15-year "lifetime" contract in 1990.

"The contract has an option at the end of the fifth year to option out and resign, and that's what he did," Marolt said.

McCartney urged the administration to quickly appoint a successor so as not to disrupt recruiting.

"I'll coach through the bowl game, but then I want to get out of the way," he said. "We'll need a new coach prior to next year's recruiting."

Marolt said he would begin searching for a successor immediately.

"We want to make it quick but not so quick that we make a hasty decision," he said.

McCartney gave no indications about what his future plans might be.

The End of the McCartney Era



Season	School	W	L	T
1982	Colorado	2	8	1
1983	Colorado	4	7	0
1984	Colorado	1	10	0
1985	Colorado	7	5	0
1986	Colorado	6	6	0
1987	Colorado	7	4	0
1988	Colorado	8	4	0
1989	Colorado	11	1	0
1990	Colorado	11	1	1
1991	Colorado	8	3	1
1992	Colorado	9	2	1
1993	Colorado	8	3	1
1994	Colorado	10	1	0

Kai Wilken/DN

"This chapter has ended," McCartney said. "I don't know quite what's around the corner."

McCartney is the founder of Promise Keepers, an evangelical Christian men's organization that emphasizes family values. It has been speculated that he might devote more time to that cause, but he didn't address it on Saturday.

Colorado linebacker Ted Johnson said he respected McCartney's decision, no matter what the reasons were.

"I'm sure he's got good reasons — if it's

best for him and his family, then it's good for him," Johnson said.

McCartney took over a moribund program and guided the Buffaloes to a national championship in 1990. This year's team contended for another national title before losing to No. 1 Nebraska. He is the most winning coach in Colorado history with a 92-55-5 record.

"It's a big loss," running back Rashaan Salaam said. "I'm used to seeing Coach Mac with his crazy look on the sideline. Not to see that is going to be real weird. People broke down and started crying when he told us."

Team ends unblemished season

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Two days after his team completed the first perfect season in school history, Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit figured his team deserved a break.

But the Cornhuskers didn't think so.

Before an NU Coliseum-record crowd of 4,670, Nebraska defeated Oklahoma 15-8, 15-2, 15-5 on Saturday night to finish the regular season 27-0 overall and 12-0 in the Big Eight. Oklahoma fell to 16-15 overall and 5-7 in conference play.

Following the match, Pettit said he asked the Huskers if they would like to forego practice on Monday before resuming preparation for Friday's rematch against the Sooners in the first round of the Big Eight tournament.

Immediately, the team said no. "I thought they were a little fatigued tonight," Pettit said after No. 1 Nebraska's 23rd sweep of the year. "They have a right to be fatigued."

Pettit said the team was mentally and physically drained after last Wednesday's win over Big Eight ri-

val Colorado in Boulder.

"We got back here Thursday and practiced hard Thursday and Friday," he said.

Regardless, outside hitter Kelly Aspegren said, the Huskers didn't think twice about spending an extra day away from the court.

"Why?" Aspegren said. She and Peggy Meyer were honored Saturday before playing their final regular season match at home.

"Why take one day?" Aspegren said. "This is our chance. We can spend that day working on things we need to work on."

Pettit said he anticipated the players might reject his offer.

"I think they still feel they are getting better," he said. "They want to

be on the court getting better. They know there were some things that they didn't do tonight as well as they could."

The Huskers' fatigue showed in the first game. But after struggling early in the match, Nebraska had little trouble handling the Sooners.

Oklahoma came out hot, jumping to a 6-4 lead, but the Huskers scored three straight points to take their first lead of the match at 7-6.

Nebraska never let the Sooners back into the game, scoring eight of the final 10 points. With Meyer serving, the Huskers won the game on a block by Allison Weston.

The score, however, was not in-

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Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska's Peggy Meyer prepares to spike the ball against Oklahoma on Saturday in her final regular-season home match.

Volleyball senior not sentimental yet

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

Although Kelly Aspegren played her last regular-season home match at the NU Coliseum on Saturday night, she knows it probably won't be her last.

With the No. 1 Cornhuskers at 27-0 and holding the Big Eight title, Nebraska most likely will play host to four matches in the NCAA tournament.

Aspegren and Peggy Meyer, the two Husker seniors, were honored in a ceremony before the match.

Aspegren said it was a nice moment.

"It gave me a chill or two." Aspegren and Meyer closed out their regular-season careers by helping the Cornhuskers to a 15-8, 15-2, 15-5 victory over Oklahoma.

Aspegren said she tried not to worry about playing her final regu-

lar-season game at the NU Coliseum.

"I tried not to let it affect me," Aspegren said. "I can't worry about playing here my last time. I just know our team needed to improve, and I needed to concentrate on my play."

One reason the Huskers were successful against the Sooners and against other teams was the leadership of Aspegren, Oklahoma coach Miles Pabst said.

Pabst said he had noticed a difference in the way Aspegren had played this year.

"I think her maturity as a person is the most evident," Pabst said. "She is a team-leader-type girl, and she is definitely a very important factor."

Aspegren showed her skills against the Sooners, recording nine kills on 21 attempts for a hitting percentage of .381.

With totals like that throughout the season, Aspegren most likely will be picked for the All-Big Eight team

later this week.

"It's something that would be nice," Aspegren said. "I came here to help the team win a national championship. This is a team sport, not an individual sport."

Aspegren said she wasn't going to get sentimental yet, because the Huskers still had the possibility of playing more matches in Lincoln.

"Maybe the final match of the year here, I'm sure I'll be pretty emotional," Aspegren said. "I'm so grateful and fortunate to play for a program at this level."

Aspegren said the Huskers would benefit greatly by playing the NCAA tournament matches at home on the way to a chance at the Final Four in Austin, Texas.

"It's hard for other teams not to be intimidated when they come here," Aspegren said. "Our team is tough enough to handle any situation."