

COLORADO FOOTBALL / Postgame Notes & Quotes

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Colorado Head Coach Bill McCartney

"This is a great moment for Colorado. Anytime you can beat Oklahoma in back-to-back years it is a significant thing, and we're not taking it lightly. It's the way you build tradition. I thought our ability to make some big plays in the second half was instrumental to our success. The Eric Bieniemy long touchdown run, Rico's (Smith) touchdown catch -- we made plays we had to make. Our kids seemed to do the things necessary for us to win. You have to give Oklahoma credit. They moved the ball on us better than I thought they could. In 1965 and 1966, if I'm not mistaken, was the last time Colorado beat Oklahoma back-to-back."

On Oklahoma attempting to make a first down early in the third quarter on the CU 13-year line.. "When they went for it (on fourth down) I was surprised and concerned. I'm not second-guessing Coach Gibbs, I just thought there was something they saw that they felt awfully confident would work."

"I don't think our defense adjusted well when (Steve) Collins came in to start the second half. I felt at halftime they had used up the things they thought would surprise us and would settle into their normal pass and run offense. When Collins came in we just didn't make the necessary adjustments."

"For Eric Bieniemy to run like he did against that defense -- that's high order stuff. I didn't know if he would have that kind of effectiveness today, but he's done it now for four years. You have to give credit to the guys blocking up front for him, also. I think Bieniemy has established himself as perhaps the outstanding tailback in America today. We're playing Nebraska next week, however, which has one of the stingiest defenses around, so we don't want to get too carried away with that."

On some big passing plays...

"We felt like if Oklahoma had a weakness it was in rushing the passer. We felt like if we could give our quarterback time to throw the ball, we could come up with some big passing plays. We didn't throw all that well, but we did come up with some big plays passing the ball that helped us out. I'm not saying they didn't rush the passer well, but if you analyze their defense on film you see this isn't one of those Oklahoma teams that excel in that area. They do have great cover guys and outstanding linebackers."

On next week's game in Lincoln, Neb....

"Obviously, we have work to do. They moved the ball against us today too easily. We didn't have any turnovers, though, and that was critical to our success. We also made big plays on the blocked field goal attempt and the interception by McCloughan. We need to keep making progress."

"As we've tried to develop our program, we've tried to imitate those programs (Oklahoma's and Nebraska's) because we know we're going to have to play against them. When we try to recruit, we try to recruit the type of players who can compete with Oklahoma and Nebraska. In that sense, we've tried to imitate them."

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Oklahoma Head Coach Gary Gibbs

On the game:

"It was a really hard fought football game out there today. It was an outstanding game; I thought both teams played well. Obviously the big play ability of Colorado in the fourth quarter turned the tide as far as momentum of the game. I thought their key plays in the first half hurt us, as far as the blocked fieldgoal gave them good field position. They took advantage of it and made it a 14-12 game. Our football team played hard. You have to take your hat off to Colorado."

On fourth and 1 1/2:

"It was about fourth and 1 1/2, three points wasn't going to win the football game for us, we knew we would have to score some points. We were having trouble stopping Colorado. We felt like we had good plays, we went on a fourth down earlier in the game and converted. We felt the odds were in our favor to convert, but Colorado did a nice job of taking away the option we had called, but three points wasn't going to win that football game."

On tip Rico Smith touchdown:

"We had 'em backed up and they came back. Jason Belser had great coverage and tipped the ball. It looked like we had broken up their pass, and yet it landed in the receiver's hand and then there was a major swing."

On Cale Gundy:

"He suffered a hip-flexor groin injury. He's pretty sore. In regards to next week, he's still in the air. I really don't know."

On Steve Collins:

"We were limited, we couldn't go through the things that we really wanted to do with Steve, to this same degree as we wanted to do with Cale. I thought Steve came in and did a nice job. We went back to more option football."

On passing:

"We felt like we had to throw on them because of their strength up front, and I also thought we'd have success throwing on them, which we did."

On the remainder of the season:

"Our kids really challenged themselves. There's a lot of pride on this football team. There are a lot of people who will accept the challenge. We're disappointed. We're not pleased with the outcome, but we're not going to throw in the season. We're going to play a hard, aggressive season. I expect we'll be successful from this point on."

On defensive adjustment after Colorado first two drives:

"We kept playing pretty much the same basic defense. They converted some third downs on those first two drives. They executed well. But we were pleased that we were able to hold them to field goals. Then, in the second half, obviously, the big play ability surfaced."

On next game at Missouri:

"Well, we'll have to rebound. Our injury situation is obviously a concern, but as far as the character of the team and the pride that they play with, that isn't a concern."

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Colorado Players

ILB GREG BIEKERT

"This is a really big win for us. This is two years in a row where we've gotten Oklahoma, and that doesn't happen very often. This is a really big step for us heading to Nebraska next week. They really don't get any bigger than this."

On the fourth down: "They just ran their basic option. I saw him coming around and I stepped up and tried to make a play. I knew I had to get in there and break things up. I just wish I could have pulled him down. Those are the type of situations that the defense lives for."

"They were able to move it on us again in their first drive. They didn't do anything that we weren't prepared for, and we could have stopped them. We just didn't. We regrouped as a defense, and shut them down from there."

DT GARRY HOWE

"This is a great win for us. It's just one step towards our goal of being back in the Orange Bowl. Beating Oklahoma was key to our season. Now we just have to focus on Nebraska and the next couple of weeks."

"We were able to get a lot of pressure on them, especially in the second half. We knew that they were going to try to run up the middle, and run a lot of option stuff. The Lord was on my side and I was able to get the job done, we got things going our way in the second half. We're going to have to work on the options, and be able to shut down the big plays in order to shut down Nebraska next week."

OLB KANAVIS MCGHEE

"The plan was to put a lot of pressure on them. Oklahoma has a new passing game and we wanted to stop that. Gundy wanted to pass, but we were able to get in his face and make every play tough on him. We knew we had to stop the pass to win. When Collins came in we knew they would have to run. They went back to old-time Oklahoma football."

"I think we played well today as a team. We're making strides to do the same things we did last year. We gonna have to keep working and keep up the intensity to beat Nebraska. It's a game we have to win and we have to go face them in their place."

CB DAVE McCLOUGHAN

On getting beat for the touchdown: "He came out, and was going to run a hitch and go. I came up and bit on the hitch, and wasn't able to get turned around fast enough, he got by me and was gone from there."

On his interception: "It was a big play for me, especially after what happened earlier. That's the way it is with defensivebacks, you win some, you lose some, but you just have to keep on fighting. I was able to stay with him and pull down the ball in a key situation." "It's good to get this win under our belts. Now it's time to get ready to meet big red. We just have a bunch of great competitors on this team, and we're starting to build up our momentum."

P TOM ROUEN

On the two shanks: "I think I was taking my eye off the ball. I definitely wasn't hitting it. Both shanks went for 30 yards, which is a pretty good shank. Thankfully, they didn't end up hurting us. The first one the snap was to the right, and I stepped out to get it. I saw a guy coming in, and I stepped back in, I think I was distracted by that. I knew it was bad the minute I hit it."

TB ERIC BIENIEMY

On his 20 yard run: "Hemingway threw a great kickout block for me. I just thought, 'don't look back.'"

"It was a traditional Big 8 game. We were able to run; the line opened up the holes." "We beat a great team today, but we can't enjoy it long. Nebraska's next."

WR MIKE PRITCHARD

"We have big play players all over the team. When we get the ball, we can do it; Rico, me, whoever."

On Rico Smith: "I am happy, he played well. He needed confidence at this level, coming from a junior college, and he played well. He made up for Stanford."

"We're a second half team. The defense shuts them down, we put points on the board."

QB DARIAN HAGAN

On big plays before half time: "The offensive line was blocking well. A couple of gaps were left open inside, and I was taking them."

"I feel I played a good game. It may have been my best this season; I feel good about the team. We beat a good team."

"Both Oklahoma and Nebraska are great teams this year. It's a great challenge; we have one out of the way and one more to go."

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Oklahoma Players

TE Adrian Cooper

ON THE CU DEFENSE—"They're not as good as they were last year. That's not saying that they're not good, but last year they were excellent."

ON THREE STRAIGHT DEFEATS—"We've lost three tough games, but we're going to bounce back. We'll never give up."

QB Cale Gundy

"Our passing game opened things up a bit, and that's what you have to do to beat a team like Colorado. I thought we were playing really well. We came out mixing things up, we ran some counters and some traps. That's the kind of offense we have to have to win big games."

ON THE CU DEFENSE—"I knew everything they were doing. They didn't throw anything against our offense that I wasn't aware of. I expected everything."

QB Steve Collins

"I was a little sporadic at times as far as the option game was concerned. Everything else seemed to go pretty much as planned, we just didn't execute at certain times and it really hurt us. I thought that we had the momentum starting the second half, but we kind of lost it in the middle of the third quarter and we never did regain it. We balanced out their big plays, but they had the most."

ON WILLIAMS & MCGHEE—"They're pretty good. They're real good. Those two guys were my hosts when I visited Colorado, so I know them pretty well. It was real emotional for us all, and they have a very good team, and I give them a lot of credit."

TB Dewell Brewer

ON FOURTH DOWN PLAY—"There is a defensive play to stop every offensive play, and on that one, they just had the right one called."

ON FAILED TWO-POINT TRY—"I felt like I got in. My back was turned to the referee, and the ball was inside and I couldn't push the ball up (to show the official)."

SS Jason Belser

ON BIENIEMY TD RUN—"I gave it my all, and he gave it his all. He's a top contender for the Heisman. He's a great player because he's a great competitor."

ON SMITH TD RECEPTION—"I thought I had the interception, the ball went off the top of my hand and went right to him. Then he was off to the races and there was no way I could catch him."

FS Terry Ray

ON RICO SMITH TD—"As a defensive back, you know you're going to give up receptions, but you hate to see it be the long one. It's kind of the way our season has gone; you just have to blow it off."

ON STOPPING CU ON FOURTH DOWN—"You just want to give your offense a chance to win the game. CU wasn't that much better than us, they just got the job done."

ON THREE STRAIGHT LOSSES—"It leaves me speechless. We're working hard, we're just not coming out on the plus end of things."

WLB Chris Wilson

"It was a hard fought game on both sides. It was a big play type game. That was the thing that hurt us the most. They made more big plays than we did. Opening up the fourth quarter with the long pass and Bieniemy's long run were both big plays that were both big factors in the game. These past two weeks have been tough, and we've shown a lot of character. We don't have a team of quitters, and I don't think that will be the case. We can either go out with the attitude of make it 8-3 or with the attitude of being maybe 5-6. This is Oklahoma, and we have to go out and show a lot of pride."

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Colorado/Oklahoma Postgame Notes

- Today's sellout crowd of **51,967** is the third consecutive sellout crowd at Folsom Field, and only the second time in CU history that the Buffs have drawn 50,000-plus for four straight home contests. Colorado has now drawn 207,365 for four home games, an average of 51,841 per game which would set a new team record (the current standard is 51,174, which was set in 1972).
- Darian Hagan's 16-yard pass completion on the first play of the game to Sean Brown was the biggest play of the year by the Buffs on the first play of the game. In the previous eight games, CU had netted a total of nine yards, the longest a four-yard gain by Eric Bieniemy against Stanford.
- The Cale Gundy-to-Ted Long 80-yard pass play for a touchdown was the longest Sooner pass play of the season; however, you only have to go back to last year's season finale to find a longer one: Steve Collins-to-Arthur Guess for 82 yards.
- Darian Hagan has now had 14 opportunities in his career to engineer the two-minute offense for Colorado, and his efforts have yielded 12 scores (9 TD's, 3FG's).
- The 85-yard touchdown pass from Darian Hagan-to-Rico Smith was the fourth longest in CU history: the record is 90 yards (Marc Walters-to-Jeff Campbell vs. Kansas State in 1988). There have been two 87 yard pass completions (all four have gone for touchdowns).
- Colorado has now trailed at halftime three times this season and has rallied to win all three games. The Buffs trailed Stanford (14-0), Washington (7-3) and now Oklahoma (14-12) and rallied to win all three.
- Oklahoma's score on the first possession of the game marked the eighth time in nine games this season that the CU opponent has scored first in a game (lone exception: at Kansas).
- Today's result marked a pair of quarter-century firsts: Colorado defeating Oklahoma two years in a row (1965 and 1966); and Oklahoma losing three straight games (the Sooners lost the first three and last three games of the 1965 season).
- A pair of three unique things in today's game: there were three missed two-point conversions, and three scoring "drive" under 12 seconds in length.
- The last time Colorado scored over 30 points on Oklahoma was in the infamous 82-42 loss in Boulder in 1981. The last time the Buffs did it in victory was 42-31 in Boulder in 1976.
- Colorado's 460 yards of total offense is the most by the Buffs since 1976 (464 yards).
- The two teams combined for 401 passing yards this afternoon; to put that in perspective, in the three previous games (87-88-89), the two combined for 421 passing yards. Oklahoma's 221 yards passing was the fourth most against CU this season.
- INJURY REPORTS: Colorado—DT Leonard Renfro (strained left achilles; questionable for NU)
LB Chad Brown (right shoulder contusion; probable)
TE Jon Boman (sprained foot; day-to-day)
OG Russ Heasley (sprained shoulder; probable)
Oklahoma—QB Cale Gundy (groin pull); SE Ted Long (sprained for fractured wrist); NG Proctor Land (sprained or fractured thumb);
CB Darnell Walker (sprained ankle).
- Colorado did not commit a turnover today; that's the 11th time in the last 43 games (since 1987; the Buffs went the previous 11 years without a turnover free game).
- Colorado averaged 10.1 yards per play on first down (32 plays, 325 yards), while Oklahoma averaged 4.9 per play (take out the one 80-yard pass, and the Sooners ran 26 first down plays for 50 yards, 1.9 per).
- Eric Bieniemy has now rushed for 100-plus yards in seven of his eight games this season (the lone exception was 99 vs. Texas). He earned 10 first downs this afternoon to go with his 188 yards. He now has 3,540 career rushing yards, and moved into second place on CU's all-time total offense list this afternoon (3,612).