

Buffs DE Kasa not looking back

Former Legacy High stary happy he chose Colorado over Florida

By Ryan Thorburn Sunday, August 9, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — Romeo Bandison remembers exactly where he was when he found out that Nick Kasa was coming to Colorado after all.

CU's defensive line coach was driving on Stemmons Freeway in Dallas during a recruiting trip when head coach Dan Hawkins called him last January with news that Kasa was reneging on his verbal commitment to Florida to play for the Buffs.

"We felt like we had a good relationship with Nick and his parents and his coach. After he made his decision (to attend Florida), we respected that and we thought it ended on good terms and it was too bad we didn't get him," Bandison said. "But I'm glad he came around. He's a good player, a local guy, a good kid, a smart kid ... he's the kind of kid we like around here."

Kasa -- like Jon Major (2008) and Ryan Miller (2007) before him -- was the state's top-ranked prospect. Despite the Gators' victory over Oklahoma in the BCS national title game, the Legacy High School product felt like home was where his heart was.

"Once I made the decision that this was right for me, I haven't thought about it at all since," Kasa said after his first official collegiate practice. "I love it up here."

Had Kasa gone to Florida, the preseason No. 1 in the USA Today Coaches poll, he would have almost certainly redshirted and perhaps been asked to play offensive line.

At CU, there is a good chance Kasa will be in the rotation at defensive end this season. Over the summer he added 20 pounds to his 6-7 frame while working out with the rest of the Buffs.

"He impacted the team in the offseason just by his ability," Bandison said. "He came in and he was able to compete right away in the conditioning stuff. He was running with Nate Solder, who makes every lineman look bad because he's so talented. Solder always wins all of the drills, he's always the fastest and the most athletic. And now Nick's competing with him. I think that helps them both.

"And now the other D-linemen know they have to step up. He's kind of raised the bar with the abilities that he has."

Defensive line is obviously an area of concern for CU with the loss of mainstays George Hypolite, Brandon Nicolas and Maurice Lucas. Sophomores Conrad Obi and Lagrone Shields have a head start in the competition to start at defensive end opposite Marquez Herrod.

However, Kasa -- who has run the 40-yard dash in 4.7 seconds -- has the talent to catch them.

"Right now I don't have any expectations. I just want to be as good as I can be and hopefully get some playing time," Kasa said. "I think I can get some playing time. That's up to me I think."To the untrained eye, Kasa looks like an impact player. Although the Buffs are only three practices into fall camp, the freshman has also made an impression on those responsible for blocking him on the practice fields.

"I have high hopes for him," said Solder, CU's 6-9, 305-pound left tackle. "He's going to be really good."



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Simas is second CU football player suspended

Wide receiver to miss first two games this fall

By Kyle Ringo Saturday, August 8, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — Colorado wide receiver Markques Simas might never experience the in-state rivalry against Colorado State at the rate he is going.

The third-year sophomore has been suspended for the first two games of the 2009 season for violating team rules, coach Dan Hawkins announced Saturday during fall sports media day at the school. Simas declined to comment specifically on what he called a big mistake, but he said he regrets putting his coaches and teammates in a shorthanded situation to the start the season for the second consecutive year.

"I'm definitely kind of frustrated but the only person I can blame is me," Simas said. "I take responsibility for what I did. As far as my teammates and coaches are concerned, that's what hurts me the most because I have been out two years already. Now I've got to sit out two more games."

He redshirted as a true freshman in 2007 and was forced to sit out last season after becoming academically ineligible. He will also miss the Sept. 11 trip to Toledo before returning to the active roster before the Buffs host Wyoming on Sept. 19.

Simas said his focus now is trying to help newcomers at his position prepare for those first two games and doing whatever he can to help the team earn an additional two games. He said he can repay his teammates by coming back and playing at a high level and helping to lead them to a Big 12 Championship game and a bowl game.

"I'll get one of those games back," he said. "Maybe two if we get to the Big 12 championship."

Simas is the second player suspended for all or part of this season. Hawkins announced Friday that offensive lineman Sione Tau, who also missed last season as an academic casualty, has been suspended from school for the entire fall semester for violating team rules and the student code of conduct.

"We have first-class standards here to develop into outstanding young men, students and football players," Hawkins said. "They'll learn from their mistakes."

Simas said when he returns from suspension he expects the Buffs to be 2-0.

"I'm confident they will get it done, and I will come back for the Wyoming game and try and regain the starter position," Simas said. "I'm working out here as a starter. I'm not going to take camp lightly. I'm going to come out here and work as a starter even though I'm working with the twos."

Burney bowdlerized

Senior cornerback Ben Burney was supposed to write a season-long blog for CUBuffs.com, but Burney said the blog was discontinued after the first edition appeared online Thursday evening when players reported for fall camp.

Burney's blog titled "The sad goodbye" was attention grabbing because of the way he chose to open. It began with a description of him waking early Thursday morning next to a woman in his bed, and graduated to mention his libido as he eventually made the point that reporting day for players is actually viewed as the end of fun times and freedom and the beginning of a regimented schedule and more disciplined lifestyle.

Burney said the blog was later edited without consulting him. He said the plan was for him to write the blog all season. He said he has since been told further editions won't be necessary.

"I have been censored. They took parts out of my blog and they took it away from me," Burney said. "It was my idea and it saddens me. They didn't tell me why I got censored, they changed it and it was taken away from me."

Burney said he doesn't believe he crossed a line for what would be considered appropriate content on a athletic department Web site. He said he was simply sharing some honest insight into what life can be like for some college football players.

"I was just trying to portray how it is," Burney said. "I wasn't trying to be risqué or anything like that. I was just trying to make it realistic. I guess it was too realistic."

Determination

rewarded

Hawkins announced three walk-ons have been rewarded with scholarships for the fall semester because of their previous body of work in the program.

Senior linebacker Bryan Stengel, senior tight end Devin Shanahan and sophomore safety Travis Sandersfeld earned the honor and financial relief for themselves and their parents.

Stengel, who played in nine games last year and made 13 tackles, said he found out he has earned a scholarship from his mom. Hawkins had called his parents to tell them and allowed them to give their son the news.

"It means everything," Stengel said. "Everything I've been through. Everything I've done, all the sweat, all the tears. It just finally pays off."

Stengel and Shanahan actually joined the program in 2005 under former coach Gary Barnett. CU now has 76 active players on scholarship and another five inactive players on scholarship.



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woody paige

Paige: A look at Buffs' H&H QB battle

By Woody Paige The Denver Post

Posted: 08/09/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



Despite the heated competition to become the Colorado Buffaloes' starting quarterback this season. Cody Hawkins, left, and Tyler Hansen are good friends both on and off the field. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver

Former San Diego State quarterback Rick Hansen became a coach in 1983. Up Interstate 5, then I-80, 500 miles away, former University of California-Davis fullback Dan Hawkins became a

coach in 1984.

Hawkins' son Cody was born in California in 1988, and in 1989 in the same state, Hansen's son Tyler was born.

The sons of the coaches grew up to become college quarterbacks at Colorado in the late 2000s. They split time at the position last season, and they are competing to be No. 1 and probably 1A — again this year.

H&H: Rivals, teammates, athletes with similar backgrounds, dueling dudes and, most important, close friends.

After the Buffs' practice Saturday morning, the two shared lunch, laughter, sarcasm and some answers about themselves and each other, the CU team and The Battle of the Buffs' QBs.

Q: What's the one secret about the other guy that people outside the program don't know?

Tyler: "Cody's a big music lover, all kinds of music. He knows everything from country to hiphop."

Cody: "Tyler is a really shy guy, but once you get him going, he makes everybody happy with his joking around."

Q: What's the best thing about your adversary on the football field?

Tyler: "He knows football inside and out. He's calm under pressure. He's a great leader, and

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he'll make a great football coach."

Cody: "Tyler's best attribute is his moxie. No matter what the tough situation is in a game, he'll make the most out of it, squeeze something out of nothing."

Q: How does the competition with him help you?

Tyler: "I'll go into the weight room, and he's bench-pressing, and it pushes me to lift more weight than he does. We're both trying to be the first-team quarterback, but Cody will work with me all the time to get me better. If he has a great practice, I'm trying to equal him."

Cody: "If I hear over the weekend that Tyler's watching (game) tapes, then I stay in and get out the tapes. We push each other, and we're competitive guys, so it's good for us."

Tyler: "And whoever is the starter will know that the other one is ready to go if you're injured or the situation in a game changes, or maybe you're not on that day."

Cody is better looking, Tyler more elusive. Tyler is the funnier one, Cody the more introspective quarterback. Cody is a pocket passer, Tyler the runner-thrower. Both are excellent students and sharp, charming young men. In spring practice, one couldn't shake the other, although, at the end, Tyler broke the thumb on his right hand. In the summer, he ripped off the cast two weeks early to start working out. Cody added serious

muscle in the offseason and, at the dining room table, flexed his arms over two bowls of chili, while Tyler ate his salad and sandwich and winced.

Q: Last year both of you played behind an offensive line that lost two injured starters for the season, had a tackle who was a converted tight end and included two freshmen playing most of the time. This year you've got veterans everywhere. What does that mean?

Tyler: "It's cool. There are some big people on the line, 6-8, 6-9 and heavy. Last season I think both me and Cody were looking around at the defense saying, 'When are they coming and from where,' and I remember a lot of trash-talking and not being able to respond. This season the offensive line is great, and maybe they'll respond when



sports columnist Woody Paige fields your questions. Look for Woody's Mailbag on Thursdays.

I get trash-talked."

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Cody: "They're awesome. We have the confidence that we can run the football behind those guys, and they're not going to get beat at the line of scrimmage. It's entirely different from last year. We're a unit now."

Q: You two are a little bit too chummy. Don't you ever fight?"

Tyler: "He's out running wind sprints after practice, trying to show me up, I guess. I should fight him, but, you know, he's the coach's son."

Cody: "No fights. We've become good friends. Tyler's got a lot of talent, and we talk on the sideline all the time and hang out together. I redshirted my freshman year and was more aware when I started the next season. Tyler was a real freshman last year and was thrown into the fire right away, and he handled it. He can't fight, anyway."

I asked Dan Hawkins, coach and father, about the challenge between the two to be 1. He gave a rather nondefinitive response: "We'll see how it plays out. I thought both played well this morning."

. . .

Q: Who do you think should start?

Tyler: "I'll leave that up to the coaches' decision. Of course, as a quarterback, you want to be the starter, but I think we'll both play. Last

year I was overwhelmed with the speed of the game, playing under the lights on TV with 60,000 people watching. I'm prepared, but it's going to be hard to beat out Cody."

Cody: "Honestly, whatever is best for the team. I'm competitive enough to want to play all the time, but we're coaches' sons. We understand. If me and Tyler keep playing well, it will make the decision difficult, but whichever way it goes, we'll be OK."

Q: What's the class you dread and the one you most look forward to this fall?

Tyler: "My worst is public speaking. I don't like to speak in public. I can't wait for introduction to film. I want to make my own movies one day."

Cody (grimacing): "I have a six-hour advanced course in humanities. I'd like to take an acting course."

Tyler: "I'll direct the movie, and you'll star in it."

Q: Who's the best golfer?

Tyler: "I kick his butt."

Cody: "Yes, he does, but I've played twice in my life. He isn't any good, either."

The quarterbacking sons make their coaching fathers proud.

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cu briefs

Simas suspended two games for breaking team rules

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Markques Simas, right, during an April scrimmage (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — In dire need of playmaking receivers, Colorado can't seem to catch a break at that position.

CU announced Saturday during its football media-day activities that third-year sophomore wideout Markques Simas has been suspended for the first two games of the upcoming season because of an unspecified violation of team rules. A 6-foot-2, 215-pounder with big hands, Simas is being counted on this year to be a go-to target.

Simas can continue to practice with the team but must sit out the Sept. 6 opener against Colorado State in Boulder and the Sept. 11 game at Toledo. He will be eligible to play Sept. 19 in CU's home game against Wyoming. Until then, junior Scotty McKnight may have to look to newcomers for help. Those include junior-college transfer Andre Simmons and freshman arrivals Jarrod Darden, Will Jefferson and Terdema Ussery.

"We'll have to get those young guys ready to go," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. Regarding the suspension of Simas, Hawkins said in a news release: "We have first-class standards in place here to develop outstanding young men, students and football players. They'll learn from their mistakes."

A four-star prospect from San Diego, Simas turned down several Pac-10 programs, and his signing with Colorado in February 2007 was greeted with much fanfare here. Although this is his third fall camp, Simas has yet to play a down in a game. He redshirted in 2007 and was ruled







academically ineligible prior to last season.

"It's frustrating," Simas said Saturday. "But I'm the only one that can be blamed for it. I feel I've let my teammates down because they know potentially what I can do."

With Simas out, the running game may have to carry more of the load during the first two games. "We can do that," sophomore tailback Darrell Scott said. "We have plenty of weapons."

Rivalry talk.

Colorado's Scott on facing CSU in the season opener, this time at Folsom Field: "When I first got here, I didn't know what the rivalry was really about. . . . It means a lot. We want to crush them."

Footnotes.

Blue-chip freshman defensive end Nick Kasa on his first taste of college practice: "It's a lot more up-tempo than high school, but I like the faster pace." . . . Three walk-ons have been awarded scholarships for 2009: fifth-year seniors Devin Shanahan (tight end) and Bryan Stengel (linebacker) and sophomore safety Travis Sandersfeld. . . . The Buffs have just one practice scheduled for today, 3:30-5:45 p.m.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post





cu football

Young CU defense learning ropes

Buffs will switch between 3-4 and 4-3 schemes to keep strong opponents guessing.

By Tom Kensler

The Denver Post

Posted: 08/09/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 08/09/2009 01:13:29 AM MDT



Some of Colorado's young defensive players warm up during the first practice of the season Friday in Boulder. (Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — If you can't overpower your opponents, at least keep them guessing. It's a

football axiom that must be as old as the game itself, a philosophy Colorado plans to embrace this season with its inexperienced defensive front.

Two ways to keep the opposition guessing involve changes in personnel and schemes. Colorado figures to do both. Player substitutions along the line could be made early and often enough, perhaps, to make a hockey coach smile. And look for CU players in the box to shift seamlessly between 4-3 and 3-4 alignments.

Colorado has used both formations in the past, and coaches aren't saying whether the 3-4 (three down linemen, four linebackers) will be featured more frequently this season. Don't expect a wholesale commitment to the 3-4, as the Broncos have made. But for CU to place a greater emphasis on the 3-4 would not come as a surprise.







Which area college football team will do the worst this season?

CU: Coach Dan Hawkins is projecting 10 wins, and Buffs won't even come close.

CSU: Coach Steve Fairchild's crew has to compete with the likes of Utah, BYU and TCU.

It's no secret that the Buffaloes' roster is, at this point, blessed with more numbers, talent and experience at linebacker than what is available up front.

"Us linebackers have to be ready to cover up the

mistakes that our young defensive line is going to make," senior linebacker Jeff Smart acknowledged.

Marquez Herrod, a 6-foot-2, 275-pound junior defensive end, is the lone returning starter among the front four. And Herrod was only a part-time starter last year.

Gone are three multiyear starters — tackles George Hypolite and Brandon Nicolas and end Maurice Lucas — who combined for 88 starts and 5,242 plays during their careers. The trio was on the field for 79 percent of the defensive plays in 2008. In their place is a hodgepodge of candidates.

There are veterans without much experience, including senior tackle Taj Kaynor (6-5, 275) and junior tackle Eric Lawson (6-3, 270). There are young players eager for an opportunity, including sophomore tackles Curtis Cunningham (6-1, 280) and Eugene Goree (6-1, 305), sophomore ends Conrad Obi (6-3, 275) and Lagrone Shields (6-3, 275) and redshirt freshman tackle Will Pericak (6-4, 280).

"It's going to be a combination of doing some different things on defense," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "Last year, we were able to kind of sit in there and statically hold up with George and Brandon and those guys. With these guys, it's going to have to be 'by committee.' We need them to grow up."

The lack of returning experience opens the door for a trio of freshman arrivals who are well

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aware of the depth chart. Defensive end Nick Kasa (6-7, 260) from Legacy High in Broomfield brings Parade All-America credentials and perhaps the quickest feet on the defensive line. Defensive tackle Nate Bonsu (6-2, 295) played last season on a Class 5A state championship

loes'	k at the participatio D-line in 2008, and v this fall:		
Depa	rted experience		
Pos.	Player		Play
DT	Brandon Nicolas		670
DT	George Hypolite		668
DE	Maurice Lucas		643
Most	returning experien	ce	
Pos.	Player	CI.	Play
DE	Marquez Herrod	Jr.	187
DT	Curtis Cunningham	So.	145
DT	Eugene Goree	So.	89

(Click image to enlarge)

team in Allen, Texas. Thick and powerful, he already looks the part. Defensive end Forrest West (6-2, 240) hails from Connecticut and was not widely recruited but shows speed off the edge.

"Those three freshmen have done everything they can to put themselves in position to have a chance," defensive line coach Romeo Bandison said Saturday during CU football media-day interviews.

In a perfect world, four defensive linemen would separate themselves as starters. That's not likely to happen with this bunch, Bandison said.
"Everybody is so even right now, talent-wise and experience-wise," he explained, "so finding a bunch of guys that can rotate in there is probably what we'll end up doing."

Cunningham, a former all-stater at Columbine, drew the most playing time last season among the reserves and may have the inside track on a starting job at one of the tackle spots. But overall competition should be lively.

"We all just have to sell out and go all out," Herrod said. "Maybe we don't have a lot of experience, but we were all selected to come here because we had some skills. It's not like there isn't any talent. It's just inexperienced talent."

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Longmont, Colorado Wednesday, August 12, 2009

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Final season arrives for tight-knit senior class

By Patrick Ridgell © 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins didn't need a thesaurus to describe his 2009 senior class.

"Small," Hawkins said Saturday at the program's media day.

He ain't kidding. CU's roster lists 17 seniors. Only 14 of them are on scholarship, and that includes the ones recently awarded to former walk-ons Bryan Stengel and Devin Shanahan. This is not what any coach wants, especially one entering his fourth season with a 13-24 record. The Buffs have no seniors on the offensive line, not including tight ends Patrick Devenny and Riar Geer. No seniors can be found among the quarterbacks, although junior Cody Hawkins has made 23 starts there. Kevin Moyd is the lone senior tailback, but he's getting a look at wide receiver in camp.

If all of this presents a problem, the Buffs aren't saying so.

"I like those guys a lot," Hawkins said, singling out Geer, Devenny, and cornerbacks Cha'pelle Brown and Ben Burney as he answered. "They've seen a lot and they've been through a lot.

"I wish we had more of them. You'd love to have a senior class that was more in the 22-25 range. But the guys we got are good players and good guys."



Colorado head football coach Dan Hawkins answers questions during CU's media day at the Dal Ward Athletic Center on Saturday. Lewis Geyer/Times-Call

Hawkins said he held a leadership meeting the other night that included about 30 people he described as "viable" choices to be leaders. Obviously, that meant a few non-seniors were there. Hawkins also stressed others who weren't in attendance could emerge in leadership roles.

"The nature of where we've been, a lot of those guys in that junior class have played probably a lot more than maybe a typical guy would be," he said.

Said Burney: "People say the key to a great team is leaders. People ask us if we're going to step up and be leaders. Seniors aren't necessarily leaders; sometimes they're just quiet — quiet guys who do right. The thing is, with our team, we don't have to have the oldest guys be leaders.

"It's the guys who want to be in front, or want to be in the middle of the circle when we call it up.

"There are a whole bunch of guys who do it, and it changes everyday."

CU listed 39 freshmen — 10 redshirt — and 37 sophomore on its online roster as of Saturday. It has 21 juniors to go along with the 17 seniors. As much as Hawkins craves depth and experience, and as much as a fourth-year coach should expect such, the numbers indicate this is still not a veteran program.

Of the seniors, 11 date back to when Gary Barnett coached the program. Those are the ones who were around the last time CU reached a Big 12 championship game — or had a winning season. They also saw the coaching change from front-row seats.

A bond has grown.

"This senior class is very special," said Burney, who's returning after redshirting last year to recover from five offseason surgeries. "This is the end of the G.B era. ... We all came in with G.B., and we have a tight-knit group. We've been through a lot of things — coaching changes, different atmospheres, stuff like that.

"Our class might be small, but you're not going find a closer family. He can be a punter and I'm a DB, but we have a relationship because we've been through so much. This class is extremely special for that."

What could make it more special is some success in 2009. Different Buffs provided different answers when asked about the pressure they feel to change CU's fortunes before they leave. The team's last winning season was 2005 — Barnett's final one.

"I feel a lot of pressure," defensive tackle Taj Kaynor said. "I feel like this has to be the year when it turns around.

"I think about what I want, about how I want to be remembered, what I want to leave."

Burney and Brown said they don't feel that kind of pressure. But their words suggest there is an urgency to win.

"I don't think there's really pressure — it's not like there's a heavy weight on my shoulders or something like that," Burney said. "We've been working hard on something, and it's been our time for a long time, and we already feel as though we're at the end of something great.

"It's not completely on us as seniors; it's on us as a team. It's not just us as a senior class. When we leave this place, we'll leave it in good standing."

Said Brown: "There isn't just too much pressure. I'd say there's just pride. Now it's just time to get a winning season and leave on a good note."

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Receiver's suspension stings

By Patrick Ridgell © 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Saturday's news about Markques Simas' suspension for the first two games of 2009 has left some Colorado Buffaloes frustrated.

Simas, for one.

"It's a little frustrating, but I'm the only person you can blame for it," Simas said. "So I'm just going to keep preparing and work hard.

"When it comes time for Wyoming, I'll just be prepared and mentally ready."

Simas redshirted in 2007 as a true freshman after he missed most of the summer and arrived in need of conditioning. He was academically ineligible in 2008.

Simas will miss CU's season opener against Colorado State on Sept. 6, then its first road game five days later at Toledo. Wyoming visits Folsom Field on Sept. 19.

CU announced that Simas violated team rules to earn the suspension.

Said Simas: "It's just an issue me and (coach Dan Hawkins) have. It happened a while ago, but it's overlapped into the next season."

In a statement, Hawkins said, "We have first class standards in place here to develop into outstanding young men, students and football players. (Players will) learn from their mistakes."

Asked how Simas' suspension will affect things at a position that lost most of its experience from last season, Hawkins said: "Just those young guys, just getting those young guys ready to go."

Other than junior Scotty McKnight, CU has no receivers who've played much. CU hopes freshmen Jarrod Darden, Terdema Ussery and/or Will Jefferson catch on quickly to the offense.

Junior college-transfer Andre Simmons said his former school closed too early Friday to be able to send his transcripts to CU, so he's still waiting to be cleared to play. Hawkins reiterated Saturday that he does not expect any problems with Simmons' clearance.

The rest of CU's depth chart at wide receiver includes former running backs Cory Nabors and Kevin Moyd, plus walk-ons Dustin Ebner, Cameron Ham, Jason Espinoza and Ryan Maxwell.

"The receivers are working hard out there and look good," said cornerback Ben Burney, who practices against them every day. "Markques is definitely an asset to them. We'll see how it goes. I'm sure somebody will step up."

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED: Senior linebacker Bryan Stengel, senior tight end Devin Shanahan and sophomore safety Travis Sandersfeld have been awarded scholarships.

Stengel said he learned that he had received his a few weeks ago. He received a late-night phone call from his mother, who congratulated him. Stengel asked, "For what?" and then learned his parents had been told the news by a CU coach first.

"My mom was in tears," Stengel said. "It was a very big surprise."

THREE QUARTERBACKS: Hawkins said three quarterbacks will be prepared to play this season.

True freshman Clark Evans will presumably be the third one, behind Cody Hawkins and Tyler Hansen, who are battling for the starting spot. Freshman walk-ons Seth Lobato and Jerry Slota also are in camp.

Freshman Josh Moten continues to wait for certification from the NCAA Clearinghouse, which could take up to three more weeks to arrive. Moten is expected to begin at quarterback, but could change positions. He worked out in Boulder over the summer.

EXTRA POINTS: Burney had begun writing a blog for cubuffs.com about camp. It appears that after his initial entry, which ran Friday on the site, it will be discontinued.

"They took my blog away," Burney said. "Nobody told me what they disliked about it, they just told me I couldn't write it anymore." ... Hawkins said that his added duty of coaching wide receivers this year means he'll have less time for "speaking things" and "P.R. things." ... Five of CU's games are already scheduled for national television. Hawkins said he received a note from a soldier serving in Iraq saying how much he's looking forward to getting to watch them. ... Former CU safety Ryan Walters said Saturday he's working with the program's equipment department.

Patrick Ridgell can be reached at pridgell@times-call.com.