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# CU's Hawkins: Hansen had better feel

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Speaking today on the Big 12 coaches teleconference, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen “had a better feel” in Saturday’s 35-34 come-from-behind victory over Texas A&M than he showed in previous games.

Making just his fourth start of the season, Hansen completed 21-of-32 passes for 271 yards with one interception and one huge touchdown. Hansen hit senior tight end Patrick Devenny for a 22-yard TD with 2:04 remaining in the fourth quarter for what proved to be the winning score.

Hansen continually picked himself off the turf after eight sacks and made big plays.

“He was great, he really was,” Hawkins said. “I think it’s the first time here that I’ve seen him get any kind of rhythm. He had a couple of reads he’d love to take back, and one throw (fourth quarter interception) he’d love to take back. But I just thought his game was coming together for him.

“He just hung in there. He stayed very focused and was able to kind of work through the highs and the lows. I think that’s just (getting) a little bit of experience.”

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ray cone 1961-2009

## Former Colorado linebacker Ray Cone dies at 48

By Natalie Meisler  
The Denver Post

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Cone signed with Fairbanks, CU out of Jefferson High.

Ray Cone, a former linebacker who personified

Colorado football's best spirit during one of the program's worst times, was found dead near his Orlando, Fla., home Sunday. He was 48.

The family did not give a cause of death, although no foul play was suspected by Orlando police.

Cone disappeared while on a bike ride after a morning of playing basketball with a college-aged son, according to an e-mail sent by his widow, Trish, and forwarded by CU associate athletic director Dave Plati. Cone leaves five children.

A standout football and basketball player at Jefferson High School in Edgewater, Cone signed with CU when the Buffaloes' coach was Chuck Fairbanks.

Despite playing through losing seasons from 1980-82, the last under first-year coach Bill McCartney, Cone never lost support for the Buffs.

"He was such an encourager and lifter. It's difficult to understand what happens in the mind and thoughts that take place," said former CU teammate Don DeLuzio, who hired Cone to work for his Florida tile distributorship a few years ago. "He lived a life to make other people happy."

DeLuzio remembered Cone as the team comedian. Cone and his brother, Marty, always had a gag during Nebraska week, once driving a

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small motor-cycle through practice with Marty dressed as a Nebraska player. The brothers would dress for the old CU alumni games as "Saturday Night Live"-inspired "Coneheads."

DeLuzio said he expects a memorial service to be in Denver after Thanks-giving.

"He wanted to be everything right, as a husband or father. He had a strong marriage and five beautiful kids," DeLuzio said.

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