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Brown makes Buffs look lucky

By Patrick Ridgell © 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Not bad for a guy hardly anyone wanted.

Such sentiment applies to Jalil Brown, a junior cornerback in the Colorado secondary who made 15 tackles and broke up three passes in last Saturday's win over Texas A&M.

Greg Brown, the program's secondary coach, uses words like "classy" and "smart" when he describes Jalil Brown.

Greg Brown and head coach Dan Hawkins both say Jalil Brown has a chance to play in the NFL when he leaves CU after the 2010 season.

"He's everything you want," Greg Brown said.

He just reached this point of his development in a slightly different way than most.

Jalil Brown grew up in Phoenix. He said that around the time he was in sixth grade, his parents — concerned that the rough neighborhood in which they lived could jeopardize their son's future — opted to pull him out of school and home-school him.

His grandfather, John Simmons, administered the English and Spanish lessons. Dad was pretty busy, Jalil said, but would come home from work if he was having problems with math. Mom handled the other courses.

Jalil no longer got to hang with his buddies in school. His parents awoke him at about 7 a.m. every day, refusing to allow any coasting. He was stuck inside all day. But by the time he was a senior, he had tested well enough take courses at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix.

At first, Jalil says, he didn't like home-schooling much. Today, he sees the benefit.

"It helped a lot with being disciplined," he said. "When you're at home, you have to sit there yourself, and when it was time to do homework, you have a paper due by a certain date, (and) there's no teacher there to remind you it's due. So I had to rely on my self-discipline.

"Now, coming into college, it helps a lot, because you come home from practice and you want to go to bed or do something besides study. I'm used to putting forth the effort it takes to get good grades."



CU's Jalil Brown celebrates after returning an interception to the 2-yard line against Kansas on Oct.

17. Lewis Geyer/Times-Call file

Athletes of the Week

CU Athletes of the Week

Male

Tyler Hansen, So., football

Hansen completed 21 of 31 passes during CU's 35-34 defeat of Texas A&M on Saturday.

Female

Becah Fogle, So., volleyball

Fogle averaged 4.5 kills and 3.83 digs per match to lead CU to a 1-1 week.

CSU Athletes of the Week

Male

Shelley Smith, Sr., football

The 6-foot-4, 300-pound guard received an invitational to play in the East-West Shrine Game on Jan. 23.

Female

Evan Sanders, So., volleyball

He said he'll graduate in December 2010 with a degree in sociology and a business minor.

The Rams' setter had 40 assists in a 3-0 victory against San Diego State. She also had four kills and five digs.

Jalil was the final member of Hawkins' first CU recruiting class, signing in April 2006.

The Buffs learned of him when Greg Brown's brother Mike, a high school coach in the Phoenix area, alerted Greg to this lightly recruited kid who played at South Mountain High and could do some things.

Greg went to Phoenix to watch Jalil play basketball. He came away impressed — probably feeling a little lucky, too. He told Jalil, a tailback and safety in high school, he'd make a good cornerback in college. Jalil listened.

"It's not like he was an unknown," Greg said. "Jalil holds the Arizona single-game (prep) rushing record. Yet the recruiting action was slow on Jalil, and we dived in."

Greg says he has "no idea" why there was so little interest in a kid who set the state mark with 412 rushing yards in one game. That effort broke the record held by Terrell Suggs, one of several South Mountain alums who have gone on to the NFL.

Jalil offered two reasons for his anonymity. One was his home-schooling, which limited access to grades that coaches needed to verify he could enroll in their universities. Once they saw he performed well on the SAT, they believed he could, Jalil said.

He added that as a junior, "a lot of people were coming to watch my practices." But interest sagged when he got into trouble during the summer prior to his senior year, Jalil said.

He is reluctant to detail what happened, saying "trouble with authorities" would be sufficient and adding, "It wasn't really bad."

"It was a one-time thing," Jalil said. "I was a good kid."

Who has turned into a good cornerback.

Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog at www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell. He can be reached at pridgell@timescall.com.

Diminutive Buff Cha`pelle Brown delivers with big impact for CU

Brown, 5-foot-7, ranks 44th on CU's all-time tackles list with 268

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/12/2009 11: 47: 31 PM MST

What if all of the Buffs played like Cha`pelle Brown?

Well, there would be no excuses. And perhaps 10 wins.

If you want to put a smile on the face of anyone in the Colorado football program, other than scout team receivers, all you have to do is stop them and ask about the 5-foot-7, 170-pound senior cornerback who has had a big impact during his four seasons in Boulder.

"I'm going to miss everything about Cha`pelle," CU secondary coach Greg Brown said. "It's really going to be a sad day for me personally when he graduates. I've actually been dreading that day for years now, I really have. He means so much to this program."

Cha`pelle Brown led the Buffs with 10 tackles last Saturday during the 35-34 victory over Texas A&M. His next home game, Nov. 27 against Nebraska, will be the last time he plays at Folsom Field.

"He's one of the guys that will be remembered a long time around here," said CU running backs coach Darian Hagan, who recruited Cha'pelle out of La Puente, Calif. "He's a guy that is unselfish, played his butt off and never complained about anything. He does everything right and he's a joy to be around and a joy to talk to. He's a guy that's going to be missed."

Cha`pelle has a tattoo on his chest called "The Brown Five," which is a tribute to his two brothers and two talented football-playing cousins. Theolder Browns were there for him growing up.

"I was always the littlest dude on the block," Cha`pelle said. "We played football every day and basketball every day, and that`s how I learned how to play. I was the youngest and if I had to get the ball up in basketball or make a play in football, that`s what I had to do."

Cha`pelle is a fantastic basketball player who is famous for throwing down some ferocious dunks, despite his diminutive stature.

"I have never looked at my size as a hindrance," he said.

One of his cousins, Travis Brown, played wide receiver at New Mexico and signed as a free agent with the St. Louis Rams this season.

Greg Brown, a longtime secondary coach in the NFL, believes Cha`pelle has what it takes to compete at the next level. He also knows that scouts are going to stiff-arm his favorite pupil because he doesn`t measure up to their physical standards.

"He can play now," Greg Brown insists. "He's a coach out there on the field. He has a sixth sense in coverage. And as far as knowing what's going on and reading offenses, he's like a computer out there."

Jimmy Smith, Cha`pelle`s roommate during their first year at CU, will probably get an opportunity to play at the next level when his college career is finished (he`s a redshirt junior). At 6-2, 210, he has all the physical tools NFL defensive coordinators are looking for. He`ll really have it made if he competes with the same spirit as his friend.

"Cha`pelle plays with confidence, heart, passion, all that," Smith said. "He`s kind of like Bob Sanders from the Colts."

If Smith were to get first-round money after leaving CU, perhaps he will buy his buddy a new car with an automatic transition.

"I do have one story about Cha`pelle that I can tell," Smith says with a smile. "I bought my car going into my redshirt freshman year and he said, 'Whatever you do don't get a stick.` I end up buying a stick.

"So we're driving back home to California together and we get to like Arizona or Utah and we stop and get into a parking lot so I can try to teach him how to drive it. We're parked at the gas pump and there's like a truck in front of us and he gets into the driver's seat and as soon as we get ready to go, he doesn't know that you have to push the stick down to put it in reverse.

"He puts it in first and doesn't know. Somehow a girl is walking through, he takes off and barely misses the girl, her parent is freaking out, and I'm in the front seat laughing the whole time."

With only three more games promised to him, Cha`pelle is 44th on CU`s all-time tackles list with 268.

"We had some good times here," Cha`pelle said. "We never forget that little road trip we had together."

Cha`pelle`s 27-yard interception return for a touchdown that provided the winning points in the Buffs` 31-24 win over Eastern Washington last year marked a first in school history: never before had CU used a defensive score in the fourth quarter as the decisive play to come from behind or break a tie for a win.

"Real proud," Cha`pelle said of his CU career. "I've got to end it in the right way, but I'm proud of how it went here."

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cu football - briefs

McKnight says now is the time to put end to continued road woes

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

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BOULDER — More than two years have passed since the Buffaloes won a game outside of Colorado. That's 11 consecutive road disappointments since a 2007 victory at Texas Tech.

Enough is enough, Buffaloes junior wide receiver Scotty McKnight said.

"This is a big one," he said of Saturday's game against Iowa State in Ames.

Colorado (3-6, 2-3 Big 12) has made some travel changes and in players' schedules.

Coaches are not revealing any specifics, except that the squad will leave Boulder a few hours later than normal today, departing late morning.

That will cut down on the amount of idle time at the team hotel in Des Moines.

"It's different on the road, especially for a young team," McKnight said. "When you're young and you go to a hotel, it's like, 'Oh, sweet, I get to order a movie' or 'I can check this thing out.'

"There's a side to road trips that's cool. That's one of the perks of playing college football. You get to go to a bunch of different places. But you also have to make sure you're totally tuned in. You had better look over your game plan 20 times, if that's what you need to do. It's about staying focused."

In four years under coach Dan Hawkins, the Buffs are 2-18 outside of Colorado. That includes a loss to Alabama in the 2007 Independence Bowl and a loss last year to Florida State in Jacksonville, Fla., which was called a neutral site, although the crowd was decidedly pro-FSU.

Stopping the Cyclones.

Iowa State (5-5, 2-4) is averaging 21.2 points per game to rank last among Big 12 teams, just behind Colorado (23.2). But the Cyclones can run the ball.

Led by tailback Alexander Robinson and dual-

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threat quarterback Austen Arnaud, Iowa State leads the conference in yards per rush (4.7). Robinson's 864 yards ranks third among Big 12 rushers, and Arnaud, who can turn upfield on a zone-read keeper, has netted 437 yards, after subtracting lost yardage due to sacks.

CU defenders say going against Buffs sophomore Rodney "Speedy" Stewart (5-feet-6, 175 pounds) in practice is excellent preparation for what they will see from Robinson (5-9, 187).

"You can't arm-tackle a guy like that," CU junior cornerback Jalil Brown said of Robinson. "You have to wrap him up."

Through the uprights.

Colorado junior place-kicker Aric Goodman is quietly having a good season. Goodman has hit his past five field goals and is 9-for-13 for the season. Last year, Goodman connected on just five- of-14 field goal tries.

"More so than last year, I'm just having more fun," Goodman said of changing his mental approach. "I'm enjoying being out there on the field instead of worrying about the consequences."

Getting their best shot.

In the final home game of the season, lowa State will say goodbye to a battle-tested senior class that includes 10 starters. The veteran Cyclones have been through even more trials and tribulations than their counterparts in Boulder.

During the past four years, ISU players have won just 14 of 46 games and are playing for their third head coach (Paul Rhoads). The Cyclones need one victory to become bowl-eligible.

"We all talk about how we've had a rough go, a rough deal," senior linebacker Fred Garrin said. "To get to a bowl would be a great feeling."

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AFFINESFLIGGA November 13, 2009

Iowa State looks for elusive 6th win vs. Colorado

By Luke Meredith November 13, 2009 AMES, Iowa - Iowa State and Colorado enter Saturday's game hoping to set some milestones.

The Cyclones are trying to become bowl eligible for the first time since 2005, something few thought possible in the first season under coach Paul Rhoads.

The Buffaloes are just trying to win a road game – something most figured they'd have accomplished by now.

Iowa State (5-5, 2-4 Big 12) has been one of the league's biggest surprises outside of Kansas State. Though the Cyclones have dropped two straight in rather ugly fashion, 35-10 at Texas A&M and 34-8 at home against No. 17 Oklahoma State last week, they can clinch at least a shot at a postseason bid by beating Colorado (3-6, 2-3).

The Buffaloes are 0-4 away from Boulder this season.

"All our goals will be taken care of if we play and win these games to the best of our ability. That's all we can do," lowa State linebacker Fred Garrin said. "If we play our best and do everything that the coaches teach us to do, it will take care of itself."

The Buffs are again scuffling under third-year coach Dan Hawkins, and they'll need to sweep their final three games to reach .500.

But Colorado has a little extra bounce in its step after beating Texas A&M 35-34 last week. The Buffs rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter with a pair of touchdowns, including a 22-yard touchdown pass from Tyler Hansen to Patrick Devenny with 2:04 left.

Of course, that win came at home. Colorado has yet to win a road game this season – though it has had to make trips to West Virginia, Texas and Kansas State – and doing so would be a major boost for a team that stumbled to a 1-4 start.

"We just have to bring more to the table, we really do. You have to have more concentration, more intensity, more enthusiasm, and more focus," Hawkins said about playing on the road. "There has to be a heightened sense of focus and energy."

For Iowa State, a coveted sixth win would help cap a remarkable turnaround for a program that went 9-27 from 2006-08 and 3-21 in the Big 12.

The Cyclones have stumbled, though, since forcing eight turnovers in a 9-7 win at Nebraska on Oct. 24.

Iowa State's offense struggled without quarterback Austen Arnaud in their loss at Texas A&M, and it didn't fare much better in a decisive defeat at the hands of the Cowboys.

Arnaud threw three interceptions in his return from a bruised throwing hand and running back Alexander Robinson rushed for just 51 yards, including a season-low 3.2 yards per carry.

lowa State has scored just 27 points in its last three games, though they'll be facing a Colorado defense that's allowed 30 or more points in five of its last six games.

"We've been really flat. I don't think we've had enough intensity coming into the game," lowa State wide receiver Marquis Hamilton said. "We need to work on starting fast and maybe playing with a little more consistency throughout the game."

While the game will have little impact on the Big 12 North race, there's plenty at stake for the Cyclones and Buffs.

lowa State would gladly head off to whatever bowl would offer them a spot after spending the last three winters at