

# CU Buffs bowl hopes end in another road wreck

**By Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/14/2009 03:11:15 PM MST

AMES, Iowa -- The signs are all there and they're pointing toward a coaching change at Colorado.

The football team isn't playing well when it desperately needs to. Athletic director Mike Bohn, who just three months ago robustly defended head coach Dan Hawkins, turned away requests for comment after another loss Saturday.

The fans are in meltdown mode on message boards, story commenting and anywhere else they can share their voices, knowing the Buffs will be home for the bowl season for the third time in four years.

Another sloppy effort on the road at Iowa State ended in a 17-10 defeat and wiped out wishes for the first winning season under the fourth-year coach. It also ended hopes for a Big 12 North Division title on a day when division leader Kansas State lost, just as the Buffs needed it to.

Black and Gold is 3-7 with two games to go in a season that began with players talking of 10 victories, an idea spawned by the coach nearly a year ago at the 2008 senior banquet.

Hawkins is 16-31 leading the Buffs after arriving in Boulder in December 2005 as one of the hottest major college coaches. His career mark at the Division I level then was 53-11, all at Boise State.

The Buffs have lost 10 consecutive true road games and the past 12 times they have left the state. CU is one of the most penalized teams in the country, adding another 11 flags for 110 yards Saturday, and the offense continues to sputter near the bottom of the Big 12 statistical rankings. It scored fewer than 20 points Saturday for the 24th time under Hawkins.

Coaches have survived similar struggles. Colorado fans should know in the next two weeks whether Hawkins will be one of them. There are 13 days left in the Buffs' season.

"Like I told them, you're always going to have failures and setbacks in your life and you have to be able to take that energy towards getting better and moving on," Hawkins said Saturday in a small interview room just across the hallway from a dejected locker room. "It's OK to hurt. That's part of it and you want that, but you've got to push that hurt in the right direction."

It doesn't get any easier for the Buffs. Colorado faces a short turnaround as the team heads back out on the road for a game Thursday at No. 17 Oklahoma State. The season winds up with a home game against rival Nebraska on Nov. 27.

The Buffs failed to reach the end zone until 3 minutes, 17 seconds remained in the game when quarterback Tyler Hansen connected with wide receiver Markques Simas on a 36-yard score. To that point, they had four drives reach inside the Iowa State 10-yard line with three points to show for them. CU was stopped on a fourth-down at the 1-yard line in the first half and kicked a field goal on another penetration into the red zone in the first half.

CU came into the game ranked 17th in the nation in red zone offense. They had scored on 27 of 30 drives into the red zone before Saturday.

"We went from being one of the better teams in the red zone in the country to one of the worst," Hawkins said. "When you get one score in four trips down there, that's very, very hard."

Two crucial blunders derailed red zone opportunities in the second half.

On first and goal at the Iowa State 9-yard line in the third quarter, right tackle Bryce Givens was called for a personal foul for hands to the face. He exploded in anger at the call and was flagged a second time for unsportsmanlike conduct, giving the Buffs a first-and-goal from their 39-yard line.

"What he did was inexcusable," Hawkins said, noting that he did not see the penalty. "That's totally wrong."

Givens' penalties contributed to another frequently flagged day for the Buffs. CU has racked up 93 penalties for 793 yards this season. They failed to score on the possession when place-kicker Aric Goodman missed a field goal wide right.

CU drove to the Iowa State 8-yard line in the fourth quarter, but tailback Rodney Stewart fumbled for the second time in the game, giving the Cyclones the ball. The Buffs have scored just one touchdown in their last 10 quarters on the road, dating back to the first half on Oct. 10 at Texas.

"It comes down to not converting in the redzone and having three turnovers and having all those penalties," quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "We have all that stuff happen to us, we're not going to win the game. It's real disappointing because that's what we talked about all week."

Hansen completed only 18 of 38 passes for 258 yards with one interception and the touchdown to Simas. He also ran for 50 yards on 12 carries and was sacked just twice. CU had allowed 16 sacks in the previous two games.

The Buffs actually outgained the Cyclones 390-310, running one more offensive play, but more than 160 yards came in the fourth quarter when ISU was playing safe defense and the Buffs were throwing.

Hansen's counterpart, ISU starter Austen Arnaud, completed 12 of 25 passes for 116 yards and two touchdowns. Arnaud also ran for 42 yards and led his team to bowl eligibility for the first time since the 2005 season.

Cyclones running back Alexander Robinson rushed 30 times for 138 yards on senior day at Jack Trice Stadium, becoming the first Cyclone running back to rush for 1,000 yards in a season since 2004. Three of Robinson's eight 100-yard games have come against Colorado.

First-year ISU coach Paul Rhoads became the first rookie coach to win six games at the school since 1915.

"College football is a lot about bowl games," Rhoads said. "You start the season, and you work for (a bowl game) and at this point we are bowl eligible and we are thrilled with that."

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## Woelk: Decision on Hawkins` future must come soon

By Neill Woelk Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/15/2009 12:09:35 AM MST

It is a refrain that is beginning to have the haunting ring of an epitaph for the Dan Hawkins era in Boulder:

"It was there for the taking."

Tack on, "but the Buffs politely refused," and you have four years of Colorado football wrapped in disappointment and knotted with a bow of frustration.

Saturday afternoon`s 17-10 loss at Iowa State played the tune that has become all too familiar to CU fans since Hawkins took the reins. The Buffs had their chances at a win -- all kinds of chances -- but didn`t take advantage.

Penalties, turnovers, missed assignments -- name your favorite mistake and the Buffs committed it.

Four trips inside the Iowa State 10-yard line on Saturday produced just three CU points. CU fell short on fourth-and-goal from the 1, fumbled at the 8 and the missed a 42-yard field goal on the other three trips.

Did we mention penalties? There were plenty -- again -- on Saturday. A total of 11 yellow flags on the Buffs, worth 110 yards. Two killed a great CU scoring opportunity. Another two kept an Iowa State scoring drive alive, and a half-dozen more kept CU in a hole for much of the afternoon.

There was also a CU fumble at the 8-yard line to kill one scoring chance, an interception in ISU territory, and another fumble that set up an Iowa State touchdown.

And that`s how the Buffs frittered away another opportunity. Penalties, turnovers, an inability to take advantage of two turnovers produced by their defense, and a host of other mistakes cued up the latest version of, "It was there for the taking." It`s not what fans expect in the 10th game of the fourth year of a head coach -- and make no mistake, those miscues are at the coach`s doorstep this morning.

Sadly, Saturday`s story line is nothing new. There was a three-overtime loss to Baylor at home in Hawkins` first year. A 9-0 halftime lead over Kansas that same year that disintegrated into a 20-15 loss. A 21-0 lead at Iowa State two years ago that turned into a 31-28 defeat. Last year`s heartbreaking loss at Nebraska and this year`s loss at Texas.

Somehow, the act of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory has become a trademark of this program, particularly on the road.

Saturday`s loss was Hawkins` 18th in 20 tries on the road during his tenure at CU. It also ended the Buffs` faint bowl eligibility hopes and clinched Hawkins` fourth consecutive losing season. In his three-plus years at CU, he is 16-31. He has not won back-to-back games since early in the 2008 season, and barring a miracle finish this year, he`ll finish with a losing conference record for the third time in four years.

No doubt, the drumbeats for dismissal are sure to reach a crescendo in the coming days.

Saturday afternoon, one football Web site was already reporting that Hawkins would be given a buyout and not retained at season`s end. While the veracity of such reports can be questioned, it is clear that Hawkins future in Boulder is tenuous at best.

It means that very soon, athletic director Mike Bohn and chancellor Phil DiStefano must come to a decision.

Clearly, the program is nowhere close to where Bohn envisioned it being when he hired Hawkins. When Bohn managed to land one of the nation`s hottest young coaching prospects in December of 2005, he certainly never thought he`d be contemplating another change just four years later.

Now such a decision is a distinct possibility.

Today, I'm still not ready to say a change would be in the best interest of the program and the university. But, whatever decision is reached, it must be reached soon. After Saturday's effort at Iowa State, waiting for the outcome of the last two games makes absolutely no sense.

Bohn and DiStefano must sit down as soon as possible and examine the situation from every angle. Economics. Possible fallout from all sides. Recruiting. Next year's schedule. Returning players.

Then make a decision and move on. Let Hawkins know whether he'll be here next year or not.

If he's going to be the head coach, make it known so he can begin to reassure recruits, contemplate staff changes and move on with business.

If not, give him and his staff the opportunity to assess their futures.

But whatever the decision, make it soon. Waiting will only increase the questions hanging over the program while doing nothing in terms of moving forward.

Simply, a quick resolution is the only sensible solution.

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# Buff RB Stewart at loss to explain rare fumbles

**By Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/15/2009 12:03:50 AM MST

AMES, Iowa -- Rodney Stewart had a tough day on the football field Saturday when he and his teammates could least afford it.

The tough-as-nails tailback fumbled twice in a loss at Iowa State after losing just two fumbles in the eight previous games and 150 carries this fall.

"I don't know," Stewart said. "Stuff just happened. I really can't tell you what happened."

Stewart looked like he could have been down by contact on his first fumble early in the third quarter, and officials initially ruled he was, but replay officials reviewed the play and awarded the ball to the Cyclones at the CU 27-yard line.

Iowa State turned the good fortune into a touchdown on a 20-yard pass from quarterback Austen Arnaud to running back Alexander Robinson six plays later.

Trailing 17-3 early in the fourth quarter, Stewart took a handoff at the Iowa State 15-yard line and sprinted off tackle to the 8-yard line where he was blindsided by Cyclones strong safety David Sims. Stewart fumbled and free safety James Smith recovered.

"It was a good hit," Stewart said. "I didn't see him. That was probably the biggest part about it."

Stewart carried the ball 19 times for 85 yards, giving him 673 yards this season, besting his 622 yards as a true freshman in 2008.

## Short-handed

The Colorado defense played well enough to win once again Saturday but didn't get much help from the offense. Buffs defenders also played without two regular starters who missed the game because of injuries.

Outside linebacker B.J. Beatty didn't play because of a concussion. Tyler Ahles made his first career start in place of Beatty. Free safety Ray Polk, who played last week with a broken bone near his pinky toe, was held out. Anthony Perkins started in his place. Perkins led the Buffs with 14 tackles.

## Line shakeup

Coaches made changes to the offensive line Saturday, presumably in response to giving up 16 sacks in the previous two games.

Sophomore Ethan Adkins had started every game this season but was replaced in the starting lineup by Blake Behrens. Adkins played in the game according to the official statistics.

The line experienced more turmoil in the second half after one play in which quarterback Tyler Hansen scrambled from the Iowa State 9-yard line to the 1, but right tackle Bryce Givens was flagged for a personal foul and unsportsmanlike conduct for his reaction to the initial call.

Givens was replaced in the lineup by redshirt freshman Ryan Dannewitz.

"Obviously Bryce kind of freaked out on us there a little bit," Hansen said after the game. "That kills us. ... He's pretty bad right now. He's in the locker room right now. He's bumming."

## Repeat effort

Wide receiver Markques Simas produced his second consecutive 100-yard receiving day with seven catches for 128 yards. He had 135 yards in a win over Texas A&M last week.

Simas became the first CU receiver to have back-to-back 100-yard games since Javon Green did so against Oklahoma and Kansas State in the 1999 season.

**Notable**

Wide receiver Scotty McKnight extended his receptions streak to 35 games, catching eight passes for 107 yards. It was his fourth career 100-yard game and the third this season. McKnight now has 62 receptions this season, joining D.J. Hackett, Michael Westbrook and Derek McCoy as the only other CU players in history to catch at least 60 passes in a season. ... Running back Corey Nabors and running back/wide receiver Kevin Moyd started for the first time in their careers.

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# CU players say they`ll play for pride

## Loss to Iowa State ends Buffs` hopes of bowl eligibility

**By Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/15/2009 12:00:03 AM MST

AMES, Iowa -- Colorado players vowed not to quit on the season Saturday in the aftermath of a crushing loss at Iowa State that ended their postseason aspirations for the third time in four years.

The Buffs committed three turnovers, 11 penalties and failed to punch the ball into the end zone on four different trips inside the Iowa State 10-yard line at Jack Trice Stadium. They lost for the seventh time, assuring another December on the couch watching others enjoying the bowl season.

CU returns to the road quickly for a game at No. 18 Oklahoma State on Thursday before finishing the season at home against Nebraska in 13 days.

"It's all about pride from here on out," wide receiver Scotty McKnight said. "We've got two games left. We play a ranked team next weekend. We play our rival Nebraska at home the weekend following. We have to have pride and look at this program and the tradition that is here. We just haven't lived up to the expectations of how we should play football here."

Coach Dan Hawkins said he has faith in his players` resiliency and knows they will put the disappointment of Saturday behind them as they try to finish strong. The Buffs had everything to play for Saturday and once again came out flat in the early going and unable to execute at key times.

It was another dose of a familiar road recipe.

"There is a lot of frustration, especially when you prepare like we prepared the week before the game," wide receiver Markques Simas said. "You come out here expecting to do good things and when they don't go your way, you kind of fall into a slump and it's hard to kind of get over that when things ain't going your way."

CU has a small group of 17 seniors on the roster. The final two games mean everything to them.

"I think we have enough to play for and I think those seniors, I think they are good enough guys to not just give up," quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "I don't think we have those type of players on our team."

Safety Ben Burney is one of those seniors. He has been a part of the program for five seasons and has undergone five surgeries to get back on the field this year. He has been to two bowl games, in 2005 and 2007. Not going out as a postseason participant is a tough pill to swallow, but he said he will fight to the end regardless.

"Just because I don't get to play in a bowl game doesn't mean I'm going to stop battling," he said. "It means I'm going to battle even harder 'cause I've got less time now to be with my brothers, to be with my friends. ... Definitely these last couple weeks that we have I'm going to be going all in, more than I have already."

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cu football

## Bowl ineligibility befalls Buffs

Colorado's hopes disappear in 17-10 loss to Cyclones

By John Henderson  
The Denver Post

Posted: 11/15/2009 01:00:00 AM MST



Colorado's bowl shortcoming is countered by coach Paul Rhoads and the Cyclones, 6-5 and bowl-eligible. (Charlie Neibergall, The Associated Press)

AMES, Iowa — That faint flicker of light representing Colorado's lone hope for a successful season turned out to be nothing more than another stoplight on the road here Saturday. The Buffaloes, again, obliged.

They stopped. And so did their season.

Playing once again like yaks who can't handle anything close to sea level, the Buffaloes fumbled, bumbled and lost their cool in a 17-10 loss to upstart Iowa State.

For those clinging to any hope for a winning season and a bowl game, you can release your grip. The loss drops Colorado to 3-7 and 2-4 in the Big 12, reducing its purpose in life to one main goal:

Saving the coach's job.

Dan Hawkins became the first coach in school history to start his career with four losing seasons. His record of 16-31 glows compared to his road mark of 2-19, including his Independence Bowl loss, and a current 12-game road losing streak.

"Again, like I told them, you're always going to have failures and setbacks in your life, and you have to take that energy and funnel it toward getting better and moving on," Hawkins said. "It's OK to hurt. That's part of it. You want that. But you want to push that hurt in the right direction."

Hawkins' problem is, in his fourth year, his team is going in the opposite direction of two rebuilding programs that beat him with first-year coaches. Paul Rhoads' Cyclones (6-5, 3-4) joined Kansas State in downing the Buffs at home. This time the nearly packed house of

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43,208 stormed the field, celebrating bowl eligibility a year after going 2-10.

Once again, offensive ineptitude on the road crippled Colorado. CU scored one touchdown against the second- worst defense in the league. That doubled its number of TDs in the past 10 quarters on the road to two.

"We're still game-planning and calling the plays the same whether (home) or away," offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said. "I don't know. There's something to this away thing. I don't



Colorado had one statistical improvement as quarterback Tyler Hansen, here stopped by the Cyclones' Patrick Neal, was sacked only twice. (Charlie Neibergall, The Associated Press)

know what it is. We need to figure it out pretty fast."

No need to consult NASA about what happened. The Buffs reached inside the Cyclones' 10 four

times and came away with three points.

Down 7-0 facing fourth-and-goal at the 1, Demetrius Sumler was stopped up the middle for no gain.

"At that point, when you're that close, you need to go," Hawkins said. "It's a statement play for your offense."

The statement the offense made was this: It proved once again why it entered the weekend 111th in the country. CU had 97 yards in trailing 10-3 at halftime and finished 2-for-14 on third down.

Only this team could wipe out a second-and-goal at the 1 with a 30-yard penalty. True story. With CU trailing 17-3, quarterback Tyler Hansen, 18-for-38 passing for 258 yards and a touchdown, scrambled 8 yards to the 1. However, freshman tackle Bryce Givens was called for a 15-yard hands-to-the-face penalty. Further dousing one of Colorado's few sparks, he vehemently protested the call, earning another 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct. Already 117th nationally in penalties, Colorado committed 11 for 110 yards.

At first-and-goal from the 39, the drive ended in a missed 42-yard field goal.

Givens wouldn't comment, but Hansen said, "That kills us. I thought, 'Yeah! Yeah! We got it going. We're on the 1-yard line. We're going to score and make it 17-10. We're in this game.

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Let's go!' Then Bryce kind of freaked out on us a little bit."

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- CU sports .

Still, this is Iowa State. It's the only team in the league scoring fewer points than the Buffaloes. Still down 17-3 early in the fourth quarter, Rodney Stewart bulled inside the Cyclones' 10, but safety David Sims' savage hit jarred the ball loose. Safety James Smith recovered at the 8, all but ending Colorado's game and season.

Repeating the 2009 theme, receiver Scotty McKnight, who had eight catches for 107 yards, said, almost like a mantra, "The focus leading up to the game seemed better, but during the game it just wasn't there."

What's left now but speculation on Hawkins' future? The Buffs have another brutally quick turnaround before visiting 17th-ranked Oklahoma State on Thursday, then ending against Nebraska at home Nov. 27.

Even without a bowl watch for another year, the Buffs and their coach know they're running out of time.

*John Henderson: 303-954-1299 or [jhenderson@denverpost.com](mailto:jhenderson@denverpost.com)*

## Three questions

*A look at how Colorado answered Tom Kensler's three questions going into the game:*

**1. Will Colorado finally build off a victory and carry it over to the following game?** Nope. And as in the 20-6 loss at Kansas State on Oct. 24, the Buffaloes had enough opportunities to pull off a road victory, because this was anything but a shootout. Colorado has failed in six consecutive opportunities to follow a victory with a victory. Not since opening the 2008 season with three wins has CU won at least two straight.

**2. Was Markques Simas' big game against Texas A&M (seven catches for 135 yards) a**

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**fluke or has the CU sophomore receiver finally arrived?** Simas ended up with good stats: seven catches for 128 yards, and his 36-yard catch with 3:17 left in the fourth quarter was CU's only touchdown. But Simas had only one catch in the first half, and four of his receptions came in the fourth quarter. "We took too long to have a sense of urgency," Simas acknowledged afterward.

**3. Can CU blockers reduce Tyler Hansen's day-after soreness quotient?** At least the two-week streak of eight sacks per game was broken. Hansen was sacked only twice. But, having carried the ball 12 times, he still appeared plenty sore and stiff after the game.

## Key stat

2-of-14 on third down: Colorado had 390 yards of total offense but could not sustain drives. The Buffs had 293 yards in the second half, yet scored only one touchdown on Tyler Hansen's 36-yard pass to Markques Simas with 3:17 left.

## Key plays

Offensive tackle Bryce Givens' two 15-yard penalties in the third quarter, erasing quarterback Tyler Hansen's 8-yard run to the 1-yard line on first-and-goal. The drive ended in a missed field goal, preserving Iowa State's 17-3 lead.

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## Paige: BCS mess sullies a great game

By Woody Paige  
The Denver Post

Posted: 11/15/2009 01:00:00 AM MST

Put the blameworthiness for the defective BCS Championship on a 1991 meeting in Denver and a University of Colorado journalism graduate.

Five teams could be undefeated after the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision's "title" game. Three will have no chance whatsoever to play for a, no quote marks, genuine national championship.

The nation's president and Congress are rather busy, but Barack Obama did promise "to throw my weight around" to force a playoff — and hasn't — and Sen. Orrin Hatch is all talk, no action, by calling the BCS "un-American," a term previously reserved for communists and Mafiosi.

The solution is so simple.

Eight-team playoff: Florida or Alabama vs. Ohio State in Sugar Bowl; Texas vs. Pac-10 champ in Fiesta; TCU vs. Georgia Tech in Gator Bowl;

Cincinnati vs. Boise State in Citrus Bowl. Winners play at Orange Bowl and Rose Bowl. Finalists meet for the national championship in the Cotton Bowl at Cowboys Stadium.

And the rest go to the Leaf-Blower and Weedeater bowls.

That is real American.

But it won't happen this year or before 2015 or, probably, until after I die.

You can thank Steve Hatchell, who is the father of the BCS, which is the Mother of All Mistakes.

Hatchell, sincerely, is a good man and longtime friend who always has meant well. After his graduation from CU, Steve served as sports information director for the Buffs, commissioner of the Southwest and Big 12 conferences and commissioner of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He currently is the CEO of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame.

When Hatchell was executive director of the Orange Bowl from 1987-93, he championed (forgive the expression) something called the Bowl Coalition.

Representatives from conferences and major bowls (country club fools in loud-colored blazers) met for 6 1/2 hours in Denver on Aug. 6, 1991, to formulate plans for producing a "national championship game." For decades, the

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championship had been mythical, disputed and/or shared (Colorado and Georgia Tech, for instance).

Truth is, the bowls didn't want — and still don't — a playoff system used (effectively) in most collegiate sports, including the lower football divisions. New Year's Day bowls, which lord over the NCAA, were afraid their parades, halftime shows and tourists dollars would disappear, and their games wouldn't matter.

(How many games matter now? Only one.)

Hatchell, who had devised the Bowl Coalition and was named to head it, said at the time: "We realize that this will not resolve all the problems."

Oh, really.

The first one was that the Big Ten and Pac-10 refused to join. They liked the Rose Bowl arrangement.

But the Bowl Coalition went ahead after the 1992 season, and No. 1 Alabama beat No. 2 Miami in the Sugar Bowl — to rightfully claim the championship. The B.C. begat the B.A. — the Bowl Alliance, which included the remaining two 10s — Big and Pac — and eventually, in 1997, the BCS — Bowl Championship Series.

None of the initials have resolved all the problems. There are issues most seasons.

Only 11 teams have participated in the BCS Championship in its 11-year history. That statistic seems very odd. Oklahoma has been invited to the game four times, Ohio State and Florida State three each. The others are Florida (a winner twice),

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Miami (twice), USC (twice), LSU (twice) and Texas, Tennessee (the first champion), Virginia Tech and Nebraska. The rest have been shut out.

Questions: What were the Buckeyes doing in the game in back-to-back defeats? How about Southern Cal claiming the title when it didn't play in the game? Where was Texas last year? Why was Nebraska there when the Cornhuskers didn't even win their own conference? Why do Mountain West and Western Athletic conferences (both headquartered in Colorado) always get short-sheeted?

The executive director of a minor bowl told me last year at the BCS Championship: "You and the other critics just don't get it."

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The Bowl Subdivision has no playoff. But in Divisions 1, 2 and 3, teams will play as many as five playoff games to determine a champion, and nobody can complain.

He's right.

I don't get it.

I might get it if Alabama loses to Auburn, then beats Florida in the SEC championship game, and Texas somehow loses at Texas A&M. At least, we don't have to worry about USC. Stanford edged the Trojans 55-21.

Will those six computer geeks — one has a day job in stress management, and another is a football fan in Hugo, Okla. — who help decide the BCS Championship have to push "Ctrl-Alt-Delete" and poke out their own eyes?

Actually, Steve Hatchell isn't totally responsible for this annual mess that demands a cleanup on aisle NCAA. Point the finger at journalism professors (I knew I'd get even someday) and the Blazer Boys.

Woody Paige: 303-954-1095 or [wpaige@denverpost.com](mailto:wpaige@denverpost.com)

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THE DENVER POST

cu football

## Bufs accent playing for pride

CU players say they'll be focused for final two games of season

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 11/15/2009 01:00:00 AM MST



Iowa State quarterback Austen Arnaud loses the ball as he is sacked by Colorado's Will Pericak in the first quarter Saturday at Ames, Iowa. (Charlie Neibergall, The Associated Press)

AMES, Iowa — With another losing season and

being eliminated from bowl eligibility, what motivation does Colorado have left?

Plenty, CU players said Saturday following a frustrating seven-point loss at Iowa State. The Buffaloes dropped to 3-7 (2-4 in Big 12 play) with two games remaining. A minimum of six victories is required for bowl eligibility.

Junior receiver Scotty McKnight said, in trying times like these, he compares football with life.

"When dealt adversity in life, you've got to battle back and finish strong," McKnight said. "It's all about pride, from here on out.

"We have to have pride and look at the tradition that's (at Colorado). We just haven't lived up to expectations of how to play football here. It's disappointing. But we have to battle back and win these last two games."

Colorado, which has not finished with a winning record in four seasons under Dan Hawkins, plays Thursday night in an ESPN-televised game at Oklahoma State and then finishes at home in the annual day-after-Thanksgiving battle with Nebraska.

"Pride, a little bit of heart," sophomore receiver Markques Simas said, when asked what the Buffs will play for during the final two weeks. "I know we can't go to a bowl game, but we can (get close to) a winning record."

"We just can't give up," sophomore tailback

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Rodney Stewart added.

Sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen said the upcoming game Thursday provides CU an opportunity to show a national television audience that "we're still here. We're still a good team. And then we've got 'The Big Red' (Nebraska). So we still have a lot to play for."

Hawkins said he has no doubts his players will continue to work hard.

"Our guys will go, they will," Hawkins said. "They have a chance to play a great (Oklahoma State) team this week, another great opportunity to show what we're about.

"Those guys will rise. They're fighters."

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn, who was on the trip, was asked after the game about his observations of CU's performance and his thoughts about the future of the program. Bohn declined to comment.

"There's a lot of frustration," Simas said. "With all the preparation we do, when things don't go your way, it's hard to get over that."

*Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or  
[tkensler@denverpost.com](mailto:tkensler@denverpost.com)*

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THE DENVER POST

cu football briefs

## Two key fumbles put Stewart in tough situation

Posted: 11/15/2009 01:00:00 AM MST

AMES, Iowa — Nobody in the Colorado locker room felt worse Saturday than sophomore tailback Rodney "Speedy" Stewart following the 17-10 loss to Iowa State.

Stewart lost two fumbles, both coming at crucial times in the second half. His first turnover, on the Colorado 33-yard line, occurred early in the third quarter. That set up Iowa State's final touchdown and, ultimately, the Cyclones' winning score.

The second turnover came at the end of a 7-yard run to the ISU 8 on a hit by safety David Sims, ending a CU threat early in the fourth quarter.

"It was a tough day," Stewart said. "I don't know. Stuff just happens."

Stewart, who otherwise finished with a decent performance of 85 yards on 19 carries, said he did not see Sims coming. "It's unfortunate," offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said. "That

(safety) came out of nowhere."

Stewart came into the game having lost just two fumbles in nine games (159 touches).

"We just left him alone (in the locker room)," receiver Markques Simas said. "Speedy has done a lot of great things for us offensively this year."

### Century mark.

For the second time this season, two CU players reached 100 yards in receptions. Junior Scotty McKnight finished with eight catches for 107 yards, and sophomore Markques Simas had seven for 128.

Simas became the first CU player to reach the century mark in receiving yards in back-to-back games since Javon Green accomplished that feat against Oklahoma and Kansas State in 1999.

### Footnotes.

Colorado's defense played without two regulars, linebacker B.J. Beatty (concussion) and safety Ray Polk (broken toe). . . . Paul Rhoads became the first Iowa State coach to win six games in his initial season since 1915, when Charles "Uncle Charlie" Mayser went 6-2-1. . . . The 10 points scored by Colorado matched its fewest in this series since 1983, a 22-10 loss. . . . Making their first career starts for CU were tailback Corey Nabors, tailback-receiver Kevin Moyd (as a receiver) and linebacker Tyler Ahles. Nabors and Moyd were in on CU's first offensive play, an

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end- around by Moyd that did not fool ISU defenders and lost 2 yards.

*Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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Longmont, Colorado  
 Saturday, December 26,  
 2009

Publish Date: 11/15/2009

## Same old story for Buffs

By Patrick Ridgell  
 © 2009 Longmont Times-Call

AMES, Iowa — Here we go again.

Facing the prospects of a lost season with another defeat, the Colorado Buffaloes visited Iowa State on Saturday and underwhelmed yet another opponent, losing 17-10 to the Cyclones.

After the loss, looking dazed and confused, many Buffs cited pride as what's left to play for in 2009. It wasn't supposed to be this way.

What appeared to be a promising season will end with unmet expectations. The loss means CU (3-7, 2-4 Big 12) will finish with a losing record for the fourth year in a row. It eliminated CU from the Big 12 North race and bowl consideration.

The Buffs are 2-18 beyond state borders during Dan Hawkins' tenure in regular season games. CU lost its 11th straight regular season road game. The coach who discussed winning 10 games this year is now 16-31 at CU.

Penalties, turnovers, lack of focus — very familiar problems reared their heads again, making it clear improvement remains elusive.

"Too many penalties, too many turnovers to win a football game," receiver Scott McKnight said. "The focus leading up to the game seemed better, but during the game it just wasn't there."

New issues arose, too. CU, not bad in the red zone in 2009, penetrated Iowa State's 10-yard line four times. It came away with three points on those four trips.

Athletic director Mike Bohn would not comment on the program's future. Players talked about the present.

"It's all about pride from here on out," McKnight said.

"We have to have pride and look at this program and the tradition that's here. We just haven't lived up to the expectations of how we should play football here. It's disappointing, but we have to bounce back and win these last two games."

CU visits No. 17 Oklahoma State on Thursday (5:30 p.m., ESPN).



Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen, right, runs from Iowa State defenders Jesse Smith, center, and Austin Alburtis during the second half Saturday in Ames, Iowa.

Charlie Neibergall/AP

### IOWA ST. 17, COLORADO 10

Colorado

0307—10

Iowa St.

7370—17

First Quarter

ISU—Hamilton 8 pass from Arnaud (Mahoney kick), 7:36.

Second Quarter

Col—FG Goodman 22, 5:22.

ISU—FG Mahoney 25, :00.

Third Quarter

ISU—Robinson 20 pass from Arnaud (Mahoney kick), 9:09.

Fourth Quarter

Hawkins, repeating another familiar line, said it just came down to a couple of plays.

“Particularly with this group of guys, when you have a big play against you, there’s a huge momentum thing going on,” Hawkins said. “We just have to be able to counter that a little bit better.”

McKnight listed penalties and turnovers as a recurring theme in 2009 that proved costly. CU committed three turnovers, two on fumbles by tailback Rodney Stewart, one coming at Iowa State’s 8-yard line early in the fourth quarter. Cyclones safety David Sims leveled him on the run.

CU committed 11 more penalties for 110 yards. It entered the day 117th among Division I programs — out of 119 — with an average of 9.11 penalties per game. They were 114th with 75.89 penalty yards per game.

Thirty came on one very costly play in the third quarter, when right tackle Bryce Givens was called for a personal foul and unsportsmanlike conduct. Coaches pulled Givens and he did not return. He declined to comment.

The penalties gave CU a first-and-goal at the 39. The drive ended in Aric Goodman’s unsuccessful 42-yard field goal.

The Buffs saw their first red zone trip end scoreless when Iowa State stuffed tailback Demetrius Sumler from the 1 on fourth-and-goal. CU offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said Iowa State’s defense “gave us the look we wanted. We just didn’t execute.”

Here’s what one Iowa State defender said about the play.

“We ran against that play over and over in practice this week, so we were ready for it when it came,” Sims said.

Despite everything, CU had a chance late. Markques Simas’ 36-yard score with 3 minutes, 17 seconds left pulled the Buffs within a touchdown.

Then Goodman squibbed his kickoff out of bounds, and Iowa State’s Alexander Robinson, who rushed for 138 yards on 30 carries, ripped off a 16-yard gain with just less than three minutes to go.

The Buffs finally regained possession with 23 seconds left at their 20. Their last-second lateral fest did not work.

“There’s a lot of frustration, especially when you prepare like we prepare and you come out expecting to do things,” Simas said. “When they don’t go your way, you go into a slump. It’s hard to get over that when things ain’t going your way.”

McKnight said he couldn’t say why the same old issues remain unresolved. Hansen said he believed there’s still plenty to play for, and added the seniors “are good enough guys” to not give up.

Senior safety Ben Burney put it like this: “Just because we don’t get to play in a bowl game doesn’t mean I’m going to stop battling. It just means I’m going to battle even harder.”

As much as they’re determined, as much as they’re bewildered over what’s happening, the Buffs crave improvement. Their performance Saturday revealed

Col—Simas 36 pass from Hansen (Goodman kick), 3:17.

A—43,208.

CUISU

First downs

xxxx

First downs

2119

Rushes-yards

35-13246-194

Passing

258116

Comp-Att-Int

18-38-112-26-1

Return Yards

1725

Punts-Avg.

6-35.39-35.0

Fumbles-Lost

3-21-1

Penalties-Yards

11-1107-64

Time of Possession

29:2130:39

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Colorado, Stewart 19-85, Hansen 12-50, Sumler 2-1, Lockridge 1-(minus 2), Moyd 1-(minus 2). Iowa St., Robinson 30-138, Arnaud 15-42, Darks 1-14.

PASSING—Colorado, Hansen 18-38-1-258. Iowa St., Arnaud 12-25-1-116, Team 0-1-0-0.

little from last week's 35-34 win over Texas A&M. To some, it may confirm they simply lack the ability and poise to win when they leave the state.

And now, it might be too late for anyone to fix this thing.

RECEIVING—Colorado, McKnight 8-107, Simas 7-128, Stewart 1-10, Devenny 1-7, Sumler 1-6. Iowa St., C.Franklin 3-38, Darks 3-17, Hamilton 3-17, Catlett 2-24, Robinson 1-20.

[Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog](#). He can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).

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Longmont, Colorado  
Saturday, December 26,  
2009

Publish Date: 11/15/2009

## Fumbles perplex CU's Stewart

*By Patrick Ridgell*  
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

AMES, Iowa — Saturday was not Rodney Stewart's day.

The Colorado tailback fumbled twice during the Buffaloes' 17-10 loss at Iowa State, a defeat that guarantees the Buffs will not go to a bowl for the third time in four years.

Stewart entered with only two fumbles over the past 159 times he has touched the ball. But both his fumbles came in the second half, when the Buffs were trying to mount a rally from a deficit. One came at Iowa State's 8-yard line early in the fourth quarter and CU trailing 17-3.

"I don't know; stuff just happens," Stewart said. "I can't tell you."

Receiver Markques Simas said teammates left Stewart alone in the locker room after the game.

"We definitely don't put this on his shoulders," Simas said. "He's been doing a lot of things for us offensively this year. So to blame it on one guy and his turnovers, they hurt us, but at the same time he did a lot of good things for us."

Stewart took a big hit from Iowa State safety David Sims on the fumble at the 8. It ended a 7-yard run.

"It was a good hit," Stewart said. "I didn't see him. That probably was the biggest part about it."

Stewart finished with 85 rushing yards, increasing his total to 673 yards in 2009. That exceeds his total of 622 as a freshman in 2008. His career total of 1,295 is the fifth most by a CU sophomore. Billy Waddy is fourth on that list with 1,316.

**INJURY REPORT:** Linebacker B.J. Beatty did not play due to a concussion. He was on the sideline out of uniform. Linebacker Tyler Ahles made his first start in Beatty's place.

Safety Ray Polk did not play due to the broken foot he suffered on Nov. 7. He said this week he hopes to play Thursday at No. 17 Oklahoma State (5:30 p.m., ESPN).

**QUOTEWORTHY:** From CU offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau: "The frustrating part is the turnovers and the penalties. We're not getting outscathed. We know what they're doing. If we eliminate turnovers and penalties, this is a completely different ball club."

CU committed 11 penalties and three turnovers Saturday. CU was also 2-for-14 on third down conversions.

**RECEIVING DUO:** Simas and Scotty McKnight each had more than 100 receiving yards.

Simas's seven grabs for 128 yards gave him 14 for 263 over the past two games. Simas is the first Buff to have consecutive 100-yard receiving games since Javon Green did it in 1999.

McKnight, who had eight for 107, extended his school record to 34 straight games with at least one reception. He moved to third all-time at CU with 151 receptions and seven in receiving yards, 1,545.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Running back Corey Nabors and receiver Kevin Moyd also made their first career starts. ... Iowa State (6-5, 3-4 Big 12) outgained the Buffs 180 yards to 97 in the first half. CU bounced back 293-130 after halftime. ... While CU was 1-for-4 in the red zone, Iowa State was 2-for-2. ... With this being a short week, CU coach Dan Hawkins will hold his weekly news conference on Monday.

[Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog.](#) He can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).

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Longmont, Colorado  
Saturday, December 26,  
2009

Publish Date: 11/15/2009

## Givens' strange season takes another turn

*By Patrick Ridgell*  
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AMES, Iowa — The strange season Bryce Givens is enduring in his redshirt freshman year at Colorado took another twist during Saturday's 17-10 loss at Iowa State.

Givens, making his first start Saturday since the Big 12 opener at Texas, was called for a personal foul during the third quarter for hitting an Iowa State pass rusher in the face as quarterback Tyler Hansen scrambled to the Cyclones' 2 on first-and-goal. After Givens turned and said something to referee Tom Walker, Walker picked his flag up off the ground and tossed it high into the air to call a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The penalties gave CU a first-and-goal at the 39. The drive ended when kicker Aric Goodman missed from 42 yards.

Coaches pulled Givens from the game and he did not return. Ryan Dannewitz took his place at right tackle.

Givens did not talk to reporters after the game, but his teammates put the play in perspective.

"Obviously Bryce kind of freaked out on us a little bit," quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "You go from the 1-yard line to the (39); you can't have that happen."

"He feels bad right now. He's in the locker room and he's bumming. He knows some of that was on him. He knows that and we all know that. That can't happen."

Said receiver Scotty McKnight: "I talked to Bryce on that one. That has to be a learning experience for him. I've had penalties in my career, as well, that I learned from when I was young. He has a bright future here. He's a great player."

"It's one of those things you have to keep focus and stay calm on the field. It's one of those things you have to learn from."

Givens has missed three games due to what CU is calling "personal reasons." There was also a game in which he was in uniform but did not play.

After returning to the lineup last week against Texas A&M, Givens declined to elaborate on the reasons for his absence.

"You feel for the guy," Hansen said. "He's an emotional guy and his emotions got the best of him. It sucks."

Blake Behrens started at left guard Saturday. Ethan Adkins has started every game at left guard for the Buffs in 2009 prior to today. Saturday's starting five was CU's fifth combination on the offensive line in 2009.

[Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog.](#) He can be reached at [pridgell@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).