

GJ graduate produces tribute to Aunese

By ALLEN GEMAEHLICH/The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel

Thursday, November 19, 2009

George Antonopoulos watch-ed closely as the University of Colorado football team rallied around a fallen teammate to win a national title.

Twenty years later, the Grand Junction High School graduate's documentary film is on the verge of being released. "I'm riding in a cloud I can't explain," Antonopoulos said. "Being from Grand Junction allowed me the opportunity to succeed on a bigger scale."

The 1986 Grand Junction High School graduate will announce the upcoming release of a documentary film on former University of Colorado quarterback Sal Aunese during halftime of next Friday's nationally televised CU-Nebraska game in Boulder. The Carei family of Grand Junction helped Antonopoulos with an investment in the film.

Antonopoulos, who played football for the Tigers, attended CU and followed the Buffaloes, including the 1990 national championship season one year after Aunese died of stomach cancer.

Aunese led the Buffaloes to an 8-4 record as a junior in 1988, then was diagnosed with cancer in March 1989 and died six months later as CU opened the season without him.

Before Aunese died, he had a son with coach Bill McCartney's daughter. T.C. McCartney was five months old when his father died. T.C. is now a reserve quarterback for the same coach who recruited Aunese to Colorado, Les Miles, at Louisiana State University.

"It's the most inspirational sports love story of all time," Antonopoulos said. "The team rallied around him and won the national championship. It's an amazing story.

"This is an uplifting story. It's Rudy meets Rocky with a twist of Brian's Song."

Antonopoulos, whose parents owned and operated the Two Rivers Inn for nearly 25 years, lived in a dorm next to Aunese on CU's campus.

"I'd see (Aunese) around," Antonopoulos said. "I knew who he was and I had a keen interest in football. When he started getting sick and died, that's when I started crafting the story."

Antonopoulos earned his bachelor's degree in 1991 and his MBA from Colorado in 1994. He is the co-executive director of Livin' Large Productions, LLC, based in New York City, with his fiance, Lara Anne Slife. She co-produced the film with him.

“I was driving from Grand Junction to New York and stayed in Boulder one day in the fall,” Antonopoulos said. “I went to a high school game and Coach McCartney was sitting behind me. We started talking. It was meant to be, and for me to do (the documentary).”

“I had a unique perch to craft the story. It was a matter of giving it the decency it deserved and I was going to see it all the way through.”

Antonopoulos said he has worked on the documentary for 14 years.

The original plan was for a 48-minute film, but it could be anywhere from 90 to 120 minutes after it’s edited, he said.

The documentary includes more than 25 interviews, game footage and family footage, Antonopoulos said.

He expects it to be released sometime in the spring of 2010 and plans on beginning work on a feature film, ‘Sal,’ within 90 days of the release of the documentary.

“This is my way of giving back,” he said.

Antonopoulos has produced 10 off-Broadway productions.

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Woelk: Time for Buffs to play like they have nothing to lose

Neill Woelk
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/18/2009 11:46:02 PM MST

The old maxim that "any publicity is good publicity" may be put to the test tonight when the Colorado Buffaloes play at Oklahoma State.

There's no doubt the Buffs could use a little good news. But going on the road (where the Buffs haven't won since 2007) against the nation's 12th-ranked team -- a team, by the way, that's still in contention for the Big 12 South title as well as a BCS bowl bid -- isn't the best way to go searching for some positive vibes.

Even if it is on national television.

What the nation is sure to hear tonight is that CU coach Dan Hawkins is under fire. He'll likely be called "embattled," perhaps even "beleaguered." And, rest assured, the term "hot seat" will be part of the conversation.

Certainly, those aren't the phrases Buff fans want prospective recruits to hear as they consider whether to add or eliminate Colorado from their list of possible schools.

But as of this morning, CU officials have not made any kind of final decision on Hawkins' future. Earlier this week, athletic director Mike Bohn reiterated that there was no coaching vacancy at CU.

So, while rumors continue to swirl, the situation remains status quo, at least for today.

There is still a school of thought that a win tonight, followed by a victory over Nebraska on Nov. 27, would be enough to give Hawkins a fifth year in Boulder. Such a finish would give the Buffs three wins in their last four games, send a signal that the team improved down the stretch and provide some momentum for the offseason.

With that kind of finish, Bohn could likely convince the majority of boosters and fans that a fifth year was warranted.

Some observers also believe that a win in either of CU's last two games might be enough to bring Hawkins back for a fifth season -- particularly if that win would come over Nebraska.

In that case, convincing fans that a fifth year would be a good idea would by no means be easy, but still possible.

As for two more losses ... it's hard to imagine Hawkins returning under that scenario.

What's perfectly clear, however, is that CU's athletic department is not in the best of economic shape. A coaching change -- one that would require Colorado to write a check in the neighborhood of \$2 million -- would only exacerbate the situation.

But staying with Hawkins would also likely result in reduced ticket sales and donations -- again, a drain on CU's budget that it cannot afford.

There is, simply, no easy answer.

Those things, however, are issues that will be sorted out over the next couple of weeks -- and the Buffs should not concern themselves with any of that tonight. They should not make the mistake of believing they are playing for their coach's job. That's a burden they don't need to carry.

Rather, what the Buffs must accomplish tonight is simple: prove to themselves -- not to their fans, not the media, not the nation -- that they can go on the road and play a competitive game against a Big 12 foe.

While they are loath to admit it, the Buffs have been suffering from a lack of confidence since early in the season. Back-to-back losses to Colorado State and Toledo to open the year cast a shadow of doubt over the program that never completely

lifted, and their well-documented road woes have only compounded the problem.

Thing is, the Buffs have had moments where they have been competitive against good teams. They played well against Kansas (before the Jayhawks' implosion). They played Texas on even terms for three quarters on the Longhorns' home turf.

But they've never been able to play with the confidence of a team that believed it could win.

Granted, tonight is no place to begin looking for that trait.

But tonight, it's time for the Buffs to play as if they have nothing to lose -- because in all honesty, they don't.

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Speculation hovers as Buffs face OSU

Hawkins' future up in air as CU plays final road game

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/18/2009 11:45:09 PM MST

STILLWATER, Okla. -- If you're going to go out fighting, what better place to do it than in Oklahoma against a bunch of Cowboys.

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins could be coaching the final road game of his tenure with the Buffs tonight on national television on ESPN at No. 12 Oklahoma State. Then again, it could just be the final road game of this season for him and his staff and players.

The result tonight will likely have a great deal to say in settling the confusion.

Hawkins insists he doesn't believe he is coaching for his job in the final two games of this season and is merely continuing to plug away at building a program. Meanwhile, fans, media and many of his players are left to wonder what the future holds given the fact Hawkins' boss is refusing to say the coach will still be the coach in Boulder beyond the end of the season.

Athletic director Mike Bohn said this week there is no timeline for making a decision about whether Hawkins will continue as CU's coach in 2010.

It is an odd situation to say the least, and one that suggests Bohn hasn't yet made up his mind about the appropriate way to proceed. While some of his peers across the country already have pulled the trigger on coaching changes with their programs, Bohn appears to be waiting for the final two games to be played hoping the results point him in the right direction.

Players said they have tried to tune out the speculation about their coaches' job security. Wide receiver Scotty McKnight said he doesn't believe the team is playing to save anyone's job because approaching the final two games that way would be a mistake.

"I couldn't imagine having to play with that kind of pressure and having to think, 'Oh, I've got to do this or my coach is going to get this,'" he said. "That's not something that I think would make me play better if I was having to worry about any outside stuff. I just worry about the game plan, make sure I'm healthy and play my best."

The Buffs are 3-7 overall and 2-4 in the Big 12 Conference. They have been eliminated from postseason play for the third time in Hawkins' four seasons and are assured of their fourth consecutive losing record.

The team has won five of its last 19 games and only one of those victories came in convincing fashion. The other four were decided in the final two minutes and two came down to the CU defense making a win-saving play on the final play. Meanwhile, 11 of the 14 losses have been by double-digit margins.

Those results stand in contrast to lofty expectations at the start of the season, one which began with Hawkins' challenge to his players to win 10 games lingering in the air above Folsom Field. The schedule was supposed to be easier, the team was supposed to be older, wiser, bigger, stronger, faster and better.

When asked this week about what reasonable expectations for the Colorado program should be year in and year out, Hawkins admitted some will want the Buffs ranked in the top 25 and playing for conference championships annually. He didn't say whether those expectations are realistic but he said he can appreciate them because he always has high expectations himself. His 10-win challenge is a testament to that.

"I'm a shoot-for-the-moon guy," Hawkins said. "Always have been, always will be."

He did acknowledge the CU coach -- whether it is him, former coach Gary Barnett or someone else in the future -- has

faced and will continue to face some unique challenges not on the minds of many other major college coaches around the country.

The CU program continues to play catch-up in facilities and donations. State law does not allow the program to award multi-year contracts to assistant coaches, creating insecurity and scaring some away. The talent pool in-state is thin during good years, meaning most recruiting trips require a trip to the airport. A school that paid nearly 40 percent of the athletic department tab in 1990 when the program won a national title, doesn't even pick up 10 percent of the tab these days.

Perhaps the biggest hurdles come in trying to recruit high-level talent on the field and also high-level talent in the classroom. Unlike many of its peers, CU doesn't have general studies programs. It doesn't accept physical education credits for junior college transfers and it does not accept 'D's earned by junior college prospects in classes. The list goes on and on.

"We're not in a situation where it's throw out magic dust," Hawkins said. "We've got to build it in a different sort of a way, where we get the kid who wants the academic zeal, who is looking for a place like Colorado and wants to be a program with our values."

Hawkins confronts another challenging issue tonight in the form of his schedule. This is the third time this season the Buffs are playing with a short week to prepare and to recover from the previous week's game. CU will have played five games on days other than Saturday when the season is done. The schedule was put together that way to maximize television revenue, one area where the program tries to make up ground on its peers.

The Buffs are playing for the second time this year on four days' rest. It's a difficult position in which to be when you're fighting for your job and your players are trying to break a road-losing streak spanning more than two years.

The Buffs have a 10-game losing streak in true road games, dating back to October of 2007. They have a 12-game losing streak outside the state of Colorado in that same time. The program has won only twice in true road games in four seasons under Hawkins and has a 2-18 record on the road since the start of the Hawkins' era.

The good news on that front, however, is that both of Hawkins' road wins at Colorado have come against Big 12 Conference South Division teams. The Buffs traveled to Baylor and Texas Tech and won in 2007.

For the second consecutive week, the Buffs will be facing an emotional opponent celebrating senior day on its home field. Oklahoma State (8-2, 5-1) has more than a happy send off for its seniors for which to play. The Cowboys still harbor legitimate hopes for a Bowl Championship Series bowl game if they can finish the season with 10 victories.

Needing two wins to finish the regular season might be all these teams have in common tonight.

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Robinson out, Buffs face Oklahoma State backup QB

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 11/19/2009 11:02:59 AM MST

Updated: 11/19/2009 07:26:20 PM MST



CU is undefeated this season when running back Rodney Stewart (5) rushes for more than 100 yards.
(Kathryn Scott Osler | The Denver Post)

STILLWATER, OKLA. — Oklahoma State backup quarterback Alex Cate will be the starter

tonight's game against visiting Colorado.

Regular starter Zac Robinson, a former Chatfield High standout, was involved in a violent collision while carrying the ball near the end of last Saturday's home victory over Texas Tech.

On the ESPN pregame broadcast, OSU coach Mike Gundy said Robinson had a shoulder injury.

Cate reportedly took the majority of the snaps in practices.

This is Oklahoma State's final home game of the season, and the last chance for Robinson and 21 other seniors to play in front of the home crowd. Perhaps, at the very least, Robinson would go in for a ceremonial snap to give Cowboy fans an opportunity to give him a well-deserved sendoff.

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behind-the-scenes look at
CU sports .

Flag follies

In an effort to reduce penalties tonight in Colorado's Big 12 game at No. 12 Oklahoma State, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins had some members of the program's operations staff wear striped shirts during practices this week.

Yes, they threw flags.

"I think it helped," Tyler Hansen said. "But it's funny, too. They'll throw a flag and we'll say, 'What? Are you kidding me?' But then coach Hawkins makes us pay for it by making us do up-downs or run."

Entering this week's games, Colorado ranked 119th among the 120 NCAA FBS teams. Only Texas Tech had drawn more flags.

Overnight success?

Only the most knowledgeable of CU fans knew much about Arthur Jaffee before the sophomore walk-on from Boulder Fairview began returning kickoffs.

Jaffee chuckled when somebody suggested that he has suddenly become a household name. "It's great," Jaffee said. "I hope I can earn this job (permanently)."

Filling the spot vacated by Darrell Scott, Jaffee has returned five kickoffs for an average of 24.6 yards.

Footnotes

Tonight's game is on ESPN at 5:30 p.m.

... Colorado has lost 10 straight road games. According to research conducted by the Boulder Daily Camera, only Washington (12) and Washington State (11) have longer losing streaks. CU's last road win was 31-26 at Texas Tech on Oct. 27, 2007.

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... While this will be Colorado's second Thursday night game of the season (including the Oct. 1 loss at West Virginia), Oklahoma State hasn't played on Thursday since Sept. 8, 2005, a 23-3 win at Florida Atlantic.

... OSU has won two of the past three meetings, and three of six. But before a 1997 win over the Buffs, the Cowboys had lost eight straight in the series.

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cu football

Buffs QB Hansen gets an eyeful of big hit on OSU's Robinson

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 11/19/2009 01:00:00 AM MST

Updated: 11/19/2009 01:05:01 AM MST



Oklahoma State's Zac Robinson took a big lick Saturday. (Brody Schmidt, The Associated Press)

of the violent collision between Oklahoma State senior quarterback Zac Robinson and Texas Tech defensive back Jamar Wall near the end of Saturday's game in Stillwater, Okla.

"It was crazy. He got lit up. It was bad," Hansen said, shaking his head. "I really need to learn from that. You want to get all (the yardage) you can and help your team, but sometimes it's better to just slide."

With 1 minute and 38 seconds remaining in a 24-17 Oklahoma State victory, Robinson, a former Chatfield High School standout, took off running from the Texas Tech 14-yard line in an effort to seal the game. Just as he was about to reach the first-down marker, Robinson dived for additional yardage and was drilled by Wall.

BOULDER — Regardless of the jersey they wear, quarterbacks consider themselves to be a brotherhood. Colorado's Tyler Hansen said he could almost feel the pain as he watched video

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coach, you just have to hope for the best."

Robinson was not made available to the media this week but is expected to play in tonight's E SPN game between the 12th-ranked Cowboys (8-2, 5-1 Big 12) and Colorado (3-7, 2-4) in Stillwater. Robinson underwent tests for a concussion early in the week.

Against Texas Tech, Robinson (6-feet-3, 220 pounds) led Oklahoma State in rushing with 99 yards on 19 carries. That raises the question about how much a quarterback can be — or should be — harnessed in order to avoid injury.

"I always tell him, 'Zac, man, you need to slide,' " Oklahoma State senior left tackle Russell

Extras

- **Watch** video fo the hit on Robinson.
- **View** a slide show of images from Zac Robinson's career.

Gasps could be heard throughout the stadium as both players remained on the field for several minutes before being helped off by trainers. The fact that Robinson was separated from the ball was the least of anyone's concern.

"Your heart sinks to your toes," Oklahoma State co-offensive coordinator Gunter Brewer told the media Sunday. "Then you see limbs move, and you have to hope for the best. As a parent or a

Okung said this week. "I tell him: 'You can't do this. We need you.' I guess that just shows the type of competitor that he really is."

From the sidelines, Colorado head trainer Miguel Rueda said he often gives a body-English motion when Hansen (6-1, 205) takes off on a scramble.

"You kind of slide yourself, hoping he slides,"

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Rueda said. "It's a fine line. A player is the player he is because of his capabilities and skills, and you want him to do his best out there. But you also want him to protect himself."

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins has said often that he wants a quarterback who can run but not a running quarterback.

"If we have the quarterback carry the ball six or eight times a game, that's great," CU offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said. "But when he gets up into the 16-17-18 range, that's a little too much. We don't want to lose the quarterback."

Wall's hit was not considered illegal or dirty. But Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said, in general, more concussions are occurring in football because defensive players are tackling much higher than they did in the past.

"It used to be, set them up and wrap them around their legs," Gundy explained. "These guys now are taking shots from the waist up. It's happening all across the country."

"(Sports networks) put it on the highlights. Kids see it. It gets on 'Hit of the week.' I think that encourages more players to try to tackle high. The other issue is just the force of the players that are competing. Cornerbacks are now 200, 205 pounds. There are some safeties now that are 220. It's just the law of physics."

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or tkensler@denverpost.com

Three questions for CU

1. With yet another opportunity to perform before a national television audience (ESPN), will Colorado put on a show or flop miserably? Even if it's too late to save coach Dan Hawkins' job, the Buffaloes need to give prospective recruits some hope that the program has a bright future. A blowout loss could have devastating, long-term effects on recruiting.

2. Will CU introduce itself to the end zone? On the road, the Buffaloes have scored just two touchdowns (and 16 points) in their past 10 quarters — dating to a scoreless second half in an Oct. 10 loss at Texas. Last weekend in the 17-10 loss at Iowa State, Colorado only scored three points on four trips inside the Cyclones' 10-yard line.

3. Can the Buffs avoid costly penalties? Colorado is battling Big 12 colleague Texas Tech for last among the 120 major-college teams in most penalties. But at least Texas Tech, with a 6-4 record, can overcome some of them. When CU shoots itself in the foot, it needs a wheelchair.

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cu football - briefs

Bufs don't feel heat that falls on Hawkins

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 11/19/2009 01:00:00 AM MST

Updated: 11/19/2009 01:03:05 AM MST

BOULDER — As they prepared for tonight's game against Oklahoma State, CU players said they can't be concerned about a cloud of uncertainty hanging over coach Dan Hawkins' future.

"The rain doesn't fall on us," senior safety Benjamin Burney said after a practice this week. "I know there are outside influences putting pressure, and stuff like that. But we really don't feel that stuff."

Burney expects the Buffs to play looser even though they are 18-point underdogs to the No. 12 Cowboys.

"What do we have to lose now?" Burney said. "You don't have to worry about winning the Big 12 North or going to a bowl. What've you got to worry about?"

Senior tight end Riar Geer, one of three team captains, said he

Extras

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has not heard anybody on the team talking about Hawkins' job security.

"If there is a coaching change, so be it," Geer said. "If not, that would even be better for us."

They're fast too.

Much of the credit for OSU's renaissance under coach Mike Gundy points to game-breaking offensive players, led by quarterback Zac Robinson. But the OSU defense will be as athletic as any that Colorado faces, Buffs wide receiver Markques Simas said.

"They say, 'Speed kills,' and their defense has a lot of speed," Simas said. "We're going to really have to focus and execute."

Speed bump.

If a football pops and deflates tonight, it probably would be because tailback Rodney "Speedy" Stewart gripped it too tightly. Stewart

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took last weekend's 17-10 loss at Iowa State hard. He lost two fumbles.

"He was really down after that game; he was crying," sophomore QB Tyler Hansen said. "But he's working hard. He told me, 'I'm never going to fumble again.' "

He's a load.

OSU left tackle Russell Okung, a 6-foot-5, 300-pound senior, is the only offensive player among the 12 semifinalists for the 2009 Lombardi Award.

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Longmont, Colorado
Friday, January 08, 2010

Publish Date: 11/19/2009

Buffs: Plenty of motivation

By Patrick Ridgell
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Don't ask the players in the Colorado football program about the future. They don't know. And they really don't want to discuss it.

But the future is the story today as the Buffs visit No. 12 Oklahoma State (5:45 p.m., ESPN) in a nationally-televised game that'll showcase everything the Cowboys have to play for, and everything CU wishes it had.

Already eliminated from postseason contention, CU has two games left in 2009 before things ought to get interesting. While coach Dan Hawkins said this week he does not believe his job is in jeopardy, athletic director Mike Bohn said no decision has been made about Hawkins' future, and there's no time line for one to come.

Common sense dictates CU won't let the program's uncertain future fester much longer. Hawkins, 16-31 in Boulder, is leading the program to its fourth losing season in a row.

Those who'll return in 2010, especially those who'll be fifth-year seniors, want to win these last two games so they get a running start into next season. Those pleas for change from fans, and those questions wondering if/when it'll come? That has nothing to do with why they're playing.

"I'm playing for myself right now," said cornerback Jalil Brown, who'll be a fifth-year senior next year. "Well, the team as well, but I look at it like I'm an athlete and I came to college to play football.

"I'm trying to keep that (the coaches' futures) in the background. I'm not trying to focus on that; that won't help at all. We won't know about that until after the season is over."

Said Scotty McKnight: "I'm real big on doing what I can control and I don't control the coaches' jobs, or that whole aspect of it. I'm going to go out there and do my best and my teammates will do the same. I have confidence they'll do that.

"When I go out there, I'm focusing on playing for guys like Cha'pelle (Brown) and Ben (Burney), and the other seniors on the team, Marcus Burton. All of those guys that have been there for me since I was a young guy in this program. I just want to send them out on the right note."

Burton echoed Brown when he recalled his freshman year of 2005, when the Buffs won the Big 12 North and reached a bowl game yet still saw their coach fired. He said he realized back then he better play for himself and his team and his teammates because the future of the program is not in his hands.

"I've learned to take things as they come," Burton said.

"I'm not sure what the situation is."

Players say coaches do not discuss their futures with them. Hawkins said he remains positive with them, stays objective and tries to keep moving forward. He said that's how he shields them from turmoil.

Hawkins fielded questions this week about whether the pieces needed to win are in place at CU, what the limitations are and whether expectations are realistic. Whether they are or not in college football's shifting landscape is tricky to assess. But the fact is his three predecessors all won to varying degrees in Boulder over the two previous decades. Sometimes they won big.

Publicly, at least, Hawkins continues to carry on like he'll be coaching the Buffs in 2010. He couldn't reveal names, but Hawkins told the story about the high school coach of one recruit who called this week to affirm his players' commitment. The coach said, according to Hawkins, he knows what Hawkins is about. Hawkins stressed this week the way he treats his players will eventually sustain success.

Said Hawkins: "I had a high school coach tell me the other day, he goes, 'Hawk, I love what you're doing. I hear horror stories from my guys when they're in places and it's not going well. They make life tough on the kids. I'm going to send all of my kids to your place and I'd rather have my kids play for you than anybody else.'"

Hawkins continued.

"I think you have to, over time, build that reputation for what an enriching program it is and what it means to guys and what it means to parents and players.

"We're not in a situation where we can throw out magic dust. ... So you have to build it in a different sort of a way."

For some, the future can't arrive soon enough. For others, the present, while a bit intolerable, should still be relished.

"One of the things I think gets lost a little bit is how fun this whole game is," McKnight said. "You don't get to play college football too much, that's the way I look at it. You get four years of eligibility.

"So how many games do you get to play on national television on ESPN on Thursday? Not that many. So soak up every opportunity you have and enjoy. Enjoy being out there with your best friends."

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Bufs, not BCS on OSU's mind

Scott Nulph — Sports Editor

November 19, 2009 01:35 am

— Oklahoma State's road to today has been somewhat remarkable, somewhat workmanlike.

The Cowboys (8-2 overall, 5-1 Big 12 South) find themselves No. 12 in the latest BCS standings with two weeks left in the regular season. That number is inside the magical mark of 14 for being considered for a BCS bowl game.

Playing in a BCS bowl would have to be considered an amazing accomplishment considering all that this team has gone through this year. There's been enough injuries and suspensions to last a couple of seasons. And through it all, the Cowboys have survived.

As they host Colorado tonight (6:30 p.m., ESPN), the BCS talk that some felt took a hard hit after the loss to Houston and was all but gone after the loss to Texas, is back.

Just not with the team.

"Quite honestly, five or six or seven weeks ago when we started to have some of these issues, I just wanted the guys to continue to play hard and put themselves in position to be in postseason play," OSU coach Mike Gundy said. "Just work from there because the group of seniors that we have, they deserve to spend time together in post season play where they can enjoy each other."

Gundy said one of the more impressive things about this team has been its ability to work through the distractions.

"They just got better and better and better, and it surprised me that they were able to improve that much as a group with some of the issues that they had had," Gundy said.

Not only will the Cowboys be playing in a bowl game at the end of the year, it could be a premier one depending on how the team finishes the season.

Win out against Colorado and next Saturday against Oklahoma, and a BCS Bowl — the Fiesta Bowl has been mentioned the most — is a definite possibility.

A 1-1 record could mean a trip to the new Cowboys Stadium for the Cotton Bowl. Other bowls in consideration currently include the Holiday Bowl and Alamo Bowl.

The road continues tonight with the Buffaloes.

Colorado has struggled this season, coming into the game 3-7 overall and 1-5 in Big 12 North play. The Bufs do feature running back Rodney Stewart, who is fifth in the Big 12 in rushing at 74.8 yards a game.

The Buffaloes, like the last two opponents, have played more than one quarterback this season. Cody Hawkins, the son of coach Dan Hawkins, has played in seven of the team's 10 games while Tyler Hansen has played in six. Hansen will get the start tonight. Hansen has completed 85 of 150 passes for 1,000 yards. He's thrown for 5 touchdowns and 4 interceptions.


Whether it's been Hansen or Hawkins, the CU quarterbacks have taken a beating this season. Colorado has given up 38 sacks, 11 more than any other team in the Big 12.

"It's a different offense for us to face," OSU linebacker Andre Sexton said. "It's more of an NFL-style offense. It kind of goes into what we do best, stopping the run."


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Gundy: Robinson will not play; Cate started

by: BILL HAISTEN World Sports Writer
Thursday, November 19, 2009
11/19/2009 8:46:44 PM

 **Sports Editor Mike Strain's blog:** Vote on our poll question. What do you think of OSU's uniform – black jerseys and black pants?

 The Cowboys are wearing all black for the CU game. Check out the uniform.

 Bedlam football tickets still available

STILLWATER – In a pregame interview with ESPN, Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said quarterback Zac Robinson will not play Thursday against Colorado.

In the final home game for 22 Cowboy seniors – including Robinson, who has made 34 consecutive starts at quarterback – 12th-ranked OSU hosts Colorado at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater. The 6:30 game is televised by ESPN.

At 5 p.m., the Cowboy quarterbacks gathered on the field for a casual pass-and-catch drill. Robinson was not among them. Cate, who has not started a game since the 2005 season at Cottonwood High School in Salt Lake City, Utah, started at quarterback for OSU. A fourth-year junior, Cate has taken the majority of first-team snaps in practice this week.

During the final two minutes of last week's 24-17 over Texas Tech, Robinson and Red Raider cornerback Jamar Wall collided violently. Both players received medical attention for several minutes before they were able to leave the field. The immediate concern was that Robinson might have sustained a concussion, but the more pressing issue could be soreness in his throwing shoulder.

The Cowboys, who are 8-2 overall, 5-1 in the Big 12 and 12th in the Bowl Championship Series standings, close the regular season with next week's Bedlam contest at Oklahoma.

Cowboy coaches apparently are hoping to give Robinson extra days to recuperate and prepare for the showdown with the Sooners.

Colorado (3-7, 2-4) is nearing the end of its fourth consecutive losing season.

Speaking to the Boulder Daily Camera, Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn Bohn said "there is no timeline" for making a decision about the job status of coach Dan Hawkins.

Associate Images: