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## Victory slips through hands for CU against Oklahoma State

Cunningham, defense dejected after Cowboys score three late TDs

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

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STILLWATER, Okla. — Minutes after Colorado's 31-28 loss Thursday night to Oklahoma State, CU sophomore defensive tackle Curtis Cunningham said the frustration he was feeling had nothing to do with the fact the Buffaloes fell short against the No. 12 team in the country and in front of an ESPN national television audience.

No, Cunningham said, he felt especially upset because Colorado (3-8, 2-5 Big 12) squandered an opportunity to feel the thrill of victory rather than another difficult defeat. The Buffs failed to close the deal.

Oklahoma State, playing without its usual starting quarterback Zac Robinson, scored three touchdowns in the game's final 19 minutes, beginning with a 45-yard touchdown run by tailback Keith Toston late in the third quarter.

"That game was solely on us, the defense and our entire team," Cunningham said. "We dictated that game, from start to finish. We should have won that game."

Extending its road losing streak to 13 games (including a neutral site and a bowl game), Colorado can't seem to get over that final hurdle. The Buffs had chances to break their road skid last week in a seven-point loss at Iowa State. Had the Buffs found the end zone, the 20-6 loss at Kansas State might have had a different outcome.

This was different. Colorado held a lead deep into the second half. And after a 98-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Brian Lockridge, the Buffs again went ahead 28-24 with 11:11 to go.

But Oklahoma State, recharged after halftime when third-string quarterback Brandon Weeden replaced starter Alex Cate, would not be denied. The Cowboys needed just seven plays to cruise 73 yards for the winning touchdown — a 28-yard pass from Weeden to Justin Blackmon with 8:11 remaining.

Colorado defenders looked hands-on-hips tired in the fourth quarter.

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"We were on the field a lot," CU senior linebacker Shaun Mohler said. "But we were still playing hard. They just got us on a couple of big plays."

CU defenders were really kicking themselves for the 47-yard touchdown pass from Weeden to Toston with 11:24 left in the fourth quarter. Colorado had called a blitz, but two defenders blitzed instead of one. Toston raced uncovered down the middle of the field.

"That was a blown coverage," Mohler said, shaking his head.

CU wide receiver Markques Simas, who had his third big game in a row (90 yards, one TD) and appears to have arrived, said he was proud of what the Buffs' defense accomplished. Late in the third quarter, Oklahoma State had only 10 points (seven on a punt return).

"Without (Robinson), their offense isn't as strong," Cunningham said. "But that have some key players, with Robinson or not, that are very good players."

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Longmont, Colorado  
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## 'Boys boot Buffs

Mistakes cost CU upset of No. 12 Okie State

*Patrick Ridgell*  
*Longmont Times-Call*

STILLWATER, Okla. — Big shock. The Colorado Buffaloes found a new and even more painful way to lose Thursday night.

Their 31-28 loss at Oklahoma State came after they built a 21-10 third-quarter lead, blew opportunities against a mistake-prone opponent and let that opponent, which was begging to be beat, recover when it didn't have its starting quarterback. Oklahoma State is a shadow of itself when Zac Robinson can't play.

CU (3-8, 2-5 Big 12) might be wary of shadows today after yet another frustrating collapse in the Dan Hawkins era left the Buffs muttering familiar lines. This one extends their road losing streak to 12, Hawkins' road record to 2-19, his overall record at CU to 16-32, and it ought to provide the fire-the-coach gang with plenty of fodder for another week.

Hawkins rehashed the same points he made Monday when discussing the future.

"I'm good, Mike (Bohn, CU's athletic director) is good, we're good," Hawkins said when asked about his future. "You guys are more focused on it than anybody else."

And according to quarterback Tyler Hansen, the players do not believe they are playing for Hawkins', or the coaches', job.

"We don't look at it that way," Hansen said. "We always hear that coach Hawkins is solid right now and his job is pretty certain, and he's going to be here."

"Obviously there's a little turmoil around the program, but we're playing for ourselves and the program as a whole."

On Monday, Bohn said there was no decision made on Hawkins' future and no timeline to make one. Told of Hansen's post-game comment, Bohn said he was not familiar with what Hansen had said, and reiterated his points from Monday.

"We continue to have no confirmed timetable," Bohn said.

Bohn said he leaves today for Maui, where CU's men's basketball team plays Monday through Wednesday in the Maui Invitational. Bohn simply



Oklahoma State's Keith Toston and Andrew Mitchell celebrate a touchdown in the fourth quarter as Colorado safety Ben Burney walks to the sideline. **Sue Ogrocki/AP**

## No. 12 OKLAHOMA ST. 31, COLORADO 28

Colorado 7 7 7 7—28  
Oklahoma St. 7 3 7 14—31  
First Quarter  
OkSt—Cox 67 punt return (D.Bailey kick), 12:39.  
Col—McKnight 5 pass from Hansen (Goodman kick), 7:16.  
Second Quarter  
OkSt—FG D.Bailey 30, 5:40.  
Col—Geer 5 pass from C.Hawkins (Goodman kick), :22.  
Third Quarter  
Col—Simas 28 pass from Hansen (Goodman kick), 8:41.  
OkSt—Toston 45 run (D.Bailey kick), 3:52.  
Fourth Quarter  
OkSt—Toston 47 pass from Weeden (D.Bailey kick), 11:24.  
Col—Lockridge 98 kickoff return (Goodman kick), 11:11.  
OkSt—Blackmon 28 pass from Weeden (D.Bailey kick), 8:11.  
A—50,080.

.....Col.....OkSt
First downs.....14.....20
Rushes-yards.....22-13.....49-232
Passing .....238.....168
Comp-Att-Int.....30-49-0.....10-24-1

said "it was a tough loss" when asked if he's frustrated.

"I was real proud of the coaches and the team for the way they competed. It was really nice to see that," he said.

Hawkins has, after several losses, said the game's outcome hinged on just a few plays, and Thursday's result and explanations were very familiar. But CU's unraveling in the fourth quarter was expansive.

Kicker Aric Goodman hit the upright from 49 yards. The Buffs failed to convert fourth-and-3 at the Cowboys' 29. Ben Burney hit a Cowboys receiver late to earn a personal foul. CU blew coverages on two touchdown passes. Tailback Demetrius Sumler lost a fumble when the Buffs were driving near midfield. Etc, etc.

Hawkins praised his team.

"I told them it was a great effort," Hawkins said. "Those guys shouldn't hang their heads. They brought it.

"They feel bad, but I love those guys for their effort and their intensity."

Said Hansen: "It's real frustrating. We were so confident in the first half and the third quarter, we played well. It's real disappointing we were that close."

CU held Oklahoma State down in the first half when Alex Cate quarterbacked the Cowboys. Cate went 0-for-9, and Oklahoma State benched him starting the third quarter for Brandon Weeden.

The Buffs took their 11-point lead in the third quarter. Oklahoma State's Perrish Cox, who returned a first-quarter punt for a touchdown, muffed one and CU recovered at the Cowboys' 28. Two plays later, Hansen hit Markques Simas behind the Cowboys' secondary for a touchdown with 8 minutes, 41 seconds left in the third.

Hansen left in the second quarter to have X-rays taken on the right thumb he broke in the spring game. He said they were negative, but his thumb was swollen and might have some ligament damage. CU reported he's "full go" for the season finale next Friday against Nebraska (1:30 p.m., ABC).

At the time Simas scored, the Cowboys (9-2, 6-1) still hadn't completed a pass, and the Buffs' defense was feeling fine. Two drives later, everything changed.

Weeden connected on three passes to spark the Cowboys, and Keith Toston darted through the Buffs for a 45-yard score, making it 21-17 with 3:52 left in the third. Toston ran for 172 yards on 30 carries.

CU linebacker Shaun Mohler said the Cowboys found their confidence when they finally connected on some passes. They gained 163 of their 400 total yards, including 127 of their 168 passing yards, in the fourth quarter.

"Their first quarterback (Cate) was all nervous and tentative and we were able to hit him," Mohler said. "In the second half, we didn't get as many hits."

CU's Brian Lockridge returned a kick 98 yards to account for all of CU's scoring in the fourth quarter. Three minutes after his score put the Buffs up 28-24, Weeden hit Justin Blackmon running through the back of the end zone for the game-winning touchdown with 8:11 to go.

CU had two more possessions. One ended on Sumler's fumble, and the other when the Buffs punted on fourth-and-10 at their 42 with about three minutes to play. CU had three timeouts to use, but Oklahoma State churned out two first downs and ran out the clock.

Return Yards.....	0.....	90
Punts-Avg.....	10-37.8.....	3-34.0
Fumbles-Lost.....	1-1.....	5-3
Penalties-Yards.....	7-80.....	5-50
Time of Possession.....	30:23.....	29:37

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING**—Colorado, Stewart 8-21, Lockridge 2-11, Sumler 2-4, C.Hawkins 1-(minus 8), Hansen 9-(minus 15). Oklahoma St., Toston 30-172, Hunter 11-47, Cate 2-5, B.Johnson 2-5, Weeden 3-5, Team 1-(minus 2).

**PASSING**—Colorado, Hansen 23-36-0-169, C.Hawkins 7-11-0-69, McKnight 0-2-0-0. Oklahoma St., Weeden 10-15-0-168, Cate 0-9-1-0.

**RECEIVING**—Colorado, Simas 11-90, McKnight 7-71, Geer 4-32, Sumler 2-14, Jefferson 2-13, J.Behrens 2-10, Stewart 2-8. Oklahoma St., Cooper 3-32, Toston 2-45, Blackmon 1-28, Anyiam 1-27, Horton 1-18, Youman 1-10, Hunter 1-8.

With one more chance in 2009 to make things right, the Buffs will benefit from two extra days to rest and prepare for Nebraska, which hosts Kansas State on Saturday in a game that'll decide the Big 12 North title.

No matter who coaches them in 2010, the Buffs will point to that division title as one of their goals. Before they can, they'll have to learn how to make those precious few plays that have cost them in 2009.

"Some of it is experience, some of it is people doubting themselves because of what has happened in the past," Hansen said. "It just comes with getting experience. The more we play, the more plays we'll make."

Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog at [www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell](http://www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell). He can be reached at [pridgell@timescall.com](mailto:pridgell@timescall.com).

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Longmont, Colorado  
Friday, January 08, 2010

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## Thumb doesn't stop Colorado's Hansen

*By Patrick Ridgell*  
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STILLWATER, Okla. — The Colorado Buffaloes reported Tyler Hansen is “full go” for the season finale, next Friday against Nebraska (1:30 p.m., ABC) after suffering a bruised thumb during their 31-28 loss at Oklahoma State on Thursday.

Hansen said he thinks he might have sprained ligaments in his right thumb, which is the same one he broke during the spring game last April. He hit it on a helmet Thursday night in the second quarter.

Previous starter Cody Hawkins relieved Hansen for the first half's final three series and led the Buffs to a touchdown in the closing seconds of the first half that put them ahead 14-10 at halftime. It was CU's first halftime lead since Oct. 17 against Kansas. Hawkins went 7-for-11 for 69 yards Thursday.

Hansen said he had trouble gripping the ball, but he returned in the third quarter and played the rest of the game. He finished 23-for-36 for 169 yards and two touchdowns. He was 13-for-17 for 81 yards in the first half.

Head coach Dan Hawkins said he considered sticking with Cody in the third quarter, but was convinced Hansen could throw well.

Hansen quarterbacked CU to 186 yards on 58 snaps. Cody Hawkins had 65 on 13.

Hawkins has led CU to a score on five of the seven 2-minute drives he has quarterbacked this season.

**RUN STOPPERS:** If CU adopts a similar game plan against the Cornhuskers at is used Thursday, a healthy thumb on the starting quarterback's throwing hand will be mandatory. The Buffs called all passes on their first 13 offensive plays. Two ended in sacks.

“We knew we'd have to pick our spots (to run the ball) here and there,” Dan Hawkins said.

CU finished with 13 rushing yards on 22 carries. That included four sacks for a loss of 31 yards. Rodney Stewart led the Buffs with 21 yards on eight carries.

**SIMAS SETS RECORDS:** CU receiver Markques Simas fell 10 yards shy of recording his third 100-yard game in a row. He still tied two school records.

His 11 catches tied the program's high for a single game. He also tied a record for at least seven catches in three straight games.

“He's for real,” Hansen said. “We've been talking about him forever, and the last three games you've seen he can step up big time. He's a playmaker for sure.”

Simas caught a touchdown pass in the third quarter from Hansen that put the Buffs ahead 21-10.

**LOCKRIDGE'S RETURN:** Brian Lockridge was deemed too "beat up" last week to return kicks. He made his presence felt Saturday night in the fourth quarter when he brought one back 98 yards for a touchdown that put CU ahead 28-24 with 11 minutes, 11 seconds left.

It was CU's first kickoff return for a touchdown since Josh Smith had one against Colorado State in the 2008 season opener. Lockridge's is CU's longest since Ben Kelly had a 98-yarder on Sept. 25, 1999, at Washington.

"I figure ... I should've been scoring a lot more," Lockridge said. "I put it on myself to make plays and help the team."

**INJURY REPORT:** CU linebackers Jeff Smart (pinched nerve in his neck) and B.J. Beatty (concussion) did not play. Beatty did not make the trip. Smart was on the sideline, but not in uniform.

Stewart suffered a shoulder bruise and is probable for Nebraska. Center Keenan Stevens suffered a sprained ankle and is also probable.

**EXTRA POINTS:** The Buffs committed seven more penalties for 80 yards, giving them 100 for 873 yards in 2009. CU committed only 65 for 516 yards in 2008. The program's records are 116 for 1,040 in 2005. ... The Buffs entered tied for last in the Big 12 with a minus-7 turnover ratio. They forced four Thursday and committed one. ... CU defensive end Conrad Obi blocked a 50-yard field goal. ... The Buffs failed to record a sack for the first time in 2009. ... Punter Matt DiLallo had 10 punts for a 37.8-yard average. CU last punted that frequently when it had 11 against Missouri in 2007.

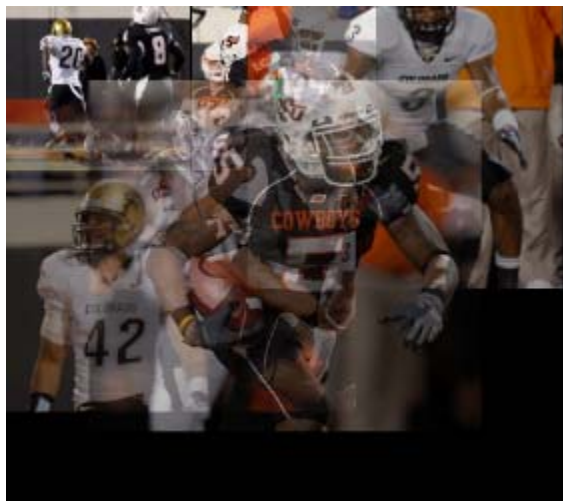
Read Patrick Ridgell's CU sports blog at [www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell](http://www.timescall.com/blogs/ridgell). He can be reached at [pridgell@timescall.com](mailto:pridgell@timescall.com).

## CU Buffs fall to No. 12 Oklahoma State

**Players believe Hawkins will remain coach next year**

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

Posted: 11/19/2009 09:16:56 PM MST



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STILLWATER, Okla. -- Pride is all the Colorado football team had left to play for Thursday night against Oklahoma State. And it's all the Buffs needed.

A determined group from Boulder gave the No. 12 team in the nation all it could handle before losing for the 11th consecutive time on the road and 13th straight time outside the state of Colorado. While it wasn't a win, it was a drastic improvement over their most recent road performances and much better than other nationally televised losses this season.

The Buffs fell to 3-8 overall and 2-5 in Big 12 play with the 31-28 loss, but performed as well as they have all year away from home, perhaps inspired to play for their embattled coaching staff.

"I thought our guys battled and scrapped and I'm really, really proud of them," Hawkins said. "They're very electric on offense and got a lot of skill players. It's tough to keep a group like that bottled up the entire time."

Hawkins was asked whether he is spending much time considering his future with one game left in the season next week at home against Nebraska and questions about his job security looming.

"I'm good. Mike's good. We're good," Hawkins said. "You guys are the ones more focused on it than anybody else."

No decision about Hawkins' future is expected to be announced until after the season. Athletic director Mike Bohn is scheduled to go to Hawaii on Saturday with the men's basketball team to the Maui Invitational. He will return Thanksgiving day and the season finale is played the following afternoon in Folsom Field against Nebraska.

Quarterback Tyler Hansen, who feared he had broken his thumb in the second quarter but returned to play after halftime, said he and his teammates have tried to block out speculation about their coaches' jobs and just play their best. Hansen said the team "always gets told" that Hawkins will be the coach next year.

Bohn stopped to talk with reporters after the game in the press box and was asked about Hansen's comments and whether Hawkins has been told he will be the coach next season. Bohn reiterated what he said earlier in the week, saying there is no time line for making a decision about the coach's future and that one hasn't already been made.

When told about Hansen's comments, Bohn said, "I'm not familiar with those comments or any correspondence with the team."

Bohn said he was proud of the coaches and the players and said it was "a tough loss."

The Buffs grabbed a double-digit lead early in the second half only to watch it disappear when the Cowboys began to find themselves offensively. CU surrendered three second-half touchdowns that cost them the game.

Four different quarterbacks played in the game and none of them were Davey O'Brien Award semifinalist and OSU senior Zac Robinson, who missed the game after suffering a concussion last week against Texas Tech. Fourth-year junior Alex Cate started for the first time in his college career in Robinson's place on senior night in front of 50,080.

Cate was ineffective throughout the first half. He failed to complete any of his nine pass attempts and led the Oklahoma State offense to just three points. OSU coaches replaced him in the second half with Brandon Weeden, who had played in one game earlier in the season.

Colorado also needed two quarterbacks. Hansen led the Buffs to a 7-7 tie after the first quarter. He connected with wide receiver Scotty McKnight on a five-yard touchdown pass. But, Hansen was taken to the locker room for x-rays on the thumb on his throwing hand in the second quarter and junior Cody Hawkins came on to lead a touchdown drive.

Hawkins connected with tight end Riar Geer on a five-yard touchdown pass to give the Buffs a 14-10 halftime lead. Hawkins completed 7 of 11 passes for 69 yards and a touchdown.

Hansen came back in the second half and the Buffs took a double-digit lead when he found wide receiver Markques Simas down the middle for a 28-yard touchdown pass. It was a busy night for the Buffs' starting quarterback and his wide receivers.

Apparently resigned to the fact they wouldn't be able to run the ball against the seventh-ranked rushing defense in the nation, CU came out throwing on its first 13 plays.

Hansen completed 23 of 36 passes in a game plan designed around short passes. He threw for just 169 yards but two touchdowns. Simas caught a career best 11 passes for 90 yards. McKnight finished with seven catches for 71 yards.

The Cowboys began to work their way back with Weeden under center. Tailback Keith Toston scored on a 45-yard run in the third quarter and on a 47-yard pass early in the fourth. The stadium came alive as the Cowboys regained the lead 24-21.

CU reserve tailback Brian Lockridge quieted the crowd quickly by returning the ensuing kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown. It was the first kick return for a touchdown for the Buffs this season, though CU had flirted with taking one back all the way on multiple occasions earlier in the year.

The Cowboys captured the lead for a final time when Weeden led them down the field and connected with wide receiver Justin Blackmon on a 28-yard score with 8:11 remaining.

"Brandon made some nice plays for us," OSU coach Mike Gundy said. "He put us in position and gave us a chance to win the game."

The play made a missed field goal from CU place-kicker Aric Goodman earlier in the fourth quarter the difference in the game. Goodman's 50-yard attempt bounced off the right upright and CU coaches opted against having him try another kick on the next possession.

CU attempted to convert a fourth-and-2 at the OSU 28-yard line with a 21-17 lead. Hansen's pass to Riar Geer was incomplete. The Buffs had several more opportunities before time ran out, including one possession that ended with a fumble by running back Demetrius Sumler. It was the only CU turnover in a game in which the Cowboys lost three fumbles and threw one interception.

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## Woelk: Close may not be enough to change CU equation

**Neill Woelk** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/20/2009 12:18:03 AM MST



*Click on any photo to see photo gallery*

If close counted, Dan Hawkins' job would no doubt be a little more secure this morning.

The Colorado Buffaloes did everything but win Thursday night, playing 12th-ranked Oklahoma State right down to the wire before losing, 31-28.

But -- and with Hawk's teams, that has too often been the case in the last four years -- the Buffs made just enough mistakes down the stretch to let the game slip away.

The miscues came from players and coaches.

A field goal try that bounced off the upright. An unsuccessful bid to convert fourth-and-short on CU's next possession instead of attempting another long field goal that would have given CU a seven-point cushion. A silly personal foul penalty on OSU's ensuing drive, followed almost immediately by a 47-yard touchdown pass to a painfully wide-open running back.

And finally, one last scoring drive from the Cowboys for the winning touchdown, a drive kept alive by two completions on third-and-long. A stop on either play would have shifted momentum back in the Buffs' favor. But ...

But, somehow, as the fourth quarter wore on, we all knew how the story would end.

No doubt, a victory Thursday night would have made athletic director Mike Bohn's decision even more difficult. It would have put significantly more weight on next week's season finale against rival Nebraska.

Today, however, the equation remains virtually the same as it was 24 hours ago. A head coach in his fourth season with twice as many losses as victories to his credit and a 3-8 record heading into the last game of the year. A young team with talent and promise, but one that has been unable to produce anything remotely resembling consistency as the program lurches toward its fourth consecutive losing season.

As a friend of mine remarked after Thursday night's game, the Buffs played valiantly. They played with heart — but they did not play (or coach) smart.

Had the Buffs picked up a couple more wins somewhere along the line this season, Thursday night's game might have been seen through rosier lenses.

But today, a decision to retain Hawkins for another season would be a gamble that the mistakes and stumbles that became the calling card of this year's team could somehow be eliminated.

That's a gamble I'm not convinced CU's administrators are willing to make — even if making a change is a decision that will cost millions.

What Thursday night displayed once again is what CU fans have seen for much of this season. These Buffs are not a team bereft of talent. Whoever roams CU's sidelines next year will not be working with a bare cupboard.

Rather, it will be well-stocked with a promising quarterback, a solid stable of running backs, a potentially solid offensive line and what could be a terrific group of wide receivers. Almost all of the players who made a difference Thursday night — from Tyler Hansen to Markques Simas to Brian Lockridge to Scotty McKnight to Rodney Stewart — will be back for the

2010 season.

It's the same story on defense. Cornerbacks Jalil Brown and Jimmy Smith are returning. Ditto for Anthony Perkins, Tyler Ahles, Will Pericak, Michael Sipili, Marquez Herrod and Jon Major.

Add to those lists a promising group of redshirt freshmen, and CU's talent level should be the best it's been in years, reaching back at least to the latter stages of the Gary Barnett era.

That's exactly why supporters of Hawkins insist the head coach should get a fifth year. If the Buffs are indeed close — as close as they appeared to be on Thursday — one more year might make the difference between potential and production.

But critics insist that one more year will simply yield more of the same. They say Hawkins has had plenty of time to show improvement. They note that a coach in his fourth year should not be hanging his hat on "close."

And, they rightfully point out, Hawkins' record has gone backward since his second year.

The decision won't be easy. Guaranteed, there is still a significant faction at CU that is not enthralled with the idea of writing another million-dollar check to replace a football coach — particularly at a university that continues to slash its operating budget. Such a decision would most certainly not be met with smiles from that corner of campus.

But now, the question is which set of numbers will carry the most weight.

A victory Thursday night would have no doubt changed the equation at least a little.

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# Big plays cost CU defense again

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

Posted: 11/20/2009 12:14:59 AM MST

STILLWATER, Okla. -- The Colorado defense has played well enough to win most of the game it has played this season, but when it needed big stops in the second half Thursday against No. 12 Oklahoma State, the Buffs couldn't come up with enough of them.

The Buffs surrendered 21 second-half points, 14 in the fourth-quarter, allowing victory to slip from their hands at Boone Pickens Stadium.

Facing a pair of inexperienced OSU quarterbacks protected by one of the nation's best offensive lines, CU was unable to register a sack for the first time this season. The Buffs allowed 232 rushing yards.

The Buffs held the Cowboys to 126 total yards in the first half and three offensive points. They did not allow a completed pass in the first 30 minutes. But when OSU coaches switched quarterbacks at halftime and new signal caller Brandon Weeden finally completed a pass, the momentum changed.

Three big plays hurt them after halftime.

Tailback Keith Toston busted loose on a 45-yard run late in the third quarter. A pair of CU defenders ran right past Toston a little later on a blitz and the tailback was left free in the middle of the field to catch a pass and dash 47 yards for a score. And Weeden found wide receiver Justin Blackmon for a 28-yard touchdown and the win with 8 minutes remaining.

"It seemed like they were getting their confidence going," CU linebacker Shaun Mohler said. "We were still playing hard. The defense was playing hard. They made a couple big plays and that's what it ended up with."

## Happy return

Colorado had been close on numerous occasions this season to returning a kickoff for a touchdown before Brian Lockridge finally took one 98 yards in the second half.

Lockridge's return was the first for the Buffs since Aug. 31, 2008.

## Big day for Simas

Wide receiver Markques Simas fell 10 yards short of becoming the first CU receiver since 1993 to record three consecutive 100-yard receiving games, but he made history in a different way.

Simas finished with 11 catches for 90 yards tying the school record for most receptions in a game. He also tied the school record for most consecutive games with at least seven catches.

## McKnight takes second

Wide receiver Scotty McKnight moved into second place on the school's career receptions list, passing former Buff Phil Savoy. McKnight now has 158 career catches. He also extended his school record for consecutive games with a catch to 36 games.

## Obi blocks FG

Defensive lineman Conrad Obi hadn't registered a statistic all season prior to Thursday when he got his hand on an OSU field goal attempt. The block was the fourth by a CU player this season and the first of Obi's career.

## Notable

Wide receiver Andre Simmons made his first start but did not make a catch. ... Linebacker Tyler Ahles started for the second straight week in place of B.J. Beatty who continues to recover from a concussion. ... Matt DiLallo punted 10 times, the most for a CU punter since DiLallo punted 11 times at Missouri in 2007

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## Kiesau`s decision could save CU cash

### Bufs coordinator opted to pass on multi-year deal

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

Posted: 11/20/2009 12:11:39 AM MST

STILLWATER, Okla. -- The idea of paying another football coach millions to leave the program is not a popular one at Colorado, but at least it's not as bad as it could have been.

Athletic director Mike Bohn would have been considering two buyouts if one of Dan Hawkins' assistant coaches had made a different decision two years ago.

Offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau was offered one of six multi-year contracts available at the school as an enticement to remain in Boulder instead of taking a job with Oregon, sources confirmed to the Camera.

Kiesau, who was wide receivers coach at the time, opted not to accept the multi-year deal because, like every other multi-year contract at the school, it contained a buyout clause requiring him to pay CU money if he wanted to leave before it expired. Kiesau said he didn't want to comment on the subject when asked about it recently.

Kiesau makes \$217,776 annually, and likely would have been owed that sum times the number of years remaining on his contract if CU decided to part ways with the entire coaching staff at the end of the season.

But a long-term contract would have given CU the option to retain Kiesau, who is one of the best recruiters on the staff, if it wanted to. When Nebraska parted ways with former coach Bill Callahan two years ago, it retained offensive coordinator Shawn Watson because Watson had a multi-year deal.

Kiesau became an offensive coordinator for the first time in his career last spring when former CU coordinator Mark Helfrich left to take the same position at Oregon.

Colorado state law limits the number of long-term contracts at each institution to six. The athletic director, football coach, men's and women's basketball coaches and volleyball coach all have multi-year contracts in Boulder. Former chancellor G.P. Bud Peterson did not have a multi-year deal and his successor, Phil DiStefano opted against it as well.

Hawkins has mentioned the lack of long-term contracts as a drawback for some coaches when considering whether to coach at CU. Hawkins says multi-year deals for assistants have become commonplace in major college football around the country.

If the school chooses to change coaching staffs after the season, having two multi-year deals to offer could help it land a better staff.

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