

# Hansen takes reins as Buffs fall to Texas

## Buff fall after leading 14-10 at halftime

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

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AUSTIN, Texas -- Everything went so right for one half for the Colorado Buffaloes and so wrong for another Saturday night. Unfortunately, the bad came after the good and in bigger doses as is generally the case in Texas.

Costly special teams mistakes, a school record 20 penalties and an interception returned for a touchdown ruined what was shaping up as a huge upset against No. 2 Texas. But the Longhorns took advantage of the Buffs' mistakes and turned a double-digit deficit late in the first half into a 38-14 victory at Royal-Memorial Stadium.

Colorado came here looking to measure itself against a national title contender. It went home with a new starting quarterback after losing by the same score of last year's contest in Boulder.

Coach Dan Hawkins pulled his son, Cody, from the starting quarterback role after he threw two interceptions in less than 2 minutes.

Texas safety Earl Thomas picked off a pass at the Longhorns' 8-yard line and returned it 92 yards for an interception. CU was trailing by three and seemed to be as-sured of at least tying the game before Cody Hawkins short-armed and telegraphed the route to Scotty McKnight along the sideline. It was the fifth time in seven quarters he had thrown an interception.

"He's got to make that throw," Dan Hawkins said. "...We can't turn it over in the red zone like that and you certainly can't give it up for a touchdown."

It was the 34th interception of Cody Hawkins' career, making him Colorado's career leader in that category. His two touchdown passes earlier in the game had made him the career leader in that category as well. He completed just six of 18 passes for 68 yards against the Longhorns.

Coaches inserted sophomore Tyler Hansen, who played the rest of the game, but was unable to lead the Buffs to more points or a comeback. It is the second consecutive season Hansen's redshirt has been burned midway through the year. This time around, coaches say they will stick with him for the rest of the year barring injury or completely ineffective play.

"I don't want to get into the back and forth, back and forth or having packages," offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said. "I want to have a guy. I want the team to see that, and right now, today, Tyler is our guy."

Hawkins' interception turned the momentum in Texas' favor for good, but the Longhorns comeback began earlier in the third quarter when Marquise Goodman came unblocked through the CU punt team and stuffed a Matt DiLallo punt. Ben Wells picked up the ball at the 3-yard line and gave the Longhorns their first lead of the night at 17-14 when he landed in the end zone.

"When you can score in the kicking game, it changes games for you," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

Early in the fourth quarter down by only 10 points, the Buffs blundered again on special teams. This time while making an effort to avoid another block, the punt team allowed Texas wide receiver Jordan Shipley to return a punt 74 yards for a touchdown. Shipley had broken free on a different return earlier in the game but it was called back because of penalty.

It was the topping on a sweet night for the sixth-year senior who came into the game as the third leading receiver in the nation. Shipley caught 11 passes for 147 yards and a touchdown and 273 all-purpose yards and two scores. Shipley became the first player in Texas school history to record three consecutive double-digit reception games.

"Jordan Shipley is amazing," Brown said. "I really think he should be recognized nationally."

Shipley's special teams score was also a benchmark this season. Texas' three non-offensive touchdowns are the most by any Bowl Championship Subdivision team in a game so far this year.

Colorado dropped to 1-4 with a home game against undefeated Kansas next Saturday.

The Buffs might be the most confident one-win team in the country. They left south Texas feeling as if they were only a few mistakes shy of upsetting a national title contender and they talked in the locker room afterward about earning a rematch with the Longhorns in the Big 12 Conference championship game in December.

If Hansen is able to play at a higher level than Hawkins has so far this season and the defense and special teams continue to improve, it could be a possibility in the wide-open North Division.

Colorado's defense was a beleaguered unit through the first two weeks of the season but continues to stiffen. Texas was one of only three teams averaging 200 yards rushing and 300 yards passing prior to Saturday. The Longhorns ran the ball 35 times for only 46 yards and CU held 2008 Heisman Trophy runner-up Colt McCoy in check much of the night, even though McCoy did finish with an astounding 33 completions in 40 attempts. He threw for 267 yards and just one touchdown.

The Colorado defense -- ranked near the bottom of major college football in most statistical areas -- actually had McCoy playing on his heels at times, as he fumbled once and threw an interception, both deep in Longhorn territory.

"They battled," Dan Hawkins said. "I was proud of them. They did an awesome job. Great job."

Colorado started fast, driving 66 yards and scoring on a 25-yard touchdown pass from Cody Hawkins to tight end Patrick Devenny, who made an awkward catch at the goal line. It was the 44th career touchdown pass of Hawkins' career, tying Joel Klatt on the top of the career list. Hawkins later claimed the record for himself with a second-quarter touchdown pass to tight end Riar Geer from 11 yards out.

The Buffs held Texas to field goal attempts on each of the first two possessions. CU offensive lineman Ryan Miller got his big paw on the second one and linebacker Jeff Smart returned the block to the CU 43-yard line.

Colorado failed to get any points out of that turn of events, but when it pinned Texas inside its 20-yard line late in the second quarter, the change in field possession combined with a McCoy fumble caused by linebacker Marcus Burton, set up the second touchdown pass from Hawkins.

Texas finally found the end zone late in the half when McCoy connected with Shipley on a 39-yard touchdown pass. He beat cornerback Jalil Brown on the play.

The Buffs took a surprising 14-10 lead into halftime and most of the 101,152 in attendance were left scratching their heads. CU held the Longhorns' No. 1 rated scoring offense to 20 yards rushing on 17 carries in the half.

The Buffs' defense finished its strong effort in the second half, but special teams and the offense didn't follow the lead.

"You've got to put three phases together," Dan Hawkins said. "When you play a great team like, the margin of error is going to be pretty small."

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## Woelk: CU soap opera may finally come to an end

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

Posted: 10/11/2009 12:15:17 AM MDT

One play. One play that turned into a 10-point swing Saturday night, one play that made the difference between the No. 2 team in the nation and a struggling team desperate for something good to happen.

One lousy play -- and it might turn out to be the play that does more than any other this year in changing the long-term fortunes of the Colorado football program.

We won't call it a blessing in disguise. Any play that costs a team a chance at a win -- especially a chance at beating the No. 2 team in the nation -- can't be called a blessing.

But if indeed the Cody Hawkins interception that was returned 92 yards for a touchdown proves to be a defining moment in CU's fortunes ... well, the payoff might be worth the pain.

Certainly there were other moments that hurt the Buffaloes in their 38-14 loss Saturday. A 39-yard Texas touchdown pass in the final minute of the first half. A blocked punt that produced another UT touchdown, and a punt return for a touchdown in a fourth quarter that finally opened the Texas floodgates.

But more than anything, the game turned for good on Hawkins' pass, one that was returned the other way for a touchdown and a 24-14 Texas lead.

At worst, Colorado should have been in position for a game-tying field goal. At best, the Buffs could have taken the lead after a Jalil Brown interception gave CU possession deep in UT territory.

Either way, the Buffs had a wonderful opportunity to swing momentum back in their favor. After a terrific first half and a solid defensive effort all night long, CU had a chance to make it anyone's ballgame with a little more than a quarter left to play.

Instead, the worst became the unimaginable. One play cemented the Longhorns' victory.

That was enough, even for head coach Dan Hawkins, whose son also happens to be the quarterback who threw the pass.

Minutes later, Tyler Hansen entered the huddle for Colorado's first series of the fourth quarter.

You could hear the gasp of surprise throughout Buff nation. It wasn't as much déj vu as it was that sinking feeling you get in your gut from bad leftovers.

We saw a similar situation a year ago. With Cody Hawkins struggling against Kansas State, Hansen came on in relief and led the Buffs to a win. But just three games later, Hawkins was back in the lineup for good and Hansen has been wearing headphones since.

But after the game, Dan Hawkins made it clear. Tyler Hansen is his No. 1 quarterback. He insisted it is a permanent change.

"We're going to get him in there and he's going to be the guy," Dan Hawkins said. "Cody wants to be a coach. He's going to learn what it's like to be a coach."

CU fans can only hope that "permanent" means exactly that -- and not just because Hansen may offer a better alternative at quarterback the rest of this season.

What is even more important is the overall health of the Colorado program. This soap opera must come to an end. The cloud created by the head coach naming his son the starting quarterback must be cleared away once and for all.

What is imperative is that Dan Hawkins must not waver from that decision. No rotation, no maybes, no question. Not next week, the week

after or the week after. No change of heart, even if Hansen struggles mightily.

Hansen must be the starter for the remainder of the season and the Buffs must carve their fortunes with him under center.

Another change back to the coach's son could mean Hawkins losing this team completely. A defense that played well enough to win against the No. 2 team in the nation will not sit quietly if CU's coaches waffle and return to Cody Hawkins.

The consequences here reach much farther more than one play or one game. The consequences here concern this season -- and the next and the next. What's at stake is the future of the program that was entrusted to Dan Hawkins three-plus years ago.

After the game, Hawkins said he told his team not to forget how well they played. "Hopefully, our guys know how good they can be."

In other words, don't waste the effort.

With seven Big 12 games remaining, the Buffs still have the opportunity in front of them to make something good out of this season. If they play like they did Saturday, there's not a team left on the schedule they should fear.

Meanwhile, CU's head coach must heed his own advice.

Before the season started, I wrote that Hansen should be the starting quarterback. Eliminate the problems created by having a coach's son as the starting quarterback and go with the bigger upside presented by Hansen. It seemed to be the best possible option.

Now, five games into the season, CU's coaches have turned in that direction. They have what amounts to a fresh start. They have a new quarterback, a chance to create a new perception of the program and a chance to still reap some respectability from this season.

But this may be their last opportunity.

They'd be well advised not to waste this one.

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# Hansen, CU coaches discussed possible removal of redshirt early in week

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

Posted: 10/11/2009 12:03:56 AM MDT

AUSTIN, Texas -- Colorado football coaches apparently came into Saturday's game against No. 2 Texas believing they might have to make a quarterback change.

The decision many Colorado fans have been waiting for finally came early in the fourth quarter after junior Cody Hawkins threw his second interception and his fifth in the last seven quarters. Coaches inserted Tyler Hansen, who had been planning to redshirt this season but is now the team's starter for the foreseeable future.

Offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau met with Hansen privately last week after a quarterback meeting. Hansen said Kiesau gave him the same look former offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich gave him last year before he made his debut against Kansas State.

"They came up to me last week and they gave me a couple days, actually, to decide," Hansen said. "I talked to my parents about it. I talked to my high school coaches about it, and it pretty much came down to, you know, I can get into an accident tomorrow and never have an opportunity to play again.

"So when you have an opportunity to play, especially at college, D-I level in this atmosphere, you take it."

Kiesau said the determination to replace Hawkins wasn't made until Saturday, but he did make an effort make sure Hansen approached his preparation for the game as if he would play.

It is the second straight year CU coaches have turned to Hansen midway through the year following ineffective play from Hawkins, whose costly interception for a touchdown Saturday helped Texas roll into its meeting with Oklahoma next week undefeated.

Dan Hawkins and offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said Hansen will make the third start of his career next week at home against undefeated Kansas. Hansen has been working with the first and second teams all season in practice in an effort to be ready for this possibility. He said he began receiving more repetitions with the first team last week after his conversation with coaches.

Hansen said coach Hawkins approached him on the sidelines during the game Saturday to verify one final time that he was OK with going into the game, the fifth of the year for the Buffs.

"I feel good," Hansen said after the game. "I guess I'm getting kind of used to burning this redshirt year."

Hansen played only one quarter Saturday and completed three of his five passes for 17 yards. He played in five games as a true freshman last season completing 34 of 65 passes for 280 yards and one touchdown pass. He also finished the year as CU's third leading rusher with 261 yards. Coaches said they won't pull him this season or use a rotation with him and Hawkins. The job is officially Hansen's.

"He's such a trooper and he's so awesome," Hawkins said. "We're just going to go with him. I mean, he has earned it. He paid his dues last year. He paid his dues this year. We're going to ride him."

Hansen said he has wondered whether he would have been able to help the team win games earlier in the season, but he also acknowledged that Cody Hawkins had a good fall camp. He said he is comfortable with the decision and is now focused on helping the team turn its season around. He said he is much better prepared to play as a sophomore than he was a year ago.

"I just want to win games," he said. "I want to get this thing going."

## Penalty parade

Officials called penalties on six consecutive plays at one point in the second half. Four of those were on Colorado and contributed to a record total of 20 penalties for 140 yards.

The total eclipsed the previous record of 18 set more than 59 years earlier on Sept. 30, 1950, against Kansas State in Boulder. The 140

yards in penalties was the second most in school history. The Buffs amassed 153 yards on just 12 flags in a 1958 game at Arizona. CU has been flagged 49 times in five games.

### **Riddle takes the blame**

Colorado special teams coach Kent Riddle was blunt after Saturday's game in saying allowing Texas a blocked punt for a touchdown and a punt return for a touchdown was the difference.

"It cost us the game," he said. "Unacceptable performance, and that's a little bit the nature of special teams. It only takes one play to kill you and we let that play happen to us. It shouldn't have ever happened and we're going to make damn sure it doesn't happen again."

Those second-half plays by Texas erased a feel-good moment for CU in the first half when 6-foot-8 offensive lineman Ryan Miller blocked a UT field-goal attempt.

### **Slow McKnight**

Wide receiver Scotty McKnight came into Saturday's game averaging more than seven receptions per contest and ranked in a tie for 15th nationally in receptions per game. He was held without a catch until late in the fourth quarter when Hansen found him for a 12-yard connection.

The reception extended McKnight's streak of consecutive games with at least one catch to 29 consecutive games. He also caught passes in the 2007 Independence Bowl, but CU does not count bowl statistics in its official totals.

### **Ittis out again**

Center Mike Ittis was medically cleared from a concussion late in the week, but because he did not practice, he did not play against the Longhorns. Junior walk-on Keenan Stevens started for the second consecutive week in place of Ittis.

### **Notable**

Texas officials presented Dan Hawkins with a cowboy hat and spurs prior to the game in honor of Hawkins first appearance on the sidelines at Memorial Stadium. ... CU officials said about 4,300 tickets remain for next week's home game against No. 18 Kansas. The Jayhawks won Saturday against Iowa State and will come to Boulder undefeated, looking for their fourth consecutive victory over the Buffs. Kansas has never beaten Colorado in four straight seasons.

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# CU defense clamps down on Longhorns

## Bufs yield just one offensive TD through 3 quarters

**By Michael Sherfield** For the Camera  
Boulder Daily Camera

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AUSTIN, Texas -- For 40 plays in the first half, the Colorado defense was perfect. On the 41st and final, it was burned.

Close, but not good enough.

Clinging to a 14-3 lead with the clock creeping toward halftime, the Buffaloes made one mistake, allowing a 39-yard touchdown pass, swinging the game back in No. 2 Texas' favor in an eventual 38-14 Longhorn win. It was the lone blemish in a dominating defensive effort.

The Buffaloes kept Texas and its top-ranked scoring offense to one touchdown through three quarters, only to see the Longhorns score twice through special teams and on an interception return for a touchdown in the second half.

A Colorado defensive unit that has been plagued by big plays and gouged on the ground showed no signs of its porous opening season form.

After allowing 23 plays of 20-or-more yards through four games, Colorado allowed only one to the highest-scoring team in the country, but it proved costly. The Buffs secondary lost receiver Jordan Shipley 46 seconds before halftime for a momentum-turning 39-yard score that cut their lead to 14-10.

"(The defense was) great. One play," Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said. "They did a great job. I was proud of them. Got some turnovers, did a nice job of mixing it up. (Texas is) a good football team. You're not going to shut them down."

Before the strike to Shipley, the Buffs had bent but remained unbroken, twice holding the Texas offense to field goal attempts inside the 20-yard line. After an opening drive field goal was good, Colorado blocked Hunter Lawrence's second attempt, becoming the first team to stop Texas in the red zone in 24 trips this year.

While Texas quarterback Colt McCoy tried to pick the Buffs secondary apart with short, precise passes, Colorado plugged gaps in the running game and put the pressure on, sacking McCoy twice.

The senior QB finished 32-of-39 for 265 yards and a touchdown with an interception. The Buffaloes also stripped McCoy of the ball on a sack that gave Colorado possession at the Texas 6-yard line late in the second quarter. On the next play, Cody Hawkins threw his second touchdown of the night for a 14-3 Buffaloes lead.

However, after the defense made its biggest play of the game to force the turnover and touchdown, they gave one up that was even bigger.

After getting the ball with three minutes left in the half following the Colorado touchdown, McCoy abandoned the running game and led Texas down the field with his arm. Right before halftime, he finally reached the end zone when Shipley beat cornerback Jalil Brown on a double move for a score.

"I bit on it and he got behind me," Brown said. "As a whole we definitely stepped up and moved toward making progress on the season."

After the break, Colorado stifled the Texas offense even more. The Longhorns finished with only 313 yards, their first game under 400 all year, with only 98 yard coming in the second half.

The Buffs stuffed Texas' rushing attack, allowing only 46 yards on 25 carries, while harassing McCoy into nickel and dime completions.

"Defensively we had one of those schemes that was very simple," linebacker Marcus Burton said. "Guys weren't thinking, just flying around to the ball. At time (Texas was) a little predictable."

With the game well in hand and time ticking away, the Longhorns finally made it back into the end zone on a 12-yard run and leap by running back Foswhitt Whittaker with six minutes left.

"It's tough, you've got to put three phases together," Hawkins said. "When you play a great team like this the margin of error is going to be pretty small. We let them off the hook."

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cu football

## Bufs fade at Texas after strong start; Hansen new No. 1 QB

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/11/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



Texas wide receiver Jordan Shipley pulls in a long pass for a touchdown late in the first half Saturday against Colorado. (Brian Bahr, Getty Images )

college football team in the land for almost 2 1/2 quarters Saturday night.

But ultimately, mistakes proved costly for the Buffaloes in their 38-14 loss to mighty Texas before 101,152 relieved fans, who had to wonder for a spell if those dreams of a national championship might be shattered by a 33-point underdog.

One mistake in particular cost junior quarterback Cody Hawkins his starting job to sophomore Tyler Hansen for the remainder of the season. Hawkins was benched after tossing two third-quarter interceptions, the second of which was returned 92 yards for a touchdown by safety Earl Thomas. That finally gave the Longhorns (5-0) some breathing room, at 24-14.

AUSTIN, Texas — Finding something, at least, to feel good about itself, Colorado led the No. 2

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the 2009 Heisman Trophy. Senior Colt McCoy threw for 265 yards, but on 39 attempts. He was intercepted once, and most completions went to receivers running relatively short patterns.

Sparking Texas to 28 unanswered points in the second half were three touchdowns on returns: one each from a blocked punt, an interception and a punt return.

"I'm proud of the guys," Dan Hawkins said. "You're playing a great football team. You're not going to stone them on everything. The nice thing is, I don't think our guys were deterred by the environment. Our guys got a glimpse of what they can be. We're going to throw a rock on the gas pedal and go."

The quarterback position may be more important in the college game than in either the high school level or the NFL. With Hansen at the controls now, Colorado has made a decision to go in a new direction.

Hansen burned his redshirt in the sixth game last year and in Game 5 this time. No regrets, the Californian said.

"I think I am able to handle it better than last year," Hansen said. "I'm going to try to get this thing rolling."

Colorado offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said the decision to anoint Hansen the permanent starter was made as soon as he went into the game. Last year, Hansen started two games but didn't play much in the final two.

"Tyler has earned it," Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said.

Nobody coming out of the Colorado locker room afterward was using the "M-phrase" (moral victory). But Dan Hawkins said he got the feeling that the Buffs (1-4) gained confidence, even in defeat.

CU's defense allowed just two touchdowns and a field goal against a quarterback who could win

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"The thing that I wanted to make sure (to Hansen) was that, if and when we do this, like we did tonight, it would be worth his while," Kiesau said.

Sports fans watching the telecast of the baseball playoffs Saturday night must have thought there was a typo among the college football scores scrolled across the bottom of the screen, showing Colorado leading 14-3.

Texas went ahead for the first time, at 17-14, when Ben Wells returned a blocked punt for a 3-yard touchdown with 8:49 remaining in the third quarter. Less than four minutes later, Thomas jumped in front of wideout Scotty McKnight and returned a Cody Hawkins interception 92 yards down the right sideline for a touchdown.

That became a killer turn of events for the Buffs, because an interception by cornerback Jalil Brown had given CU a first down at the Texas 17.

Texas put the game out of reach when senior Jordan Shipley, an All-American candidate as a wide receiver, returned a punt 74 yards for a touchdown to make it 31-14 with 12:29 to play.

"It was a tough, physical, hard-fought win," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

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

## Key stat

Return to glory: Texas returns accounted for

three touchdowns: a 3-yard blocked punt return by Ben Wells, a 92-yard interception return by Earl Thomas and a 74-yard punt return by Jordan Shipley. All came in the second half.

## Key play

Trailing 17-14 midway through the third quarter, Colorado looked in great shape to at least even up the score when cornerback Jalil Brown intercepted a Colt McCoy pass to give the Buffs first down at the Longhorns' 17-yard line. But on third-and-5, CU quarterback Cody Hawkins was late and short on a sideline throw to Scotty McKnight. Texas safety Earl Thomas jumped in front of McKnight and returned the interception 92 yards for a touchdown.

## Three questions

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

### 1. Can the CU defense force some takeaways and keep the Buffaloes in the game?

The Buffs' defense certainly did its part, yielding just two touchdowns and a field goal among Texas' 38 points. A fumble by Colt McCoy, forced by linebacker Marcus Burton and returned 6 yards by Jimmy Smith to the Texas 6, led to a second-quarter touchdown, giving CU a 14-3 lead.

### 2. Will Cody Hawkins complete passes only to his teammates?

Hawkins, who entered the game with a Big 12- leading seven interceptions, threw two more picks Saturday night, both in the third quarter when the game was in doubt. The

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first, returned 92 yards for a touchdown by Earl Thomas, gave Texas breathing room at 24-14 with 4:55 remaining in the third quarter. That mistake, a telegraphed attempt to Scotty McKnight on a sideline pattern, cost Hawkins his starting job for the remainder of the season, barring unforeseen circumstances.

**3. Will the Buffs' Darrell Scott get to show the 101,000-plus Texas fans that he was worth all that recruiting hype two years ago before picking CU over the Longhorns?** As seems to be the case every week, Scott didn't get many opportunities. The sophomore tailback ran the ball only three times, netting just 2 yards. He did have 93 yards on three kickoff returns, however. Scott waved to some Texas fans as he exited the field after the game.

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woody paige

## Paige: Hawkins benching tough for dad, son

By Woody Paige  
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/11/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

AUSTIN, Texas — The coach had to be so mad. The father had to be so sad. Coloradans may not feel sympathetic about the coach, but they must feel compassion for the father.

Coach/father Dan Hawkins removed quarterback/son Cody Hawkins from the game Saturday night and replaced him with Tyler Hansen, whose redshirt season was burned.

You've read this same story before.

From the beginning, the relationship of coach Hawkins to quarterback Hawkins created a fragile uneasiness among University of Colorado alumni and boosters, media, former and current members of the athletic department and ex-players, assistant coaches, recruits and the team.

Everybody wished for the best when Hawkins officially became the CU coach on the first day of

2006 and was joined by his son on the Boulder campus the same year. But everybody feared the worst — a precarious situation in which Dan Hawkins had to balance being the coach and the father.

There has been a Buffalo in the room for three seasons.

When Cody won the job as a redshirt freshman, Dan said the offensive coordinator, not the head coach, made the decision — a statement that didn't ring so accurate. A head coach makes the calls, or an assistant coach will do what he thinks the head coach wants. Cody was up and down in 2007, but the Buffs won six games, went to the Independence Bowl and played Alabama close.

Cody won the job last year, and Hansen, a freshman, was supposed to be redshirted. He didn't play for six games, then was surprisingly inserted at QB in the seventh when Cody faltered. Then it was back and forth — Hansen, Hawkins, Hansen, Hawkins, two young men riding on a unicycle.

The close friends competed again this year. Cody was named starter for a third year, Hansen an intended redshirt again.

There was a tempest in Colorado when CU lost to CSU and was blown away in Toledo, and some people tried tactfully to address the problem, and others just went off on the coach, the dad and the kid. Hawkins the coach was feeling the pressure, and Hawkins the father was showing the strain. Cody always has seemed to handle

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the pass- and-catch-22 more deftly than anyone else.

When the Buffaloes shockingly led the Longhorns late in the first half, before 101,152 (the largest crowd for a CU game since the Miracle in Michigan), it seemed as if the Buffs might pull off the Amazement in Austin against the nation's No. 2-ranked team.

Cody had a touchdown pass to make the score 14-3, and he no interceptions.

Texas scored in the final minute and added another touchdown in the third quarter, but Colorado was hanging in there, and could regain the lead after an interception. On third-and-5 at the Texas 12-yard line, Cody's errant pass was picked and taken 92 yards for a touchdown. Three plays into Colorado's next possession, Hawkins threw deep, and the 'Horns hooked it.

The next series Hansen was sent in after he was asked by the coaches: "You sure you want to (give up another redshirt season)?"

In the second half, Cody Hawkins had completed three passes — two of them to the Longhorns.

When I asked the elder Hawkins about his decision, he replied: "Do you mean about Cody? . . . He's got to make that throw . . . in the red zone."

He obviously was answering as a coach and as a father.

Then the coach said of Hansen: "He's really a trouper. He has paid his dues. . . . He will start next week" against Kansas. Last year Hansen was put in against Kansas State, and the Buffs won 14-13. He started the following Saturday at Missouri, and the Buffs lost 58-0. Cody started three more games, Hansen one more.

Eric Kiesau, CU's offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach, said the Buffs will not be "wishy-washy" about the starting quarterback the rest of the season. "You can't go back and forth. . . . Tyler is our quarterback."

But, can we be so sure, considering that the Buffs have possibly four games they can win? Hawkins the younger has another season of eligibility, but does Hawkins the elder have another season at CU?

Athletic director Mike Bohn reiterated his belief in Hawkins before Saturday night's game, but admitted he is not satisfied by the results. Afterward he agreed with the coach's decision to change quarterbacks, but wasn't talking about next season.

Hansen said he wasn't upset he had sat idly by . . . for half of the past two seasons. "Now I have an opportunity, and, hopefully, I can make the team better. Our spirit's OK. We were talking (in the locker room) about playing this team (Texas) again in the Big 12 championship."

Cody said that maybe "Tyler will give us the spark we need."

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The coach was subdued, stoic.

In adversity, it is difficult to be a coach. It's even more difficult to be a father.

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cu football - briefs

up some things," Riddle said.

## CU special teams play costly role in Texas' surge

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/11/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

AUSTIN, Texas — Colorado special- teams coach Kent Riddle took the blame for the Buffaloes' 38-14 loss to No. 2 Texas on Saturday night, saying mistakes by his units "were a killer in a game like that."

Colorado led 14-10 at halftime, but Texas finished the game with 28 unanswered points. Half of those came on a return of a blocked punt and a 74-yard punt return, both for touchdowns.

"It's an unacceptable performance; they cost us the game," Riddle said. "It's the nature of special teams. It only takes one play to kill you. That shouldn't have happened."

Riddle said the CU coverage unit aided the long punt return by Jordan Shipley because several Buffs created gaps in the protection.

"We have to shore

### Colorado Football

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- **Visit** Tom Kensler's All Things Buffs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports .

### Cruel irony.

On the night Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins was benched and apparently lost his starting job for the remainder of the season, the junior threw two touchdown passes to become the Buffs' all-time leader in that category.

Hawkins' second TD pass gave him 45 for his

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career, one more than Joel Klatt had from 2002-05. However, Hawkins also took over the career interceptions lead with 34. He threw two picks Saturday night.

## Shut out early.

Colorado's go-to receiver, junior Scotty McKnight, did not catch his first pass until 4:09 remained in the fourth quarter. But he extended his school record by catching a pass in his 29th straight game.

That 12-yarder would be his only reception of the game.

## Footnotes.

CU set a school record with 20 penalties in the game, surpassing the former mark of 18 set in 1950 against Kansas State. . . . Linebacker Doug Rippey, a redshirt freshman, had to be helped off the field with an apparent leg injury late in the second quarter. . . . CU junior center Keenan Stevens, a nonscholarship player from Lewis-Palmer High School, made his second consecutive start. Regular starter Mike Iltis, a sophomore, suffered a concussion during a practice prior to the Oct. 1 game against West Virginia. On defense, junior linebacker Michael Sipili started in place of usual starter Marcus Burton. . . . With the Green Bay Packers having a bye week, former Colorado All-America kicker Mason Crosby attended the game to cheer on the Buffs. Crosby is from Georgetown, Texas, just north of Austin.

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Longmont, Colorado  
Thursday, October 29,  
2009

Publish Date: 10/11/2009

## Turnaround for CU

By Patrick Ridgell  
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

AUSTIN, Texas — What started out looking like it could be a momentous night for the Colorado football program proved to be seismic in the end.

Just not for the reasons CU hoped.

The end result was its 38-14 defeat to No. 2 Texas, a score that won't let national observers fathom what truly happened before 101,152 fans at Darrel K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium on Saturday night.

The Buffs are 1-4, 0-1 in the Big 12, and unless things turn around quickly, this season will be lost soon.

So with that possibly in mind, CU coaches made the decision to pull starting quarterback Cody Hawkins and insert the previously-redshirting Tyler Hansen in the second half. After the game, coach Dan Hawkins said Hansen will start Saturday when CU hosts Kansas (5 p.m., FSN) and the plan is for Hansen to continue to start.

"He's such a trooper, and he's so awesome," Dan Hawkins said about Hansen, whose pulling his redshirt in the middle of the season for the second straight year. "We're going to go with him. He's earned it. He paid his dues last year, and he's earned it."

This program-changing decision came the same night Cody Hawkins took CU's career lead with his 44th and 45th career touchdown passes, both in the first half, staking the Buffs to a 14-10 lead. And he also took its lead in career interceptions with his 34th.

His first pick came with 4 minutes, 55 seconds to play in the third quarter when Texas' Earl Thomas grabbed a floating pass intended for Scotty McKnight and ran 92 yards down the sideline, in front of the CU bench, for a touchdown.

CU trailed 17-14 prior to that point and was flirting with an upset of colossal proportions. It was one of several plays that proved pivotal.

"It was a terrible pass," Cody Hawkins said.

His father, who has benched his son for the second year in a row, wouldn't argue.

"He has to make that throw," Dan Hawkins said.

"You can't turn it over in the red zone like that and you can't give it up for a touchdown."

Perhaps Cody's demotion could have been avoided if other aspects of CU's game held up. The



Texas' Marquise Goodwin, right, blocks a punt by Colorado's Matt DiLallo during the third quarter Saturday in Austin, Texas. Texas recovered and scored a touchdown on the play. **Eric Gay/AP**

### No. 2 TEXAS 38, COLORADO 14

Colorado

7700—14

Texas

371414—38

First Quarter

Col—Devenny 25 pass from C.Hawkins (Goodman kick), 11:26.

Tex—FG Lawrence 32, 5:28.

Second Quarter

Col—Geer 11 pass from C.Hawkins (Goodman kick), 2:51.

Tex—Shipley 39 pass from McCoy (Lawrence kick), :46.

Third Quarter

Tex—Wells 3 blocked punt return (Lawrence kick), 8:49.

Tex—Thomas 92 interception return

defense held Texas to 313 yards — Texas (5-0, 2-0) entered averaging 521.2 — and only 46 yards rushing. But the quarterback play was not CU's only problem.

The Buffs allowed two touchdowns on special teams — one off a blocked punt and another on a return. They also set a program record with 20 penalties. CU's offense mustered 127 yards and sustained just one drive all night, its first, which ended in a touchdown.

The special teams errors glared brightest. CU led 14-10 in the third quarter when Texas' Marquise Goodwin blocked CU's punt and Ben Wells scooped it up and went three yards for the score. In the fourth, Texas' Jordan Shipley ran through CU's rattled punt cover team on a 74-yard touchdown return that put the Longhorns ahead 31-14.

"They cost us the game," special teams coach Kent Riddle said. "Unacceptable performance. That's a little bit the nature of special teams. It only takes one play to kill you. We let that play happen to us.

"It shouldn't have ever happened. We're going to make damn sure it doesn't happen again."

Dan Hawkins might appreciate that.

"We let (Texas) off the hook," he said. "I'm proud of (his players). Nobody batted an eye. We weren't shocked when we were ahead or when things went bad. We saw glimpses of what we can be down the stretch. We have to put all three phases together and we'll have a chance to do some things."

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

(Lawrence kick), 4:55.

Fourth Quarter

Tex—Shipley 74 punt return (Lawrence kick), 12:29.

Tex—Whittaker 12 run (Lawrence kick), 6:12.

A—101,152.

CUTexas

First downs

11 21

Rushes-yards

34-42 25-46

Passing

85 267

Comp-Att-Int

9-23-2 33-40-1

Return Yards

14 205

Punts-Avg.

9-34.6 4-28.8

Fumbles-Lost

1-0 1-1

Penalties-Yards

20-140 8-93

Time of Possession

31:31 28:29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Colorado, Stewart 21-40, Sumler 4-20, Scott 3-2, C.Hawkins 1-(minus 5), Hansen 5-(minus 15). Texas, C.Johnson 9-20, McGee 7-14, Whittaker 1-12, Chiles

2-3, McCoy 6-(minus 3).

PASSING—Colorado, C.Hawkins 6-18-2-68, Hansen 3-5-0-17. Texas, McCoy 32-39-1-265, Gilbert 1-1-0-2.

RECEIVING—Colorado, Simas 2-13, Devenny 1-25, J.Behrens 1-14, McKnight 1-12, Geer 1-11, Deehan 1-5, Sumler 1-4, Scott 1-1. Texas, Shipley 11-147, Buckner 6-39, Chiles 5-21, McGee 4-23, Kirkendoll 3-25, Whittaker 2-3, Goodwin 1-7, Hales 1-2.

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Longmont, Colorado  
Thursday, October 29,  
2009

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## Buffaloes turn to Hansen

*By by Patrick Ridgell*  
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

AUSTIN, Texas — So now it's Tyler Hansen's turn to quarterback an offense that couldn't move the ball against Colorado State, couldn't do much against Toledo until things were out of hand, and went for 127 yards Saturday during Colorado's 38-14 loss at No. 2 Texas.

Go get 'em, kid.

That Hansen was willing to make the switch is news in and of itself, seeing as he burned his redshirt last year for the good of the team and he's been asked to do it again when it was something he admitted last month he'd prefer not to do.

"Coaches are watching out for me," Hansen said on Sept. 7, the day after the Buffs lost to Colorado State and everyone wondered why he stood on the sideline all night.

Hansen wants to start. He wants to play. No surprise there. He also wants time to learn in an offense that demands expertise under center, and, remember, he's still only a sophomore with limited experience.

But the coaches said plans to redshirt Hansen hinged on starter Cody Hawkins playing well, and when Hawkins threw three picks Oct. 1 at West Virginia, it was unclear whether that was still the plan.

When he threw two more Saturday, including one in the third quarter that floated 20 yards in the air and the interceptor had to basically stop in his tracks to grab it, CU proved it was.

Hansen revealed Saturday night that offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau asked him to stay late after a quarterback meeting one day last week to talk. Hansen said that's when he knew something was up.

"He said, 'Close the door,'" Hansen said. "He said, 'You know what I'm going to tell you.' Once he sat me down, I knew. Once he gave me that look, it was pretty much the exact same thing (former offensive coordinator Mark) Helfrich had last year.

"I guess I'm getting kind of used to burning this redshirt, you know?"

Hansen said coaches gave him a couple of days to decide if he was willing to do it again, as he did in the sixth game of 2008 when he was a true freshman. He discussed it with parents and high school coaches.

"It pretty much came down to I could get in an accident tomorrow and never have an opportunity to play another game, so if you have the opportunity to play, especially at the college level in this kind of atmosphere, so you take it," he said. "It came down to that. I'm happy with it. Now I have to roll with it."

Head coach Dan Hawkins had what couldn't be an easy task — benching his son the night he set the program's career record for touchdown passes, with 45. Then again, maybe it wasn't so difficult to do.

CU's offense has become the league's easiest for opponents to prepare for. Cody Hawkins has every intangible a quarterback needs in



Colorado's Tyler Hansen is tripped up by Texas defender Sam Acho during the fourth quarter Saturday in Austin, Texas. **Eric Gay/AP**

droves — guts, brains, leadership, etc. Those qualities have not preserved his starting job.

Simply put, some might wonder why coaches waited until Saturday to make the change.

Hansen said Cody earned the job in camp. Exactly when is unclear, seeing as he and coaches talked about redshirting Hansen at some point in August. But, again, Hansen said Cody earned the job in camp.

Cody Hawkins called the Thomas pick a “terrible pass.”

“I think I’m the kind of person who’ll always be competitive and give everything I have to the program,” Cody Hawkins said. “If you’re burning Tyler’s redshirt, it’s for a really good reason.

“If my number gets called again — it happened last year — I have to be ready.”

How well prepared Hansen is to be CU’s starter this time — last year, as a true freshman, he didn’t last long in the role — is the lingering question here. Hansen and Kiesau both gave hearty yeses when asked if he is.

But Kiesau was equally committed to saying he does not want to go back and forth between quarterbacks, a ploy that would send a message to the team he does not want to deliver.

So as a season that began with the head coach saying something about winning 10 games and making no excuses drifts to 1-4, massive change has come.

Will things get better? Is it fair to put Hansen in this position again? Was it fair to the team to wait this long?

Was this move overdue?

In the vernacular Dan Hawkins has used so much lately, we’ll see.

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@times-call.com](mailto:pridgell@times-call.com).

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Longmont, Colorado  
Thursday, October 29,  
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## Buffs' defense leaves Austin happy

*By Patrick Ridgell*

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AUSTIN, Texas — Texas quarterback Colt McCoy completed 32 of 39 passes during the Longhorns' 38-14 defeat of Colorado for 265 yards and a touchdown. And the Buffs defenders left town saying they played well.

Such bravado comes from a couple of things. One, the Buffs were playing a guy that might win the Heisman Trophy and finished second for it last year. And two, Texas' offensive output was little more than half its normal amount.

So, actually, it was a good night.

The defense held Texas to a season-low 313 yards and Texas entered averaging 521.2. Texas had only 46 rushing yards on 25 carries. That ought to explain the Buffs' rationale.

"They battled," CU coach Dan Hawkins said about his defense. "I'm proud of them. They did an awesome job."

Hawkins cited one big play allowed by his defense, which entered having given up 11 of 40 yards or more. It was a double move Texas receiver Jordan Shipley put on CU cornerback Jalil Brown late in the second quarter that resulted in a 39-yard touchdown reception.

"I bit on it, and he got behind me," Brown said.

That didn't dampen CU's beliefs.

"Defensively, we had, again, one of those schemes that was real simple," linebacker Marcus Burton said. "Guys weren't thinking, just playing and running to the ball."

Burton then added this, which might pique the Longhorns' curiosity and future opponents.

"Texas did a good job running their offense, but at times they can be a little predictable," Burton said. "So we relied on those things to key in to what they were trying to do."

CU's low for 2009 is the 230 yards it allowed Wyoming to gain.

**INJURY REPORT:** CU linebacker Doug Rippy suffered a knee sprain in the second quarter. He did not return.

Receiver Jason Espinoza (broken thumb) was again limited to fielding punts, which he did without a fumble. He did not play on offense for the second game in a row.

CU reported no other injuries.

**BIG BLOCK:** CU's Ryan Miller blocked Texas' second quarter field goal attempt. No Buff had blocked a field goal since James Garee in 2005 against New Mexico State.

The block also snapped Texas' string of scoring on 24 straight possessions into the red zone.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Receiver Scotty McKnight extended his streak of catches to 29 straight games. He finished with one grab, and it came late in the fourth quarter. ... Tailback Rodney Stewart finished with 40 yards on 21 carries. Darrell Scott rushed three times for two yards. ... Michael Sipili started for Burton at linebacker and Keenan Stevens started for Mike Iltis (concussion) at center. Burton played on CU's second defensive series. Iltis did not play. ... No other NCAA team has scored three non-offensive touchdowns in 2009, according to CU. Texas scored on an interception return, a blocked punt and a punt return. ... While CU's 20 penalties were a program record, its 140 penalty yards are the second-highest. It had 153 in a 1958 game against Arizona.

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Web Posted: 10/11/2009 12:00 CDT

## TD returns shake UT's early funk

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By Mike Finger - Express-News

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AUSTIN — As a two-time junior world champion in the sprint relay, Marquise Goodwin ran the third leg of the race, so he knew how to bring a group from behind. But with the heavily favored Texas Longhorns football team trailing Colorado in the third quarter at Royal-Memorial Stadium on Saturday, it seemed like an unlikely place for a track star to turn things around.

Until Goodwin found a new use for his old tricks.

Whizzing off the edge of the line of scrimmage and blowing past everyone who tried to stop him, Goodwin's latest dash ended with him blocking a Colorado punt. When teammate Ben Wells scooped it up for a touchdown, it gave the Longhorns their first lead, clearing the way for a 38-14 UT victory.

"It was no different than coming out of the blocks," said Goodwin, a freshman who came to UT on a track scholarship. "You just go all-out till you get there."

With Earl Thomas returning an interception 92 yards for a touchdown and Jordan Shipley running back another punt for a score, the Longhorns (5-0, 2-0 in the Big 12) pulled away on a night when their dominant defense held Colorado to 127 yards but their offense struggled to click.

One week before a highly anticipated showdown against Oklahoma, the Longhorns indeed showed signs of a lack of focus some had feared. They dug themselves in a 14-3 hole against the Buffaloes (1-4, 0-1), who ranked near the bottom of the country in more than a half-dozen major statistical categories.

Colorado took the opening kickoff and drove 66 yards for a touchdown, then extended its lead after UT quarterback Colt McCoy fumbled at his own 6-yard line and the Buffaloes scored two plays later.

"The first half," Longhorns coach Mack Brown said, "got our attention."

Part of the problem was UT seemed determined to establish a running game even though it clearly wasn't going to happen. The Longhorns managed only 46 rushing yards on 25 carries, with tailbacks Vondrell McGee (shoulder) and Tre' Newton (concussion) both leaving the game with injuries.

But on the final drive of the first half, McCoy — who completed 32 of 39 passes for 265 yards — hit a wide-open Shipley down the right sideline for a 39-yard touchdown that cut the halftime deficit to 14-10. Shipley was in one-on-one coverage on the play, and after he faked a move to the middle of the field, the Colorado defender never recovered.

"He bit on it," said Shipley, who continued a stellar season with 11 catches for 147 yards.

Still, UT couldn't muster anything on its first two possessions after halftime, and trailed well into the third quarter. But then came Goodwin's punt block, and that was only the beginning.

With Colorado deep in UT territory, Thomas, who already had three interceptions this season, stepped in front of a Cody



TOM REEL/treel@express-news.net

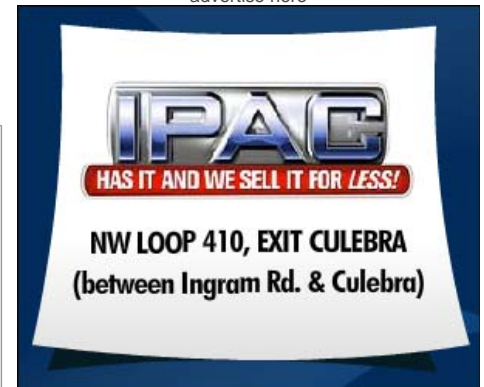
Texas linebacker Rodrick Muckelroy attempts to sack Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen, getting a piece of his helmet in the process, to draw a penalty. The Texas defense made life tough on Colorado throughout the night to improve to 2-0 in Big 12 play.

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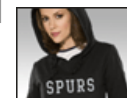


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Hawkins pass along the right sideline. He plucked it out of the air and returned it 92 yards for a touchdown, marking UT's longest interception return since 1936.

"I just saw a little brown spot," Thomas said of spotting the football out of the corner of his eye. "And I was able to pull it in."

Later, Shipley did the same on a 74-yard punt return.

"When it's going like this," said Shipley, whose four career punt/kick returns for touchdowns is a UT record, "it's a lot of fun."

## Comments

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5 comment(s) on "TD returns shake UT's early funk"

Ref Who? 11:56 AM

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If you LOVE your team, then you do NOT boo. No excuses. tu has always been famous for whining and crying about everything that doesn't go their way. I doubt the price of concessions or the price of tickets is the reason. They THINK they should be tops in everything....truth be told, they are not. They are near the bottom of the fan ratings...they judge everything by whichever team holds a winning (NOTE the spelling, "winning" not "whining") record. Truth is, the rest of the nation knows the "true tx". Whiners, who think that just because something isn't all about them, it must be wrong. Boo birds and whiners--no place but texas.

sparky 11:54 AM

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Mike, Like 30 yards of rushing production against the 117th ranked rushing defense. Are you kidding me...that deserves at least 3 or 4 boos. I am longhorn fan and graduate, but Greg Davis has been exposed for years. Without a mobile quarterback (uh...Vince) his offense does not work and they have clearly instructed Colt to go easy on the running and if not for Shipley (the real Heisman candidate and best player in the country)they would have lost last night to one of the worst teams in division I. Yep makes me a passinate crybaby and there's a bunch of us

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LONGHORNS FOOTBALL

# Texas football team beats Colorado

By Suzanne Halliburton  
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF  
Sunday, October 11, 2009

The non-traditional path to the end zone saved Texas in its 38-14 victory over Colorado Saturday night.

That's because the Longhorns relied on three second-half touchdowns scored by special teams and the defense to pull away from the Buffaloes on a chilly night at Royal-Memorial Stadium.

Given the lopsided score, it seemed difficult to fathom that the Longhorns actually were trailing Colorado — a 31.5-point underdog — until 8 minutes, 49 seconds to go in the third quarter.

The Buffaloes successfully had thwarted Texas' rushing offense on an evening when UT coach Mack Brown stubbornly insisted on running the ball.

But Colorado had no answer for the other ways the Longhorns scored.

"When you score in the kicking game, it changes games for you," Brown said.

Second-ranked Texas improved to 5-0 overall and 2-0 in Big 12 Conference play. The Longhorns used the game for one final tuneup before Saturday's matchup against No. 19 Oklahoma, which beat Baylor 33-7 earlier in the day.

The first significant play for Texas came midway through the third quarter, when freshman speedster Marquis Goodwin blocked a punt at the Colorado 3.

Goodwin, a reserve receiver, dashed inside one of the Colorado upbacks to swat the ball. It was picked up by Texas safety Ben Wells, who had lined up next to Goodwin on the play.

Wells' return gave the Longhorns their first lead, 17-14.

"I was just doing my part," Goodwin said. "It's all fun for me."

Texas safety Earl Thomas then joined in the fun, responding with a 92-yard interception return less than four minutes later to give the Longhorns a 24-14 cushion.

The Buffaloes were trying a new play, lining up top receiver Scotty McKnight in the backfield, then putting him into motion at the slot.

Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins, under heavy pressure, was slow to throw the pass.

"I saw a little brown spot and went for it," said Thomas, whose return was the second-longest in school history. "I just put my head back and kept going."

The third non-offensive touchdown came early in the fourth quarter, when Jordan Shipley fielded a punt at his own 26 and returned it 74 yards for the score.

It was his second special teams touchdown in the past three games.

"When you play a great team like this," said Colorado coach Dan Hawkins, "your margin of error is going to be pretty small."

Shipley also was a major factor on offense, with 11 catches for 147 yards and a touchdown.

"Jordan Shipley is amazing," Brown said of his senior receiver. "Nationally, he's still not being recognized like he should be."

Shipley's play overshadowed that of quarterback Colt McCoy, who is considered a top Heisman candidate.

Thanks to all the non-offensive scores, McCoy led the Longhorns on only two touchdown drives. McCoy was an efficient 32 of 39 for 265 yards.

Just before halftime, he and Shipley combined on a 39-yard touchdown.

Shipley, using a double move, threw off Buffaloes defensive back Jalil Brown to give himself nearly a 10-yard advantage as McCoy threw the pass.

Tailback Fozzy Whittaker scored the offense's only touchdown of the second half on a 12-yard run with 6:12 to play.

"It didn't seem like we were out there hardly at all in the second half," said a smiling McCoy. "It was a solid team win."

A win in which every aspect of the team actually scored.

shalliburton@statesman.com; 445-3954

### Meet me at Big Tex

UT and OU fans will share their Red River experiences this week on the Big Tex blog. E-mail your photos, videos and scene reports from pep rallies, parties, and the game itself to **bigtexblog@gmail.com**. See your submissions and those of other fans at **bigtexblog.posterous.com**.

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COMMENTARY: KIRK BOHLS

## Texas' defense, special teams save the day

Sunday, October 11, 2009

Brilliant move, Mack. Positively brilliant.

The Texas football coach ordered his No. 2-ranked team to play like No. 102 for the better part of a half, all the more to keep his players from getting overconfident and to snooker next opponent Oklahoma into thinking these Longhorns aren't all that hot.

Don't bet the Sooners fall for it, however.

Texas is pretty salty, especially when it has to apologize for a 24-point victory in a Big 12 game.

Sure, Colorado played along with the gag until enough was enough and the locals put the Buffaloes in their place to win going away 38-14 when nearly everyone thought they'd win by that margin coming in.

Put this down as an early scare, though, the second the Longhorns have endured this still relatively young season. They came out flat against Wyoming, and they came out whatever's below flat against Colorado although the home-town coaches and players tripped all over themselves building up a highly suspect Buffaloes team hurting for an identity as well as victories.

Texas (5-0) is going to dodge some would-be upsets, and Saturday's may not be the last, especially if the perpetrators who are keeping the Longhorn running game hostage don't return it.

Texas' running game stunk Saturday. It didn't matter.

Even so, a 1-4 Colorado club — that in two bad losses this year trailed Colorado State 20-3 and lagged behind mighty Toledo 30-3 — actually led Texas 14-10 before a stunned 101,152 at the half.

This was not customary. The Longhorns had led for all but 5 minutes, 24 seconds of the season's first 240 minutes, yet struggled against a Dan Hawkins team that has been the Big 12's top disappointment.

The Buffs clearly had no business challenging a team that has propped itself up along with Florida and Alabama as one of the three best squads in America.

But here's the really encouraging news.

Texas no longer has to win with prolific, 50-points-a-game offense. The Longhorns won this one with take-it-to-the-

house special teams and with fire-breathing defense.

"We fed off the defense all night," quarterback Colt McCoy said. "Our defense and special teams played lights out."

The offense played as if it was in the dark.

Oh, sure, Longhorn wideout Jordan Shipley had another other-worldly performance, and if he doesn't make first-team All-American, Congress should launch an investigation. He made a pair of one-handed catches, returned a punt for a touchdown (his second this year) and had an eye-popping 11 receptions for 147 yards and a score.

He was the offense on Saturday.

But Mack Brown finally has a defense that his offense can be proud of, which is exactly why he helped push through the promotion of Will Muschamp last fall as head coach-in-waiting.

He doesn't have to wait to be a defensive genius. He qualifies already.

In 1 1/2 seasons at Austin, Muschamp has clearly raised the bar.

He's also raised his voice from time to time.

"Coach Muschamp was pretty fired up in the locker room at halftime, and he had reason to be," said safety Blake Gideon, who missed a couple of tackles and was late to arrive on a touchdown pass but also made a big interception. "He told us we can't play like (that if) we deserve the ranking we have."

Added defensive end Sam Acho, "It was loud."

So is the noise this defense is making because that's where Texas has made the biggest strides in the last year. After Colorado zipped down the field on its opening drive for a 7-0 lead, Muschamp belched fire, and his unit responded.

Over the Buffaloes' next 12 full series, they netted just 61 yards on their final 49 plays. That averages out to 1.2 yards a snap and a very happy defensive coordinator.

His mood after CU broke on top first, though?

"It wasn't good," Muschamp said.

His spirits lifted greatly as Sergio Kindle, the Acho brothers and Roddrick Muckelroy toyed with Colorado and chased quarterbacks Cody Hawkins and backup Tyler Hansen from Royal-Memorial Stadium to Pflugerville.

The front four harassed the quarterbacks all evening, sacking them twice and pressuring them into 14 incompletions in 23 pass attempts.

On the Buffs' last 11 possessions, they realized one touchdown on an 11-yard drive, punted eight times and threw two interceptions, one of which Earl Thomas returned 92 yards for a TD.

So maybe it won't matter that the Texas running game has gone AWOL and that McCoy doesn't look as sharp as he did all of last season.

The defense has turned the corner and has become a force to be reckoned with.

"This says we have other areas where we're good," defensive tackle Lamarr Houston said. "We're not just an offensive team. We're a complete team."

But complete enough to get by a wounded but dangerous OU team? Texas ain't talking. Or bragging.

"We'll see next Saturday," Gideon said.

You can assume Muschamp will have some words in between.

kbohls@statesman.com

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LONGHORNS FOOTBALL

# Focus on UT running game doesn't produce results against Colorado

By Alan Trubow  
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF  
Sunday, October 11, 2009

For two weeks the Texas Longhorns heard offensive coordinator Greg Davis talk about the importance of the running game: It had to be effective.

Davis aimed for Saturday's game against Colorado to show everybody, both inside and outside the locker room, that the Longhorns could pound the ball on the ground.

With that emphasis, it's safe to say the Longhorns found their weakness against the Buffaloes.

"I'm not very happy right now," Davis said after the game.

The Longhorns carried the ball 25 times for 46 yards against Colorado. They suffered more injuries to running backs than they received big plays from the running game; Tré Newton and Vondrell McGee left the game with injuries. Newton suffered a mild concussion.

Not only was the rushing attack ineffective, it was the main reason Texas went into the locker room trailing 14-10. At halftime, the Longhorns had attempted to run the ball 17 times. They had 20 yards on the ground.

"We have to get better at running the football," Texas quarterback Colt McCoy said.

The question the Longhorns have to ask now is how much emphasis and work to put into their ground attack.

After all, McCoy finished the game 32 of 39 and continues to be extremely accurate.

After all, the Longhorns proved in 2008 they could win without a consistent running game.

After all, the Longhorns already spent two weeks focusing on running the ball and ended up with their worst performance of the season.

And this wasn't against a great Colorado defense. The Buffaloes (1-4) came into the game allowing more than 200 rushing yards per game and 4.88 yards per carry.

They allowed 54 points against Toledo and 35 last week at West Virginia.

So why did the Texas offense, which accounted for just 17 of the Longhorns' 38 points, struggle so much?

"I don't know," the always optimistic offensive lineman Chris Hall said. "The good thing is we have a week to work on it and get better."

True, but the biggest emphasis during the two weeks leading up to the Colorado game was the ground game.

"We spent a lot of time and effort working on the run game," said wide receiver Jordan Shipley, who had another huge game, catching 11 balls for 147 yards and a touchdown, and returning a punt for another touchdown. "We're obviously making mistakes and we have to correct those mistakes. The receivers know we have to do a better job blocking downfield."

But the Longhorns didn't even get downfield Saturday. They were stopped before they got past the defensive line.

"I know that I made a lot of mistakes, and I have a lot to work on," Hall said.

Maybe the players didn't think there was a problem before.

Maybe they didn't understand why Davis was so focused on the rushing attack leading up to the game against the Buffaloes.

Maybe they thought it would be easy to run the ball because they were playing Colorado.

No matter what they thought, now they know it's an issue. And with Oklahoma coming up, they know it's not going to get any easier.

atrubow@statesman.com; 445-3959

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## Second half proves to be Buffs downfall

CU sophomore QB Tyler Hansen burns redshirt, again

*By Alex K.W. Schultz on October 10, 2009*

If only the game ended at halftime.

In front of a capacity crowd of 101,152 on Saturday in Austin, Texas, the Colorado Buffaloes football team led the heavily favored and second-ranked Texas Longhorns by four points after two quarters.

It was in the final 30 minutes when everything unraveled for the struggling Buffaloes.

The Longhorns outscored CU 28-0 in the second half to prevent the major upset and help them march to an easy 38-14 win.

CU (1-4, 0-1 Big 12 Conference) sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen, whose original plan was to redshirt this season, entered the game early in the fourth quarter after junior starting quarterback Cody Hawkins threw two interceptions on back-to-back possessions in the third.

Hansen was 3-of-5 for 17 yards while Hawkins finished 6-of-18 for 68 yards with two touchdown passes to senior tight ends Patrick Devenny and Riar Geer.

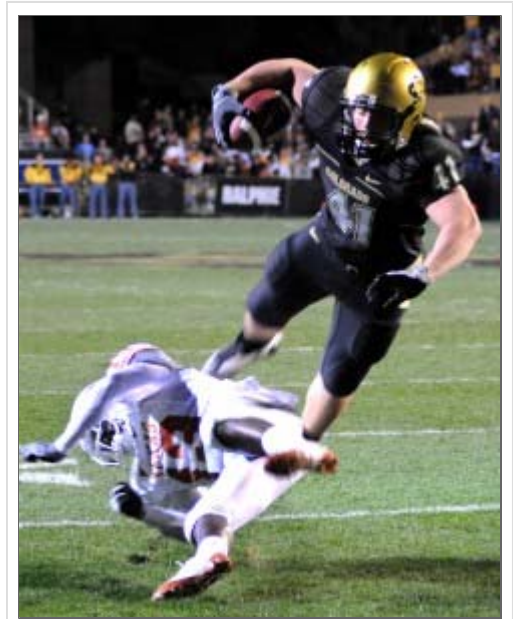
On a fourth-and-10 play of CU's second possession in the third, senior Matt DiLallo's punt was blocked by Texas freshman Marquise Goodwin and picked up by sophomore Ben Wells, who took a few steps and found himself in the end zone to give the Longhorns (5-0, 1-0) a 17-14 lead.

Midway through the third, Longhorns senior quarterback Colt McCoy was intercepted by junior cornerback Jalil Brown at the UT 15-yard line.

CU running backs Rodney Stewart and Demetrius Sumler combined to gain five yards on the next two plays, but Hawkins' ill-advised pass to junior wide receiver Scotty McKnight was intercepted by sophomore safety Earl Thomas, who sprinted 92 yards to give the Longhorns a 24-14 lead.

Early in the fourth, special teams play once again hurt the Buffs when UT grabbed a 31-14 advantage as senior Jordan Shipley returned DiLallo's punt 74 yards for a touchdown.

With the game already in hand, Longhorns sophomore running back Foswhitt Whittaker crashed down on the pylon after a



Seen in last season's Colorado vs. Texas matchup, senior fullback Jake Behrens dove over a Longhorns defender. The Buffs lost to visiting Texas 38-14 on Oct. 4, 2009. This season's Buffs suffered another loss 38-14 loss to Texas on Saturday night in Austin. (CU Independent file/Alison Messinger)

12-yard run to provide Texas its final points with 6:12 left to play.

UT senior quarterback Colt McCoy went 32-of-39 passing for 265 yards and a touchdown completion to Shipley late in the second quarter.

CU's defense held the Longhorns to 46 rushing yards, but the Buffs were only able to gain 42 yards on the ground themselves. CU sophomore tailback Rodney Stewart led the Buffs with 40 yards on 21 carries.

The Buffs were called for a school-record 20 penalties, eclipsing the 18 they had on Sept. 30, 1950 against Kansas State. The 140 penalty yards were the second-most behind the 153 accrued on Oct. 11, 1958 against Arizona.

Colorado will look to bounce back next Saturday as they host No. 16 Kansas (5-0, 1-0 Big 12) at Folsom Field at 5 p.m.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Alexander K.W. Schultz at [Alexander.schultz@colorado.edu](mailto:Alexander.schultz@colorado.edu).

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## Special teams, defense carry No. 2 Texas, 38-14

01:49 AM CDT on Sunday, October 11, 2009

### Associated Press

AUSTIN – First came the boos. Then came the chants of "Beat OU!"

In between, No. 2 Texas turned a stagnant effort against Colorado into a 38-14 win Saturday night to stay undefeated going into their annual grudge match against No. 19 Oklahoma.

Earl Thomas returned an interception 92 yards for a touchdown and [Ben Wells](#) recovered a blocked punt for another score to help the [Longhorns](#) (5-0, 2-0 [Big 12](#)) pull away in the second half.

Jordan Shipley added a punt return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. He also caught a 39-yard touchdown pass in the first half and finished with 147 yards on 11 receptions.

"It was a tough game and a physical game and one we really needed going into next week," Texas coach [Mack Brown](#) said.

It wasn't exactly a confidence booster with the Sooners up next Saturday in Dallas.

Colorado (1-4, 0-1), which managed just 127 total yards, led 14-3 in the first half. The Buffaloes blocked a field goal attempt, forced two turnovers by [Colt McCoy](#) and held the Longhorns to 313 yards, their lowest output of the season and 200 yards below their average.

"When everybody talks about how bad Colorado is all week, it's really hard to go out there and take them serious," Brown said.

Colorado quarterback [Cody Hawkins](#) burned Texas twice early on play-action passes for touchdowns. The first to Patrick Devenny capped Colorado's first drive. The second to Riar Greer came in the second quarter after McCoy fumbled on the Longhorns 6.

After one Texas drive stalled, McCoy unsnapped his chin strap in frustration and stood at midfield with his hands on his hips.

"We were in a battle all night," Longhorns wide receiver Dan Buckner said.

But McCoy to Shipley can cure a lot of ills.

Shipley was wide open when he turned around Colorado cornerback Jalil Brown on a fake and McCoy hit him in stride for Texas' first touchdown with 46 seconds left in the half.

It didn't solve everything. Texas' first two drives of the second half ended without reaching midfield, prompting some boos from the crowd of 101,152.

Special teams and defense quickly turned the boos into cheers.

Goodwin, a freshman with world-class speed in the 100 meters, turned the game with a 12-yard burst when he slipped through a seam in the right side of Colorado's punt protection to get a clean block on the kick.

The ball spun backward toward the end zone and sat up neatly for Wells to scoop and score from the 3 for a 17-14 lead.

"We expect things like that on special teams," Shipley said. "Those plays are so important, especially in close games."

Colorado was still in the game when Jalil Brown intercepted a Shipley drop deep in Texas territory. But [Hawkins](#)

threw behind his receiver, making it an easy pickoff for Thomas and the safety sprinted along the sideline for the score.

The 92-yard return tied for the second-longest in Texas history and was the longest for the Longhorns since 1937.

Hawkins, who was 6 of 18 passing for 68 yards with two interceptions, was pulled for sophomore Tyler Hansen on Colorado's next drive. After the game, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins, Cody's father, announced that Hansen is now the Buffaloes' starter.

"He's gotta make that throw," Dan Hawkins said of his son. "(Hansen) is such a trooper and we're just gonna go with him."

Shipley made it 31-14 with his punt return, weaving through the middle of the field for about 20 yards before breaking to his left to find a clear path to the touchdown.

By the time it was over, the Texas fans still in the stadium were chanting "Beat OU!"

McCoy wasn't ready to join in the fun just yet.

"We're going to enjoy this win," McCoy said.

## No offense in Texas rally

Defense, special teams bring Longhorns back from a halftime deficit

03:05 AM CDT on Sunday, October 11, 2009

By **CHUCK CARLTON** / The Dallas Morning News  
[ccarlton@dallasnews.com](mailto:ccarlton@dallasnews.com)

AUSTIN – Texas football coaches hoped track and field recruit Marquise Goodwin would be a game-changer with his sprinter's speed.

Goodwin lived up to his promise, just not as a receiver or kick returner. The 5-9, 170-pound freshman from Rowlett blocked a Colorado punt in the third quarter, sparking a stretch of three consecutive non-offensive touchdowns for Texas.

The second-ranked Longhorns rallied from a halftime deficit for a 38-14 victory over Colorado, which entered Saturday's game as a 32 ½ -point underdog.

"Our defense and special teams played lights out," said quarterback Colt McCoy, who completed 32 of 39 passes for 265 yards and a touchdown.

Texas trailed, 14-10, midway through the third quarter, when Goodwin sprinted untouched from the right side and smothered a Matt DiLallo punt attempt. Ben Wells recovered at the Colorado 3 and took a couple of steps into the end zone for the go-ahead touchdown.

More would come.

With Colorado looking to reclaim the lead after a McCoy fumble, Texas safety Earl Thomas stepped in front of receiver Scotty McKnight, grabbed a Cody Hawkins pass and returned it 92 yards down the sideline. It was the longest Texas interception return since 1936.

Then Jordan Shipley broke a 76-yard punt return for a touchdown, outracing the Colorado coverage to the outside. Shipley has three career punt returns for TDs, two this season.

"When you can score on the kicking game, it changes games for you," coach Mack Brown said. "Jordan Shipley is amazing."

Shipley also caught 11 passes for 147 yards and a touchdown, giving him 32 receptions in his last three games. Shipley moved into third on UT's career receiving list with 179 catches, passing Kwame Cavil (174) and Mike Adams (177). Quan Cosby is second with 212.

Colorado (1-4, 0-1 Big 12) had taken a 14-10 halftime lead on Hawkins' touchdown passes to Patrick Devenny and Riar Geer.

■ **Running game hurting:** Vondrell McGee and Tre Newton entered the game as co-starters on the depth chart.

Both running backs left the game with injuries. McGee hurt his left shoulder in the second half. Newton, a redshirt freshman from Southlake Carroll, suffered a "mild concussion" in the first half, Texas officials said.

That leaves Fozzy Whittaker and Cody Johnson, if McGee and Newton aren't available against Oklahoma.

■ **Briefly:** Texas' streak of red-zone success ended in the second quarter. Colorado's 6-8 Ryan Miller blocked a 30-yard field goal attempt by Hunter Lawrence. UT had scored in its first 24 trips inside the opponents' 20 this season, with 16 touchdowns and eight field goals. ... The win was Texas' 13th in a row at Royal-Memorial Stadium. ... Thomas has interceptions in three consecutive games. ... Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said he is replacing his son, Cody, as starting quarterback with Tyler Hansen.