

QB Hawkins could still play

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/14/2009 08:39:29 AM MDT

What is clear about the quarterback situation at Colorado following interviews Tuesday with coach Dan Hawkins, offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau and sophomore Tyler Hansen is that Hansen will start Saturday when No. 15 Kansas comes to town.

What isn't clear is what role former starter Cody Hawkins will have in the game plan and if he will even play.

Hawkins was benched last week at Texas after throwing two second-half interceptions that played a part in the Buffs losing the lead and the game. Hansen agreed to burn his redshirt season in order to come on in relief after discussing the possibility with coaches last week.

After the game, Dan Hawkins and Kiesau said that Hansen would be the starter this week and likely for the rest of the season. Kiesau said he didn't want to get into a situation in which the program was using both quarterbacks in games, as was the case for much of the second half of last season.

That sentiment seemed to be gone by Tuesday when Dan Hawkins said that after further review of the Texas game film, it was determined that mistakes were made by other players that contributed to Cody Hawkins' more noticeable errors.

Dan Hawkins said the starting job remains in Hansen's hands, but there will be a role for Cody Hawkins to play.

"Everything is fluid," Hawkins said. "Tyler's going to start. It's Tyler's show. How that goes? I don't know."

Kiesau said a competition now exists that hadn't existed since fall camp.

The team lacked a backup quarterback each week with Hansen trying to redshirt, and three true freshman as the only other quarterbacks on the roster. Now that Hansen is no longer redshirting, there will be competition each week between Hansen and Hawkins, with Hansen retaining the starter's role until further notice.

Dan Hawkins said he doesn't want Hansen to feel like he has a hook hanging over his head and that any small mistake will mean he is replaced with Hawkins. He said he knows Hansen will not be perfect and he doesn't expect him to be.

"I think Cody has kind of known that if things didn't go well, there would be a possibility that Tyler could come in," Hawkins said. "I think Tyler knows the same thing about Cody. But that doesn't mean if he throws an interception or two interceptions or we stumble for two or three series that that's going to be it. That won't be the case. We won't do that to him. We have to fair to him, as fair as we can be."

Hansen said he embraces the competition. He said he felt like he was the best man for the job during fall camp in August and when he was told two weeks prior to the Colorado State game that Cody Hawkins would start, he was disappointed. Hansen said he hopes to prove he should have been the starter all along, beginning this week against the Jayhawks.

"Right now I'm going into it like I'm going to be the guy," Hansen said. "I'm looking at it like I'm going to compete my butt off and prepare so that I go into Kansas balling out and doing awesome. Right now, it's me, and if I do like that, I'll be the guy playing. I want it to be like I'm not sharing any time, but if that is what they want and that is what the team needs, I'll do it."

Cody Hawkins did not speak with reporters after Tuesday's practice.

Dan Hawkins said there are some positives to playing two quarterbacks.

"If you have two guys ready, you can kind of go with the hot-hand theory more, you know?" he said. "I do think sometimes for a guy to step away and look and see things from another perspective gives him a little better angle when he does get into the game. So there is that positive of it. You lose, to some degree, the continuity thing.

"Like I said, I've done it before. It probably causes me more angst than it does those guys. I had a big discussion with them and they were looking at me like, 'Why are you wasting our time with this? We're good. Let's go.'"

Notable

Dan Hawkins said center Keenan Stevens will continue to start this week despite Mike Iltis being medically cleared from a concussion. Iltis was the starter out of fall camp, but he has missed time because of a sprained ankle and concussion. Stevens has started the past two games.

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Woelk: Hansen needs fair shot at keeping job

Camera staff
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/14/2009 08:32:01 AM MDT

It's probably not the can of worms Dan Hawkins planned on opening up this week, but Tuesday afternoon, there they were, wriggling all over the floor at the Dal Ward Center.

In a candid moment Hawk likely wishes he could have back, he said, "I think there is a very good chance you could see both of them."

Oops.

"Both of them," of course, means Colorado's two quarterbacks.

One is the recently benched starter (and the coach's son), Cody Hawkins, who got the hook in the fourth quarter of Saturday's loss at Texas. The other is newly anointed No. 1 Tyler Hansen, who is scheduled to start Saturday against Kansas and can only hope his first mistake won't be his last.

Dan Hawkins insists that isn't the case. After opening up the possibility of both playing against the Jayhawks -- and for the rest of the season, for that matter -- Hawk also made it clear that Hansen is the starter.

"Tyler's the guy," Hawkins said, repeatedly. "You've got to have some continuity. I don't want him out there and have that hook hanging over him."

I believe him. But I also know the mere suggestion that Cody Hawkins might not be an observer for the rest of the season left Buff Nation in a tizzy (not to mention the media).

Hawkins' statements were broken down, analyzed and scrutinized as if there were hidden meanings and secret codes tucked carefully inside. Message boards lit up immediately, television stations breathlessly carried the "news" and even my own paper ran a headline on its Web site claiming that Hawkins had performed a "QB flip-flop."

At the risk of injecting just a little rational thought into the conversation -- something I admit does not fly well in the age of Internet anonymity and instant accusations -- I'm going to say there really wasn't any secret meaning behind Hawkins' statements.

The guess here is that unless Hansen implodes on Saturday -- say, three interceptions and a couple of fumbles in the first half -- he'll finish the game. He deserves at least the same chance that his counterpart received; I would hope that CU's coaches give him that chance.

The best-case scenario, of course, is that Hansen renders moot all the hand-wringing and over-analyzing. The best-case scenario is that Hansen comes out and plays well against Kansas, proves that he deserves to keep the job and turns Cody Hawkins into the league's most experienced backup.

"If Tyler gets out there and rolls, Cody may never play again," Dan Hawkins said.

But given that Hansen is likely to experience his own struggles, it does open up the question as to just how much latitude he will be given.

One interception? Two? One interception and a fumble? Three straight non-productive drives? Four?

In other words, will he be given the same opportunity and the same room to make the same number of mistakes as Cody Hawkins?

When I asked Dan Hawkins on Tuesday whether that would be the case, he answered in the affirmative.

Certainly that was the message that emanated immediately after last Saturday's loss at Texas, when the head coach said, "We're going to get him (Hansen) in there and he's going to be the guy. Cody wants to be a coach; he's going to learn what it's like to be a coach."

That same night, offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said, "I don't want to get into the back and forth, back and forth or having packages," Kiesau said. "I want to have a guy. I want the team to see that."

Here's hoping Hawkins and his staff stick to their guns in that regard.

I'd like to see Hansen get a couple of starts under his belt, no matter what happens. Cody Hawkins was afforded that opportunity against Colorado State and Toledo; Hansen should get the same chance. If CU's coaches were really considering a quarterback rotation of some sort, they should have done it at the beginning of the season.

But now it's too late. Throw Hansen into the fray and see what happens. Let him establish some rhythm, give him a chance for at least a couple of games and live with the results -- good or bad. We've seen what Cody Hawkins can do. Now it's time to see whether another option might not be better, particularly when

you take the long term into account.

What I think Dan Hawkins should have said Tuesday was that there was no way he could guarantee that Tyler Hansen would take every snap of every game for the rest of the season. No one can foresee every scenario, and if Hansen does inexplicably suffer some kind of meltdown (or injury), the option of returning to Hawkins has to be available.

But such a switch should be a matter of last resort. Anything less will bring into question credibility issues. If Kiesau is indeed in charge of the offense, he needs to remember his words: "I want to have a guy. I want the team to see that."

What's clear is that CU's coaches promised Hansen a legitimate shot at the job, a job that his counterpart lost only after four losses and a heartbreaking interception against the No. 2 team in the nation.

Hansen should get the same chance, and not just because it might make a difference for a game or two. Rather, there's far more at stake here.

CU's coaches gave their word to a player and made it public. They said a change was in order.

Now they need to let the kid play -- and let the rest of the team see that their word is good.

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Hawk: Buffs turning corner

Coach says team gained confidence vs. Longhorns

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/14/2009 08:35:49 AM MDT

The Texas-sized crowd of 101,152 sat in stunned silence.

The national television audience, including viewers in Colorado, was also surprised at what was taking place in Austin on Saturday night.

The Buffs -- coming off humbling performances on the road at Toledo and West Virginia -- were holding up well on both sides of the line of scrimmage, controlling the clock and leading the No. 2 Longhorns 14-3 late in the second quarter.

CU's upset bid was thwarted by a costly Cody Hawkins interception coupled with two special teams breakdowns (Texas blocked a punt for a touchdown and returned a punt for a touchdown) in what ended up being a 38-14 loss for the visitors.

After taking stock in his players' body language, mental toughness and physical play, head coach Dan Hawkins believes the Buffs, despite a 1-4 record, may have finally turned the corner.

"Really, in my mind, for the first time since I've been here I think our guys were not deterred at all," Dan Hawkins said at his Tuesday press conference. "I don't think they were surprised when they were ahead. I don't think they were surprised when they were doing well. I don't think they were fazed when we had the big play go against us.

"Just a whole lot of emotional maturity in how they handled the whole trip and the surroundings and the game and all that." Dan Hawkins said there was a different feeling on the sideline against Texas when things were going well early for the Buffs, unlike when the team coughed up early leads at Georgia (a 13-0 CU lead turned into a 14-13 loss in 2006) and Arizona State (a 14-0 lead turned into a 33-14 loss in 2007) during his first two seasons in Boulder.

"I thought the way they handled the trip, the pregame warm up, everything ... it was just different," Dan Hawkins said. "There was definitely some emotional growth. ... You want to seal the deal and it's always tough because you're thinking, 'Wow, we have the No. 2 team on the ropes on the road and you'd like to finish that deal.'

"Those days are coming."

During the 2005 season, Gary Barnett's final fall in Boulder, CU finished the regular season with a 7-5 record, won the North Division and earned a bid to the Champs Sports Bowl.

But those Buffs didn't believe they belonged on the same field with Texas, which beat them 42-17 in Austin and 70-3 in the Big 12 championship game en route to a national championship.

"I look back to 2005 playing Texas in Austin, there was definitely a feeling of, 'We should lose this game.' I felt it, it wasn't necessarily spoken," fifth-year senior linebacker Marcus Burton said. "I look back at the Big 12 championship that year, there wasn't a lot of surprise when Texas was beating us. Versus the game Saturday where guys expected to compete, guys expected to do well and when we did well no one was really surprised or overwhelmed by that.

"There's definitely a difference between the time when I first got here until now."

The attitude and the confidence might be improved, but that doesn't mean much outside of the Dal Ward Center right now. Supporters of the program are desperate for some improvement in CU's win-loss record.

Dan Hawkins, who has benched his son and pulled the redshirt off Tyler Hansen's back again ahead of Saturday's game against No. 17 Kansas at Folsom Field, understands moral victories aren't playing well with the public in his fourth year on the job.

But right now just being competitive against Big 12 competition is all this program has to build on.

"I'm really proud of our guys. I think the last two weeks going on the road to two pretty hostile places, I think we're getting better," Dan Hawkins said. "Unfortunately, it doesn't show on the scoreboard. ... We have to keep hammering home that message."

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CU still open to using Hawkins

Benched QB may play against Kansas**By Tom Kensler**
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/14/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



Sophomore QB Tyler Hansen says he plans to "compete my butt off and prepare, so that I go into Kansas doing awesome." CU plays KU this week. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — Three days after sophomore Tyler Hansen had been proclaimed as Colorado's new starting quarterback, coach Dan Hawkins said there "is a pretty good chance" junior Cody Hawkins also will see playing time Saturday in the home game against No. 17 Kansas.

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"The thing is, everything is fluid, everything is fluid," Dan Hawkins said Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon. "Tyler's going to start. It's Tyler's show. How that goes, I don't know. . . . The thing is, everything is fluid."

Offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau had said Saturday following Colorado's 38-14 loss at Texas he will not be "wishy-washy" about the starting quarterback for the remainder of the season because that would inhibit continuity, "and I don't want the team to see that."

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When asked Tuesday to clarify things, Kiesau said the starting quarterback can always be pulled in favor of the backup if the starter struggles. "If Tyler does well, we'll let him roll," Kiesau said.

There will not be a specific package designed to get Cody into the game against Kansas, Kiesau said.

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"Right now, the plan is for Tyler to play first," the coach said. "If there are some situations where we can have Cody help us, he will. We don't have a plan to do anything like that. But you never know. We'll just have to wait and see how Tyler does."

Hansen burned his redshirt during midseason for the second consecutive year after Cody Hawkins threw two second-half interceptions at Texas, including one that was returned 92 yards for a touchdown.

Kiesau told reporters Saturday night that "the decision (to go with Hansen as the future starter) was made in the third quarter."

Hansen said Tuesday he knows he had better perform. Dan Hawkins has been consistent in saying there always is competition at every position, or at least should be.

"I'm playing for the job, I guess," Hansen said. "Right now, I want it to be like I'm not sharing any time. But if (playing two quarterbacks) is what they want and what the team needs, I'll do it."

"It is kind of tough, but you just have to deal with it. That's the situation. You just have to be a man about it."

Last season, Hansen (6-feet-1, 205 pounds) made his college debut in the seventh game, against Kansas State. Hansen started games against Missouri and Iowa State, but Cody Hawkins reclaimed the starting role for the final

two games and won the job again in August. With quick feet, Hansen is a better athlete and has a stronger arm. But coaches have said Cody Hawkins (5-11, 190) is more consistent in practice and has a better grasp of the Buffaloes' offense.

"I'm going to compete my butt off and prepare, so that I go into Kansas balling out and doing awesome," Hansen said Tuesday. "If I do like that, I'll be the guy playing."

Dan Hawkins said he does not want Hansen to be looking over his shoulder.

"We don't want (Hansen) to have the hook hanging over his head," Dan Hawkins said. "If we're trying to get this down to a legal document here, maybe I should say, '(Cody) could play, he might play, I don't know.' . . . But that doesn't mean that if (Hansen) throws an interception or two interceptions or if he stumbles for two or three series (that he will be pulled). We're not going to do that to him."

Senior tight end Patrick Devenny said either quarterback "is fine with us." The renewed competition should benefit both of them, he said.

"To just say, 'It's now Tyler,' the way I looked at it was, now there's a fair competition," Devenny said. "Either way, whoever is going to play is going to have to deserve it and earn it."

Cody Hawkins was unavailable for interviews on Tuesday.

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OCTOBER 13, 2009, 3:34 PM

CU's Hansen reacts to possibly sharing playing time

By **TOM KENSLE** |  2 Comments

Colorado sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen, when asked Tuesday about possibly having to share some playing time with Cody Hawkins:

"I'm playing for the job, I guess," Hansen said. "So I have to perform and get a 'W' (win).

"I just want to win games. I'm definitely going to play my butt off and try to beat Kansas. I'm definitely working as hard as I can so I can be that guy.

"Whatever we have to do to win games, I'm OK with.

"Right now, I'm looking at it like, I'm going to be the guy and I'm starting," Hansen added. "I'm looking at it like, I'm going to perform. I'm going to compete my butt off and prepare, so that I go into Kansas balling out and doing awesome. If I do like that, I'll be the guy playing.

"Right now, I want it to be like I'm not sharing any time. But (playing two quarterbacks) is what they want and what the team needs, I'll do it.

"It is kind of tough, but you just have to deal with it. That's the situation. You just have to be a man about it."

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OCTOBER 14, 2009, 10:47 AM

Yankee Stadium to replace Shreveport in Big 12 bowl lineup

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Let's see, New York or Shreveport?

After this season's bowl season, there will be no more Shreveport, La., for the Big 12.

The Big 12 announced its lineup for the 2010-13 seasons, and the only change is the Independence Bowl being replaced by a yet-to-be-named bowl game at Yankee Stadium.

That New York City bowl will match a team from the Big 12 against a representative of the Big East Conference.

Colorado played in the 2007 Independence Bowl and put on a good show. The Buffaloes, in Dan Hawkins' second year as head coach, rallied from a 27-0 second-quarter deficit against Alabama before falling 30-24. CU's defense limited the Crimson Tide to three points in the second half.

The Independence Bowl and Shreveport have long been the brunt of jokes among college football fans. But I was pleasantly surprised. The hospitality of the bowl officials and townspeople was top-notch. I enjoyed the week.

New York stands alone for excitement, of course. But the weather in December could be interesting.

Other bowls in the Big 12's lineup are the Fiesta Bowl (Glendale, Ariz.) or BCS Championship Game, the Cotton Bowl (Arlington, Texas), Alamo Bowl (San Antonio), Holiday Bowl (San Diego) and Texas Bowl (Houston).

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Longmont, Colorado
Thursday, November 05,
2009

Publish Date: 10/14/2009

More twists with Buffs' QBs

Coach: Good chance Hawkins will play Saturday

By Patrick Ridgell

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BOULDER — OK, so here's what the folks in the Colorado football program were saying Tuesday about the quarterback situation:

Head coach Dan Hawkins said there's a good chance Cody Hawkins, benched Saturday night in Texas, could play Saturday when the Buffs host No. 17 Kansas (5 p.m., FSN).

Such a notion contradicts what offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said Saturday after Dan Hawkins announced that Tyler Hansen is the new starter. Kiesau said he wants one guy — no going back and forth between two — while adding that Hansen, who has burned his redshirt midseason yet again, deserves and is ready for this shot.

Kiesau didn't rule anything out on Tuesday.

"Tyler will start the game against Kansas, but it's the same deal: If you're a starter that isn't doing well, we go to the backup," Kiesau said. "Cody is our backup. If Tyler goes in there and does well, we'll let him roll."

To Kiesau, the news is that CU now has a backup quarterback, which it didn't have when the plan was to redshirt Hansen. He said both quarterbacks have the same plan for Saturday, so Cody Hawkins does not have a special package of plays for him to come in and run. Dan Hawkins said the same thing.

Hansen said this: "You still might see Cody every once in a while in certain packages."

Cody Hawkins declined to comment after Tuesday's practice.

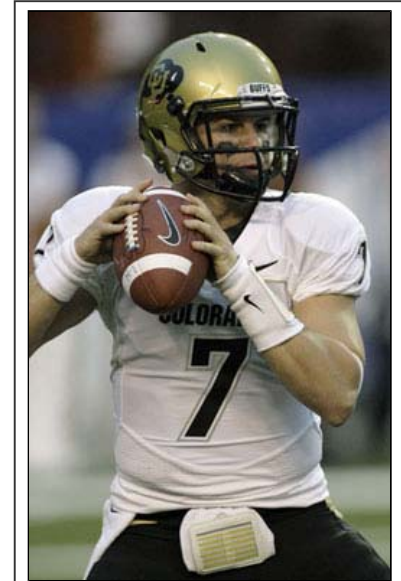
CU refused to reveal its starter prior to the season opener. Hansen said he knew two weeks before the Colorado State game it wouldn't be him, and that's when he talked about redshirting with Kiesau. Cody Hawkins told reporters after losing to CSU that they'd feel stupid if they knew when the starting quarterback was determined during camp.

Hansen, who badly wanted to redshirt in 2009, said on Tuesday he did not know if anything had changed since Saturday's announcement. He added: "Right now, I'm going into it like I'm starting, but you still might see Cody. We're just trying to be fair to both of us and do what's fair for the team."

Senior tight end Patrick Devenny, looking sort of confused, said whoever plays quarterback must earn the right by playing well.

"We all really like Cody back there. With Tyler running around making plays, that could help us even more," Devenny said. "If there's two, that's fine with us. As long as we win, I don't think we'll be saying anything."

Kansas comes to town Saturday with one of the Big 12's best quarterbacks in Todd Reesing, a guy whose redshirt was stripped in the



Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins looks toward his receivers during the Buffs' game against Texas on Saturday in Austin, Texas. Hawkins was benched during the game in favor of Tyler Hansen but could see playing time Saturday against Kansas. **Harry Cabluck/AP**

eighth game of his freshman season in 2006 against CU. He rallied the Jayhawks past the Buffs that day and hasn't looked back.

Some might wonder if Hansen will be looking over his shoulder, what with Cody Hawkins on the bench and Hansen's status as "the guy" seemingly in question following Tuesday's revelations.

Coach?

"I'm just saying ... everything is fluid," Hawkins said. "Tyler is going to start. It's Tyler's show. How that goes? I don't know.

"It's the same as before. I know you (reporters) are trying to get it exact. The way to get it exact is, it's Tyler's show and we're going with Tyler, but you never know."

Does Hansen's status hinge on his performance, like Cody's did?

"We don't want him to have the hook hanging over his head by any means," Dan Hawkins said.

"I think Cody has known that if things didn't go well, there was the possibility Tyler could come in, and I think Tyler knows the same thing about Cody. But that doesn't mean that if he throws an interception or two interceptions or we stumble for two or three series, that that's going to be, you know. ... that won't be the case. We're not going to do that to him. We have to be fair to him, as fair as we can be."

Hansen said he doesn't "really feel" like a hook hangs over his head. He added that whether he is pulled from the game is not up to him, though, and that he has to "be a man" about the situation and realize that if he doesn't perform, his playing time could again be limited, which happened when he burned last year's redshirt.

What Hansen sees is a chance to show he should have been starting all along.

"I thought I prepared my butt off in the summer, I thought I worked hard in the weight room and during offseason workouts," Hansen said. "I thought I could have been the guy starting from Day 1. After that, I was a little disappointed; I wanted to prove people wrong. .. I wanted to prove to people I was the guy."

Saturday is his chance.

EXTRA POINTS: Dan Hawkins said he anticipates that Keenan Stevens will start at center again Saturday. Asked if Mike Iltis isn't starting because of his concussion or if Stevens has beaten him out, Hawkins said, "Little bit of both."

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

Hosted by 

Coach Hawkins: son Cody Hawkins will still play

(AP) – Oct 13, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — University of Colorado coach Dan Hawkins is hinting his son, quarterback Cody Hawkins, might still get some playing time after being benched in favor of sophomore Tyler Hansen.

Hansen burned his redshirt at midseason for the second straight year when he replaced a mistake-prone Cody Hawkins during the Buffaloes' 38-14 loss to Texas on Saturday. Afterward, offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau insisted Hansen was the permanent starter.

Last year, Hansen and Hawkins split quarterback duties after Hansen gave up his redshirt year. And Dan Hawkins indicated Tuesday that might be the case again.

He suggested his son was "still going to have a role and I think there's a very good chance that you'll see both of them."

The Buffaloes (1-4, 0-1 Big 12) host No. 17 Kansas (5-0, 1-0) Saturday night.

Meeting with reporters after his weekly news conference, Dan Hawkins lent little clarity to the situation, saying: "We're going with Tyler, but you never know. You don't know."

Pressed, the coach said: "Again, if we're trying to get this down to a legal document, maybe I should say he could play. He might play. I don't know. I don't know."

He also said his son might never see the field: "We want Tyler to get in and Tyler to roll. If Tyler gets out there and rolls and we get some continuity, Cody may never play again. We'll see how it goes."

Hansen said he didn't feel like a hook was hanging over his head.

"Not really. I think it's all up to me right now. The ball is in my court. Whatever I do with it, that's what's going to happen," he said.

And if there's been a change in plans as far as sharing snaps, Hansen said he hadn't been informed of that.

"Not as far as I know. Right now I'm starting, but you still might see Cody every once in a while in certain packages. He (Dan Hawkins) is trying to be fair to both of us and see what's best for the team," Hansen said.

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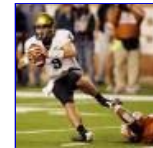
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Photo 1 of 2



Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins looks toward his receivers before releasing a pass during the first quarter of their NCAA college football game against Texas Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009, in Austin, Texas. (AP Photo/Harry Cabluck)



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TIME: 07:00 P.M. EST
VENUE: Folsom Field

While quarterback Todd Reesing and a talented pair of receivers continue to break school records, Kansas keeps winning.

The 17th-ranked Jayhawks look to remain undefeated while trying for a fourth straight victory over struggling Colorado on Saturday night in a Big 12 North Division matchup at Folsom Field.

For the second straight outing, Kansas (5-0, 1-0) had a tough time keeping its perfect record intact, but its high-powered offense was ultimately able to bail out a leaky defense for a 41-36 win over Iowa State last Saturday. The Jayhawks outlasted Southern Mississippi 35-28 in their previous contest Sept. 26.

While the recent lapses from a defensive unit last in the Big 12 allowing 259.8 passing yards per game, Kansas' offense has had little trouble carrying the load.

Tied for ninth in the nation with 1,579 passing yards, Reesing was 37 of 49 for a career-high 442 yards with four touchdowns against the Cyclones. He tied his own single-game record for completions and came within 38 yards of the school mark for most in a contest.

Senior Kerry Meier set a school record with 16 catches for 142 yards with two TDs, while junior Dezmon Briscoe caught 12 for 186 yards and two scores. Meier, who has 167 catches, leads Briscoe by two in the race to become the Jayhawks' all-time leading receiver.

"It's hard to believe there's a better pitch-and-catch group in the country than those guys," said Kansas coach Mark Mangino, whose team ranks third nationally in total offense (519.4 yards per game) and fourth in scoring (40.6 points). "I'd be hard-pressed to find a better one."

Briscoe, who has 30 receptions for a team-leading 517 yards in four games, also holds the school record for career receiving yards with 2,420.

"I don't think you can find a duo who's better than them," said Reesing, who's 843 yards shy of 10,000. "If you do, I'll challenge and say that they're not."

Reesing and the offense could be even more dangerous if starting running back Jake Sharp (240 rushing yards, six total TDs) returns after missing the last two contests with a leg injury.

Regardless, Kansas has a chance for another big game against Colorado (1-4, 0-1), which is last in the conference allowing 30.0 points per game and 11th by giving up 389.6 yards per contest.

Reesing has thrown for 515 yards and four touchdowns in three games against the Buffaloes.

Despite Colorado's struggles, it could carry some momentum into this contest after holding then-No. 2 Texas to a season-low 313 total yards. The Buffaloes led 14-10 at halftime before the Longhorns turned it on for a 38-14 win.

While its defense hopes for another strong effort, Colorado will have a new face at quarterback.

Sophomore Tyler Hansen will start in place of three-year starter and coach's son Cody Hawkins, who was pulled after going 6 of 18 for 68 yards with two interceptions against Texas.

Hansen, who split time with Hawkins last season and is 37 of 70 for 297 yards with a touchdown and four interceptions, will try to jump-start an offense that was held to a season-low 127 total yards versus the Longhorns.

Coach Dan Hawkins, though, suggested his son was "still going to have a role and I think there's a very good chance that you'll see both of them."

Cody Hawkins has thrown for 6,020 yards and 48 touchdowns with 36 interceptions in over two seasons at Colorado.

Colorado won 44-13 at home for its most recent victory over Kansas on Oct. 22, 2005, but has totaled 43 points in its current three-game losing streak to Kansas.

The Buffaloes have lost four straight to ranked opponents since beating then-No. 21 West Virginia 17-14 on Sept. 18, 2008.

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Weather

Mostly sunny. Mild.

Hi Temp	Lo Temp	Wind	Humidity	Precip %
68°F	37°F	6mph/E	37%	0%

Team Stats

KANSAS					COLORADO				
Passing Player	Pct	Yds	TDs	Int	Passing Player	Pct	Yds	TDs	Int
Reesing	67.1	1980	15	4	Hawkins	50.7	1113	9	9
Rushing Player	Att	Yds	Avg	TDs	Rushing Player	Att	Yds	Avg	TDs
Opurum	95	421	4.4	8	Stewart	104	418	4.0	5
Sharp	55	277	5.0	3	Sumler	27	107	4.0	0
Receiving Player	Rec	Avg	TDs	Yds	Receiving Player	Rec	Avg	TDs	Yds
Briscoe	38	17.7	4	671	McKnight	35	10.6	3	370
Meier	54	10.7	6	580	Geer	25	11.4	3	284

Head to Head



PASSING		
2082	Net Passing Yds	1305
347.0	Passing Yds/Game	217.5
67.3	Completions Pct.	51.1
RUSHING		
938	Rushing Yds	564
156.3	Rushing Yds/Game	94.0
4.3	Rushing Avg	2.9

Key Players

Kansas

	Pass Att.	192
	Pass Comp.	133
	Passing Yds	1579
	Passing TDs	13
	Ints	3
Todd Reesing	Rushing Att.	42
	Rushing Yds	101
	Rushing Avg.	2.4

Colorado

	Rushing Att.	80
	Rushing Yds	310
	Rushing TDs	3
	Rushing Avg	3.9
	Receptions	4
Rodney Stewart	Rec. Yds	11
	Rec. TDs	0
	Rec. Avg.	2.8

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Hawkins: Both Colorado QBs will get playing time



Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen (9) is tripped up by Texas defender Sam Acho. Hansen has supplanted Cody Hawkins as the Buffs' starting QB. [Enlarge photo](#)

October 14, 2009

Following Saturday's loss to Texas, word out of Boulder, Colo., was that Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins — son of head coach Dan Hawkins — would be benched this season in favor of sophomore Tyler Hansen.

Tuesday, however, in an interview with the Journal-World, the coach said he expects both players to figure prominently into the team's offensive plans throughout the rest of the season.

"We'll end up playing both of those guys," said Dan Hawkins, whose Buffaloes (1-4, 0-1 in the Big 12) host Kansas University at 6 p.m. Saturday. "... It's probably a case of me pulling the trigger a little bit quick. It's like anything else, there's a whole compounding thing that goes into it. But Tyler's a good player, so is Cody, and we'll try to maximize both of those guys."

Hansen had his red shirt pulled for the second straight season during Saturday's game against then-No. 2 Texas after the younger Hawkins threw two second-half interceptions that helped pave the way for the Longhorns' come-from-behind win.

Afterward, Dan Hawkins announced that Hansen would start against the Jayhawks, and CU offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau went as far as to tell the Associated Press that Hansen would remain the team's starter for the duration of the season.

"I don't want to get into this back-and-forth, back-and-forth packages," Kiesau said. "I want one guy, and I want the team to see that. And right now, Tyler's our guy."

That sentiment stood in stark contrast, however, to Dan Hawkins' Tuesday comments, which included an insistence that Cody Hawkins could see playing time as early as Saturday's game against the No. 17 Jayhawks.

In five games this season, Cody Hawkins has completed 104 of 205 passes for 1,113 yards — sixth in the Big 12 — but has thrown as many interceptions (nine) as touchdowns for the Buffaloes, who are ranked last in the Big 12 in total offense and 11th in scoring offense.

His replacement, meanwhile, attempted just five passes (completing three) in limited action against Texas, making Saturday's start his first extended action of the year.

Hansen admitted Tuesday that the whole situation has been a bit awkward, but — despite the occasional questions he gets about his status from classmates — he has

managed to avoid the swirl of media attention the CU quarterback situation has spawned in recent weeks.

His focus, he said, is on helping Colorado turn around what, to this point, has been a disappointing start to the season.

"Naturally, it's a little awkward just because of the situation," said Hansen, who called Cody Hawkins a great friend. "Because you're going against your coach's son who was the starting quarterback in front of you and you've taken his job. But with Cody and coach Hawk, they're both real comfortable people to be around, and they're real cool about it."

Dan Hawkins, meanwhile, praised the work of both quarterbacks this season, adding that he has had no trouble balancing the role of coach and father in determining what's best for his program.

"I coach 'em all like they're my kid; I really do," he said. "People always go, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah,' but if you're in our program and you saw how I dealt with kids, I love 'em all. I die when they get hurt. I die when they don't play. I die when they don't travel. I've been a scout-team guy, I've been injured before, I've been left off the travel squad. For whatever reason, I've probably experienced all those things so I have a great deal of empathy for all those kids and all they go through in all those situations."

Originally published at: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2009/oct/14/hawkins-both-colorado-qbs-will-get-playing-time/>