

Reesing has help tormenting Colorado

KU receivers Briscoe, Meier key to QB`s success

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/14/2009 11:53:30 PM MDT

The term nightmare has been thrown around a little this week as Colorado defenders prepare to try to stop Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing and his receiving corps Saturday at Folsom Field.

Reesing might have earned as much respect from the Colorado Buffaloes as any other opponent in recent memory over the past three seasons.

"The thing about him is most quarterbacks can't be elusive and throw the ball on a dime," senior cornerback Cha`pelle Brown said. "He can. We've got to try to stay on our receivers the whole time."

Reesing has frustrated and foiled the Buffs over and over again in three consecutive Kansas victories in the series, dating back to 2006 when he made his college debut coming off the bench to direct a come-from-behind win.

Colorado defenders despise facing Reesing because of his ability to keep plays alive by avoiding tackles and completing passes or ducking out of harms way long enough to find a sliver of daylight to run through.

"He`s a wizard back there," secondary coach and defensive passing game coordinator Greg Brown said. "He`s Houdini back there." "No matter what you do in coverage, you know sooner or later we'll have the guys covered but all of a sudden that quarterback will be bottled up but he'll scramble and wait and keep moving and ducking and dodging and finally find an open guy. It's really a nightmare covering them."

The receivers on the other end of those passes have just as much to do with making miracles happen as No. 5. Senior Kerry Meier and junior Dezmon Briscoe seem to have an uncanny knack for communicating with Reesing while the play is happening. It's the sort of chemistry developed over hundreds of hours of practice and three seasons together.

The trio has tortured the Buffs before. Last season, they combined for 14 catches for 147 yards and a touchdown in the Jayhawks` victory. Meier and Briscoe already have combined for 73 catches for 994 yards and eight touchdowns this season.

They are coming off a win over Iowa State last week in which Reesing threw for 442 yards and Meier and Briscoe combined to catch 28 passes for 328 yards.

"They must just have great eye-hand coordination because they snatch everything that is within reason," Brown said. "If it's up there, they're going to come down with it."

Meier recently became Kansas` career-receptions leader and Briscoe is the program`s all-time leader in receiving yards.

Colorado defenders say it`s another week in a long line of challenging passing games in the Big 12 Conference, but they recognize that Reesing and his wide receivers seem to have a special chemistry.

"After a play breaks down, basically it`s like playground football," CU senior safety Ben Burney said. "You've got to stay with your man. They know either to go up field or they have things already practiced out where they know what they're going to do when they see Mr. Reesing go outside the pocket and stuff like that. You just have to stay on your man as long as possible and know that there are two parts to the play."

Colorado fans will also get a look at Kansas true freshman Bradley McDougald this week. McDougald was a high school teammate of CU true freshman cornerback Deji Olatoye last season at Dublin-Scioto High School in Ohio. He was also recruited by CU coaches.

McDougald is making a strong case for postseason recognition on all-freshman teams with 20 catches for 198 yards in the first five games of his career. He could be the next Jayhawk in line to give the Buffs` fits even after Reesing is gone.

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Goree considers move back to OL

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/14/2009 11:52:34 PM MDT

A shakeup on the offensive line could be in the works for the Colorado football program.

Coaches have asked defensive tackle Eugene Goree to consider switching from defense to offense once again. Goree made the change briefly last season when injuries created big problems on the offensive line. He played 17 plays at guard against Kansas State but eventually resettled on defense.

Goree was atop the depth chart at defensive tackle after spring ball and throughout much of fall camp before suddenly being replaced by redshirt freshman Will Pericak, who has started each of the first five games. Pericak had no experience at defensive line prior to this season, while Goree entered fall camp as one of few defensive linemen with any game experience at all. He played in 11 games in 2008 but just 89 snaps.

Goree has played in only three games for a total of 42 snaps so far this season with one tackle.

"Personally, I feel I'm not mentally ready, but I really don't know," Goree said when asked what is keeping him off the field on defense.

Goree said he is waiting to see how this week's game against Kansas goes for him before making up his mind about any possible position change.

"I'm still tossing it around in my head right now," Goree said. "I'm just going to finish out this week on defense and see how it goes."

While coaches wait on Goree, other changes could be more immediate. Offensive line coach Denver Johnson said Tuesday that sophomore Mike Iltis is beginning to work at guard and could be used there in the future this season instead of returning to center. Iltis began the season as the Buffs' starting center but suffered a sprained ankle and concussion and was replaced as the starter by walk-on Keenan Stevens.

Johnson said Stevens has played well enough to continue in the starting role at center, but he feels comfortable with either Stevens or Iltis at center. Both players could see time at center against the Jayhawks. Johnson said he wishes he was two-deep at every position across the entire line, but that isn't the case.

"We're going to try to start maybe looking at Mike at guard as well so we can continue to develop a little more utility and maybe create some more options depth-wise if we have to," Johnson said. "We feel like we have two basically interchangeable players there in Keenan and Iltis."

Max still on the mend

Johnson said he still doesn't know whether guard Max Tuioti-Mariner will play this season. Tuioti-Mariner is in the final stages of rehabilitating from two torn anterior cruciate ligaments.

He suffered one knee injury in Week 4 last season and injured the other knee in winter conditioning. He had previously suffered a torn ACL in his junior year of high school. Tuioti-Mariner has been working with the scout team in practice but still has a way to go before he would be able to play in a game.

"I don't think that he would tell you at this point that he is truly full speed," Johnson said. "That thing is just going to continue to run its course. I was hoping that maybe after this week we would start integrating him a little bit more back into the offensive practice plan."

"You've got to be able to go out there and play and have that out of your mind. If you're worried or distracted about coming back off an injury, I think it only heightens the chances you're going to get re-injured."

Brown explains

defensive improvement

The Buffs gave up a whopping 624 total yards of offense and 54 points to Toledo on Sept. 11, but the defense has shown steady improvement since. CU defenders held the nation's top scoring offense to 17 points last week at Texas.

Secondary coach and defensive passing game coordinator Greg Brown said the improvement stems from a combination of factors.

"Young guys growing up on the defensive line in particular," he said. "You've got some young guys in there playing well and doing well.

"There has been some continuity and chemistry developing between the secondary and the linebackers. And before we played Wyoming we decided to move Ben (Burney) over to safety, and, in effect, play with four corners and one safety in there which helps us on substitution. When they go between three and four receivers, we don't have to scramble nearly as much."

Notable

Offensive lineman Ryan Miller has been playing with his right hand heavily wrapped. He is not listed on the injury report and is expected to play this week. ... Colorado's game next week at Kansas State has been scheduled for either a 10:30 a.m. or a 12:10 p.m. kickoff. Fox College Sports could decide to televise the game, which is why the start time remains undecided. Kansas State officials said the time will be set no later than Friday. ... CU officials said approximately 4,000 tickets remain for Saturday's game.

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CU's young defensive linemen show improvement coming out of Texas game

Posted: 10/15/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — As football players are apt to do, Colorado's young defensive linemen huddled last Saturday before the Buffaloes' game at Texas. This time was different, however. It happened in the visitor's locker room before the team got out on the field for warm-ups.

"We talked about how we were kind of sick of reading (on Internet fan sites) that we were the 'weak link' on the team," recalled Forrest West, a freshman from Connecticut who is now listed as a starter at left defensive end.

"We decided we'd better do something about it, rather than just complaining. We were ready to play. We held our ground."

That they did. Texas, then ranked No. 2 in both

major polls, netted just 46 yards rushing on 25 attempts.

The Longhorns entered the game averaging 208

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grounds yards per game.

"Our defensive line definitely took a step forward last week. They realized they can compete despite their age," CU senior linebacker Marcus Burton said Wednesday.

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CU's usual rotation includes junior defensive end Marquez Herrod, sophomore tackle Curtis Cunningham, sophomore end-tackle Conrad Obi, redshirt freshman tackle Will Pericak and true freshmen Nate Bonsu (tackle), Nick Kasa (end) and West.

Cunningham, a former Columbine High standout, said the young line is gaining confidence.

"It's a week-to-week change, but we're developing pretty well," Cunningham said. "There are still the mental errors. But as a group, I think we're exceeding expectations."

CU coach Dan Hawkins agreed. Despite their youth up front, the Buffaloes' defense yielded just 17 of the Longhorns' 38 points. Three Texas touchdowns came on returns: off a punt, a blocked punt and an interception.

"I was looking out there (at the D-line) a couple of times, and it was freshman, freshman, sophomore . . ." Hawkins recalled. "And the whole game, they're battling."

Walk-on makes good.

Keenan Stevens entered this season having been in for a total of just 10 college snaps, but will make his third straight start Saturday, against Kansas.

Although sophomore Mike Iltis has been banged up, coaches say Stevens, a 6-foot-2, 290-pound junior, has earned the start with his performance on the field.

"Hearing that makes me feel good," said Stevens, who still lacks a scholarship. "This is what I've been working for."

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

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Longmont, Colorado
Thursday, November 05,
2009

Publish Date: 10/15/2009

Buffs letting Stewart run free

By Patrick Ridgell

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BOULDER — The plan last Saturday at Texas, said Colorado running back coach Darian Hagan, was to get more carries for Darrell Scott. It didn't happen. Why?

"Speedy (Rodney Stewart) starts out the game and he gets so damn hot," Hagan said. "And then Texas clogs up the box and Speedy can find those holes. He's so small that guys are missing him and they overrun him and he can find the back door."

It's not too surprising that Speedy, ranked sixth in the Big 12 with 77.5 rushing yards per game, has won the starting tailback spot for the Buffs, who host No. 17 Kansas on Saturday (5 p.m., FSN). The freedom he's receiving is.

Head coach Dan Hawkins revealed this week that he told Stewart he will never second guess the way his sophomore tailback runs. That's because Stewart takes plays designed to go one way, and he makes them work another.

"Now, again, when you sit down and talk to him about plays and blocking schemes, we try to show him that, what he needs to see and look at," Hawkins said. "But I don't get real panicked about him not following his blockers."

"Some of those plays he did make on Saturday where not in the designed hole in a sense. They were plays he made on his own."

Said Hagan: "With him, you have to tell him what it's supposed to look like, but at the same time, you can't over-coach that guy because you don't want him to be a robot. But with a guy like Darrell and Demetrius Sumler, you tell him this play is going to be here and you have to do it this way. Read this guy and react off of him."

One play Stewart did not make came early in the second quarter, when he burst through a big hole in the center of Texas' defense and appeared to have enough room to possibly score. Hagan said there was only defender left to beat, the back-side safety, who was being blocked. But Stewart stumbled, and CU could not build on its 7-3 lead.

Stewart said a defender hit his foot in the backfield. He said he took three more steps and then his shoe came off and tripped him.

"It just wasn't meant to be, I guess," Stewart said.

Stewart said he appreciates how Hawkins won't second-guess the decisions he makes when he has the football. Despite Stewart's ability to improvise, Hagan still does not want him to veer too far from the play.

"His thing is if he just stays disciplined and stays true to the foundation of our offense, that dude will be really, really good," Hagan said. "He gets frustrated because holes aren't there sometimes and he'll start making up his own stuff."

MORE QUARTERBACKING: While CU's change from Cody Hawkins to Tyler Hansen at quarterback has been widely discussed, it's business as usual for the Buffs defenders.

"He's matured as a player, matured as a man, stuff like that," senior safety Ben Burney said about Hansen. "I definitely think he's getting a lot better as a quarterback."

“But I just want to win. Whatever the offense wants to do to make sure we win, I’m definitely going to go along with it.”

And then there was this from linebacker Marcus Burton: “They could put (kicker) Aric Goodman at quarterback and I wouldn’t care. It’s my job to make sure we stop them from scoring and that’s all I can focus on.”

D-LINE DEVELOPMENTS: CU’s young defensive line might have had its best game Saturday in Texas. Three true freshmen — Nick Kasa, Forrest West and Nate Bonsu — are in the rotation. Redshirt freshman Will Pericak and sophomore Curtis Cunningham are also part of it.

Simplifying the scheme has helped.

“I think coach (Romeo) Bandison has done a nice job, and coach (Ron) Collins, too, of working them and getting them in situations where they know what to do and then do what they do well.”

Cunningham, listed at 275 pounds, is a tackle that normally goes up against blockers who are heavier and taller.

Hawkins said Cunningham compensates with his strength, leverage, hands and intelligence.

“You have to have a nice natural strength in your upper body and hands and be able to understand leverage in there and have a wrestler’s mentality,” Hawkins said.

EXTRA POINTS: Kickoff for CU’s Oct. 24 game at Kansas State game will either be 10:30 a.m. or 12:10 p.m. TV plans have yet to be made. FCS-C is considering airing the game. Plans are supposed to be announced by Friday. ... About 4,000 tickets remain for Saturday. ... Center Mike Iltis (concussion) is listed as probable. Linebacker Doug Rippy (sprained knee) is day to day. Guard Max Tuioti-Mariner (torn ACLs) is week to week.

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



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KU preparing for two QBs



FILE PHOTOGRAPH/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Kansas safety Darrell Stuckey, right, pushes Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins out-of-bounds during last year's game at Memorial Stadium in Lawrence. KU won the game, 30-14.

KU plays at Folsom Field at 6 p.m. Saturday

BY [TULLY CORCORAN](#)

October 14, 2009 - 5:32pm

LAWRENCE -- Dan Hawkins briefly pulled a fast one on everybody.

This was KU coach Mark Mangino on Tuesday:

"Tyler Hansen will now replace the coach's son, Cody Hawkins," Mangino said. "From all indications, they are making that a permanent move."

And then on Wednesday, the Boulder Daily Camera reported that Hawkins might play after all, quoting the elder Hawkins as saying, "Everything is fluid. Tyler's going to start. It's Tyler's show. How that goes? I don't know."

Well, now that we've got that settled ...

Whoever the quarterback is, No. 17 Kansas (5-0, 1-0 Big 12) should be feeling relatively confident. On the one hand, the

Jayhawks could be facing Hawkins, who is 0-2 against KU and went 8 of 22 for 90 yards, two interceptions and a touchdown in the last meeting. On the other hand, they could be facing the backup to Hawkins.

Mangino did not express the situation in quite those same terms.

"We know that Tyler Hansen is similar in the passing game to Cody Hawkins in a lot of ways," Mangino said. "They share a lot of the same characteristics. Obviously, (Hansen) is a little bit faster. Maybe a little quicker, better athlete, which brings a new dimension to their offense in running. We will certainly be prepared for that challenge."

Hansen, who played briefly last season, was expecting to redshirt in 2009. He came on in relief of Hawkins last week against Texas, completing three of his five passes for 17 yards. He was 34-for-65 for 280 yards, a touchdown and four interceptions in five games as a true freshman last season.

For their part, KU's players seemed nonplussed by it all.

"We probably won't change too much," cornerback Justin Thornton said. "They're kind of similar type players. We'll just be ready for it. We've seen him (Hansen) a little bit earlier in the season, but not a whole lot. I'm pretty sure they're going to do a lot of the same things they did with their other quarterback in there. It's not too big of a difference. I think we'll be all right."

Zlatnik moves positions

Rossville product Duane Zlatnik has made a midseason switch from the defensive line to offensive line.

Kansas coach Mark Mangino said he made the move because Zlatnik's body and temperament were better suited to the offensive line, adding Zlatnik lacks the fast-twitch reaction of a typical defensive lineman.

"He's more of a power guy," Mangino said.

Zlatnik had not recorded any defensive statistics this season.

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Buff's Looking To Improve Behind Hansen

By John Livingston | October 14, 2009

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It is no secret that there has been a QB problem in **Boulder** over the last few years as fans have struggled watching **Coach Dan Hawkins** son, **Cody**, lineup under center. CU faithful have been perplexed by an offense in a constant state of mediocrity and the team has noticeably lacked a player at QB with the ability to make a big play when the team needs it most.

Finally, for a lot of **Buff's** fans, relief may be



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here as **Coach Hawkins** benched **Cody** and inserted **Tyler Hansen** in last weeks second half thumping

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delivered to the Buffs by the **#2 Texas Longhorns**. The benching came on the heels of a **Cody Hawkins** pick-six. The intercepted pass came on what should be a standard 8 yard out intended for WR **Scottie Mcknight**; the pass fluttered like a wounded duck straight into the arms of the **Texas** DB instead. The pass instantly entered my book as one of the worst passes in **NCAA Div. 1** collegiate football history. **Coach Hawk** followed through on the benching this week as he announced **Hansen** as the starter for Saturday's game against AP **#17 Kansas Jayhawks**.

This is exactly what fans need to maintain interest in the program at this point as the **Buffs** only victory on the season came against **Wyoming** and they have suffered three humiliating losses on national television to the hands of **Toledo**, **West Virginia** and most recently **Texas**.

While **Hansen** did not impress during his short stint in last weeks game he is hardly to blame. He faced constant pressure and seldom had enough time to even look more than 5 yards down field. **Hansen** may not be a big time Div. 1 quarterback, but Saturday he will get his chance to play the part and he will have the support of the fans as they will more than likely greet him with a standing ovation when he is introduced as the **Buffs** starter. Fans will appreciate **Hansen's** ability to roll out of the pocket and make big plays with his legs. Fans can now also save their voices without constantly booing **Cody** and the never ending chants for **Hansen**. Now they have that voice to cheer on the **Buffs** shaky defense and what **Buffs** fans hope to be many **Hansen** led touchdown drives to come.

Now if only there would be a big time **Darrell Scott** sighting behind the Buffs only bright spot this season, TB **Rodney Stewart**...

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