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## Hansen leads Buffs to 34-30 upset of No. 17 Kansas

By ARNIE STAPLETON — Oct 17, 2009



BOULDER, Colo. — Tyler Hansen wanted to prove that he should have been Colorado's starting quarterback all along. He sure showed he deserves to be the Buffaloes' main man from here on out.

Hansen, who replaced Cody Hawkins — the coach's son — in the starting lineup, ran for a touchdown and threw a TD pass to lead Colorado to a 34-30 upset of No. 17 Kansas on Saturday night.

Providing a spark both through the air and on the ground, Hansen threw for 175 yards and ran for 34 yards. Colorado (2-4, 1-1 Big 12) handed Todd Reesing and the Jayhawks (5-1, 1-1) their first loss.

Reesing was 30-of-51 for 401 yards and two scores, but he was sacked six times.

Hansen led the Buffs to the winning score after Reesing had rallied the Jayhawks from a three-touchdown deficit to give Kansas a 30-27 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Hansen drove the Buffaloes 76 yards in 10 plays, the payoff coming when Rodney Stewart scored from 12 yards out, dragging a defender the final five yards into the end zone with 8 1/2 minutes remaining.

Reesing, whose pass to Dezmon Briscoe fell incomplete on fourth-and-goal from the 6 with 4 1/2 minutes left, got the ball back with 59 seconds remaining and nearly pulled off yet another comeback.

He drove the Jayhawks all the way to the Buffaloes 19 thanks to a 26-yard strike to Briscoe, but after spiking the ball with seven seconds left, his final two passes were knocked away by the Buffaloes.

Cornerback Jalil Brown tipped away a pass intended for Kerry Meier, who caught 11 passes for 103 yards, with three seconds left. Then, Reesing went to Briscoe again, and this time, cornerback Cha'pelle Brown batted it down as time expired and the crowd stormed the field, celebrating Colorado's biggest win in a year.

Hansen, a sophomore, lost out to Hawkins in August but his redshirt was stripped last week when he replaced him at Texas. Afterward, offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau insisted Hansen was now the permanent starter, but coach Dan Hawkins hinted during the week that the two quarterbacks could split snaps.

Not on this night.

Hansen kept Cody Hawkins on the sideline calling signals, although he was far from perfect and nearly watched Reesing pull off another signature comeback against Colorado.

It was against Colorado that Reesing made his debut as a freshman in 2006, starting the second half and leading the Jayhawks to a 20-15 win in Lawrence after standing on the sideline for the first eight games.

This time, the Jayhawks trailed 24-3 late in the first half before Reesing gathered himself and his team and nearly kept Kansas unbeaten.

He executed to 2-minute offense to perfection at the end of the second quarter, driving the Jayhawks 80 yards in eight plays, capped by a 4-yard strike to Meier to pull Kansas to 27-10 at the half.

That was the first of five consecutive drives that ended in points for the Jayhawks, who managed only a field goal in their first seven possessions.

Toben Oporum's 2-yard run for Kansas was followed by Richard Johnson's recovery of Stewart's fumble, which led to Jacob Branstetter's 43-yard field goal after a faked punt. That trimmed the deficit to 27-20.

Hansen fumbled the ball away after a 19-yard sack and Ryan Murphy recovered for Kansas at the Buffaloes 24.

Branstetter followed with a 42-yarder that made it 27-23.

After a punt, Reesing needed just four plays to hit Briscoe with a 25-yard scoring strike to give the Jayhawks a 30-27 advantage.

Then Hansen came in and responded by coolly leading Colorado on the winning drive. He finished 14 for 25 passing.

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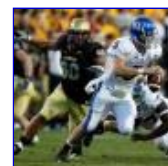
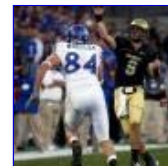


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Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen, back, passes the ball as Kansas defensive end Jeff Wheeler applies pressure in the first quarter of an NCAA college football game in Boulder, Colo., on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009. Hansen was making his first start as quarterback of the Buffaloes since taking over from Cody Hawkins, son of Colorado's head coach Dan Hawkins. Cody Hawkins was benched during the team's game against Texas last week. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)



Map



# Tyler Hansen, CU Buffs shock Kansas Jayhawks in Boulder

## Hansen notches victory in first start this season

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

Posted: 10/17/2009 08:54:36 PM MDT



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Colorado finally beat Todd Reesing, but it needed a playmaker of its own at quarterback and a breathless last stand from its defense on the final play of the game to do it.

In the span of four hours Saturday evening at Folsom Field, the sour and skeptical feeling around coach Dan Hawkins' program was replaced by jubilation and anticipation of what the future might hold as the Buffs found a way to beat No. 17 Kansas 34-30. They nabbed a valuable win in the race for the Big 12 Conference North Division title.

The Buffs built an early lead against the Jayhawks and their senior quarterback, who has tortured them the past three seasons, but then let it all slip away in the second half. New CU starting quarterback Tyler Hansen looked an awful lot like Reesing at times and led a fourth-quarter drive to retake the lead.

"I think I played a little smarter than I did last year," Hansen said of his first start in 2009 and third overall in his young career. "I took my time to go through my progressions and I looked down field a little more and not just to run it. When I scrambled around I looked down field and not just to run. That's the biggest thing I brought this year."

Hansen's ability to extend plays and sometimes make first downs on the run was a clear difference in the offense versus what had been happening with junior Cody Hawkins under center. Those abilities will undoubtedly have fans excited to see Hansen mature with more experience.

He completed 14 of 25 passes for 175 yards and a touchdown in the win. He scrambled a number of times to earn first downs that extended drives that produced points. He also made plays on third downs with his arm. One of them came on the Buffs' final scoring drive when he found tight end Riar Geer on third-and-15 for a 29-yard gain.

"The quarterback for Colorado was the difference maker today," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said. "It's unfortunate they picked this week to take his redshirt off, but I think they found their quarterback, that's for sure."

As good as Hansen was, he still has a long way to go to reach the level at which Reesing is playing. The KU senior threw for more than 400 yards for the second consecutive week and nearly broke the Buffs' hearts once again when he threw into the end zone on the last play looking for one of his favorite targets in wide receiver Dezmon Briscoe. CU senior cornerback Chappelle Brown made the second game-saving play of his career when he managed to get a hand on the pass.

Colorado defenders admitted afterward that half of them were playing one defensive call and the other half were playing another because of confusion in getting the call from the sideline in the tense waning moments.

"It ended up working out by the grace of God," senior safety Ben Burney said.

The Buffs celebrated and students flooded out of the stands onto the field to congratulate their team on its first win over a ranked opponent since beating West Virginia in Boulder last season. There were 51,146 in attendance and a healthy percentage of them ended up on the field afterward.

Kansas had appeared to score the go-ahead touchdown on its previous drive with less than 5 minutes remaining, but the Jayhawks were flagged for offensive pass interference.

Mangino elected to go for a touchdown instead of kicking a field goal three plays later and the Buffs kept their lead and took over on downs deep in their own territory.

Hansen was unable to lead another drive and CU punted the ball back to Kansas with 59 second remaining. Reesing went right to work in the two-minute drill, executing perfectly. He maneuvered the Jayhawks to the Colorado 19-yard line before his last gasp fell to the ground as time expired.

"We threw the ball all over the field in the second half," Reesing said. "We just didn't get enough touchdowns."

The Buffs handed the Jayhawks their first loss of the season and ended KU's seven-game winning streak while improving to 2-4 overall and 1-1 in Big 12 play.

"We just have to keep on getting better," Hawkins said. "It gives us a little bit of juice that way and a little bit of confidence. We did a solid job, but we can still play better."

A rejuvenated Colorado defense, which has come on strong in the past three weeks, might not get the credit it deserves because of the new talent at quarterback.

But the Buffs played well on defense despite all the passing yards the Jayhawks accumulated. CU held Kansas to minus-eight rushing yards. It was the sixth lowest total for a CU opponent in history.

The first big play of the game came when the score was tied 3-3. Reesing collided with offensive lineman Jeff Spikes and fumbled, giving CU the ball at the Kansas 3-yard line early in the second quarter. Tailback Rodney Stewart scored a touchdown on the Buffs' first play with a tough run and second effort, diving over the goal line. CU led 10-3.

Hansen led his first true touchdown drive on the Buffs' next series. CU went 79 yards in eight plays and found the end zone when Hansen threw a low ball to Geer who caught it and dove into the end zone. The drive also included a 20-yard scramble from Hansen and a 36-yard pass to wide receiver Markques Simas.

Colorado's defense forced Kansas to punt on four of its eight first-half possessions and ended two other series with turnovers. One of those plays came with less than 4 minutes to play when Reesing threw over the middle and CU cornerback Jalil Brown stepped in front of a receiver and made the interception. Brown returned the ball to the KU 1-yard line and Hansen scored two plays later to give CU a 24-3 advantage.

The 24 points scored by CU in the second quarter were the most in one quarter from the Buffs since the 2003 team scored 28 in the second quarter against Colorado State. CU had scored a total of 26 points in the second quarter of its first five games combined.

Reesing rebounded by leading the Jayhawks to their first touchdown late in the half. KU took possession with 2:18 remaining and drove 80 yards with Reesing hitting Meier with a four-yard touchdown pass.

Toben Oporum scored on a 2-yard run and Jacob Branstetter hit field goals of 43 and 42 yards during the Jayhawks' second half rally. They took the lead early in the fourth quarter when Reesing hit Briscoe on a 25-yard touchdown pass. But Rodney Stewart took it back with a 13-yard run and the CU defense made its final stand.

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# Woelk: Tyler Hansen's future as CU Buffs' starting QB looks bright

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

Posted: 10/18/2009 12:09:47 AM MDT

Call it a hunch, but I'd say the job is Tyler Hansen's for good.

I'd also say the Buffs are incredibly glad there weren't three more ticks on the clock Saturday night at Folsom Field, I'd say that Todd Reesing is one of the most electrifying quarterbacks I've seen in ages -- and I'd also say that before it's all over, Hansen has a chance to fit that mold.

Not that Hansen's numbers in Saturday night's 34-30 Colorado win over No. 17 Kansas were anywhere close to Reesing's. Hansen finished with 175 yards passing, one touchdown and one interception. He also ran for 34 yards (a number that grows to 64 if sacks aren't taken into account). Reesing, meanwhile, put the ball in the air 51 times and completed 30 for 401 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

But anyone who saw Hansen extending plays with his legs, buying time by scrambling away from KU defenders, couldn't help but see some of Reesing in those plays. And anyone who saw Hansen run ... and run ... and run ... and finally find Riar Geer for a 29-yard completion on third-and-15 on the fourth-quarter, game-winning drive can't ignore the comparisons.

With the game on the line, Hansen did his best to match Reesing. In the end, he walked away with the win.

The parallels, though, are even deeper.

Three years ago, Reesing burned his freshman redshirt season to come off the bench and save KU coach Mark Mangino's job when he led Kansas to a come-from-behind victory over Dan Hawkins' Buffs. The victory started a three-game win streak, helped the Jayhawks finish 6-6 and prevented Mangino from enduring his fourth losing season in five years at Kansas.

One more loss -- in any of those games -- might have convinced KU officials to pull the plug on the Mangino era and start over.

Saturday night, Hansen might have done the same for Colorado's Hawkins. The youngster who agreed last week to burn a redshirt year and replace Cody Hawkins in the starting lineup has given the Buffs a chance to still carve some respectability out of this season.

Not to say that Dan Hawkins' critics will go silent today. That's not how it works. The Buffs are still 2-4, and they can't erase the two embarrassing losses that started the season.

But Saturday night's win, one of the most entertaining contests under the Flatirons in years, gives credence to Hawkins' insistence that the Buffs are close to turning things around.

"I've been saying this for a while -- we're close," Hawkins said after the game. "We're really, really close. But we have to learn to finish."

Saturday night, at least, the Buffs did just that. They waited until the very end, they forced 51,146 fans to hold their collective breath -- but they did finish. They came up with one stop of the seemingly unstoppable Reesing when there was absolutely, positively no more room for error.

Clearly, Hansen made a difference. Before the season started, I wrote that I'd make Hansen my quarterback because he gives Colorado a dimension that his counterpart, Cody Hawkins, can't bring to the table.

(A time out here to note that throughout Saturday night's game, there was no bigger fan of Tyler Hansen than Cody Hawkins. The younger Hawkins celebrated, cheered and offered advice every time his replacement came to the sidelines. Class act.)

What Hansen can do is run -- and unlike a year ago, when he didn't know when to go and when to stay, he's clearly learned. Now he knows how to scramble and keep his receivers in sight. He also knows when to tuck it and go upfield, and that ability has also allowed Colorado to even put a couple of designed quarterback runs into the game plan.

It is simply a different offense with Hansen at the helm.

Not that he was perfect, by any means. He did throw an interception across the middle, and he coughed up a fumble that set up a Kansas score.

But he gives the Buffs an added threat that hasn't been present for the last three years. It's a threat that opposing defensive coordinators will have to contend with.

"More experience," said Dan Hawkins. "Even the pick and the fumble weren't all his fault. He's more confident and he's able to see things."

What we saw Saturday night was a rejuvenated team. Whether that translates into a one-night wonder or a true turnaround remains to be seen.

But what we do know this morning it this: Tyler Hansen has earned the starting job beyond the shadow of a doubt. That and a win over the nation's 17th-ranked team is enough for one night.

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# CU defense finally gets win vs. Reesing

## Kansas QB had won three in a row against Buffs

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/18/2009 12:08:27 AM MDT

Beating Todd Reesing was a big deal for the Buffs.

Colorado's defensive players have as much respect for the Kansas quarterback -- who had beaten them in each of the past three seasons -- as anyone in the Big 12, including Heisman Trophy candidate Colt McCoy of Texas and reigning Heisman winner Sam Bradford of Oklahoma.

"I owed him for a long time," said CU cornerback Cha'pelle Brown, who broke up Reesing's pass to Dezmon Briscoe in the end zone on the final play of the game to preserve the 34-30 upset victory over the Jayhawks on Saturday night at Folsom Field. "It felt real good. He's a great competitor."

Jalil Brown intercepted Reesing in the first half and returned the pass 35 yards down to the KU 1. He would have scored, but KU's senior signal caller took him down just before he reached the goal line.

"All I saw was green and I was happy a little early," Jalil Brown said. "All of a sudden Reesing pops in out of nowhere, and I was kind of shocked. ... That's one of the plays you wish you could have over again."

CU scored moments later anyway on a run by quarterback Tyler Hansen to take a 24-3 lead. The No. 17 Jayhawks were completely out of sync and on the verge of getting blown out.

Then Reesing took over.

KU's star calmly led the visitors on a key 11-play, 80-yard drive to cut the deficit to 14 points before the intermission. And Reesing's 25-yard touchdown to Briscoe in the fourth quarter gave the Jayhawks a 30-27 lead in the fourth quarter.

"We took away their run game completely, so they started chucking it and picking us apart," is how Jimmy Smith explained the crowd-silencing turnaround. "Reesing started being Reesing. He's Superman."

Then Hansen was KU Kryptonite.

CU's version of Reesing -- a versatile, elusive, fearless quarterback -- answered with a clutch drive to give his team the lead for good.

Fittingly, the Buffs had to hold their breath until Reesing's final pass of the night fell incomplete.

"He's a really competitive quarterback and he's a great player," linebacker Jeff Smart said. "We knew he was going to battle to the end, and that's what we had to do, too."

Believe it or not, Dan Hawkins said he will miss preparing for Reesing, who had to settle for a 3-1 record against CU.

"One of the real joys for me is coming out every Saturday, entering great stadiums and playing against great players," Hawkins said. "That's why you do it."

Reesing, who was sacked five times, finished with 401 yards passing. He threw two touchdowns and even caught a 14-yard pass to set up a KU score.

"All of these years we've been playing him, and he has been beating us. He's been like a thorn we couldn't get out," Jalil Brown said. "It felt great to finally go out there and get a win against him."

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Hansen never gives up on a play. And suddenly the Buffs aren't giving up on what was supposed to be a breakthrough season.

"We're trying to win a Big 12 championship," cornerback Chapelle Brown said with a straight face. "That was our first step to getting there."

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cu football - briefs

## Brown's theft steals momentum from Jayhawks

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/18/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 10/18/2009 01:22:03 AM MDT

BOULDER — It takes big plays to beat a ranked team, and none was bigger in Colorado's 34-30 victory over No. 17 Kansas than the second-quarter interception by Colorado junior cornerback Jalil Brown.

Three plays after Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen threw his only interception of the game, Brown got the ball back for the Buffs' offense by picking off Kansas' Todd Reesing.

Making like a running back in the open field with his return, Brown almost did the honors himself. In man-to-man coverage, Brown jumped in front of the KU receiver and snatched Reesing's throw at the Jayhawks' 36-yard line, near the left hash mark. Brown took his third career interception (and second of the season) and angled across the field,

heading down the right sideline, thinking pick-six.

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"All I saw was green (grass) in front of me, and I started celebrating a little too early," Brown said with a sheepish grin. "Then Reesing came out of nowhere."

Brown was pushed out of bounds at the 1, but Hansen scored two plays later on a keeper to give Colorado a 24-3 lead and an instant momentum swing.

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Brown said he has seen enough of Reesing and is grateful the Kansas star is a senior. "(Reesing) was a thorn that we couldn't get out," he said. Until Saturday night.

## Playing sore.

Colorado junior place-kicker Aric Goodman, suffering from an abdominal strain, was listed before the game as 50-50 to play. Not only did Goodman handle placement duties, his kickoffs went to — or out of — the end zone, and he booted field goals of 45 and 39 yards.

## Footnotes.

Colorado has defeated at least one ranked opponent in 18 of its past 22 seasons. . . . CU sophomore tailback Darrell Scott was in the starting lineup for the first time since the second game, at Toledo. He netted just 2 yards on three carries, however, and Rodney "Speedy" Stewart got most of the subsequent work. . . . CU redshirt-freshman tackle Bryce Givens did not dress for the game. The former Mullen star had started four of the first five games. . . . Had Kansas completed the comeback, erasing a 21-point deficit would have tied for the second-biggest come-from-behind win in Jayhawks history. . . . CU freshman receiver Will Jefferson made his first start.

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cu football

## Colorado's Tyler Hansen directs 34-30 upset of No. 17 Kansas



Tyler Hansen is the center of attention in the postgame celebration after leading CU to an upset. (Andy Cross, The Denver Post )

**QB Tyler Hansen stars in upset celebration after 34-30 CU win**

**By Tom Kensler**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 10/18/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 10/18/2009 01:20:07 AM MDT

BOULDER — Hugs. Players hoisted on shoulders. Raised helmets in a victory salute. And more yells and screams than a preschool Halloween party.

Good things, including the thousands of delirious fans who rushed the field in celebration of Colorado's 34-30 victory Saturday night over 17th-ranked Kansas, are more fun to those who have to wait.

Put CU sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen in that category. Hansen sat out Colorado's first four games (including three losses) and figured he would redshirt this season and watch Cody Hawkins take all the snaps. Hansen's plans turned upside down, for the good, when Hawkins was benched in the second half against Texas. And then this.

Colorado (2-4, 1-1 Big 12) posted its first win over a ranked team since Sept. 18 of

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last year, a 17-14 overtime win over then-No. 21 West Virginia on this same Folsom Field. Kansas dropped from the ranks of the unbeaten and is

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one — for himself and CU fans everywhere who had been starving for something to feel good about. He threw for 175 yards and one touchdown, with one interception. He converted key third downs in leading the underdog Buffs to 24 unanswered points in the second quarter. He directed a 10-play, 76-yard drive for what proved to be the winning touchdown with 8:36 remaining. He kept plays and drives alive by scrambling out of trouble.

"(Hansen) made a lot of plays with his legs and made some nice throws," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "I am happy for our guys. It is about digging in on the process and to continue to improve."

Just as important was Hansen's ability to take control and give his team a spark. Hansen looked like he had held the reins for years — winning a big game like Kansas senior Todd Reesing has done for what seems like a decade.

now 5-1 and 1-1.

"It got crazy out there after the game," said Han-sen, who had been smooth and effective all game and did not want to spoil the revelry. "I heard them chanting my name. And then they got me up (on their shoulders). I don't like that kind of stuff, but in this case, I didn't mind."

Hansen made his third career start a memorable

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Rodney "Speedy" Stewart breaks through a tackle attempt by the Jayhawks' D.J. Beshears on his game-winning, 13-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter as the Buffs beat No. 17 Kansas at Folsom Field. (Andy Cross, The Denver Post )

"I have no words for that feeling," Hansen said of the game-winning drive. "It's like a dream come true. It's unbelievable."

At the time, however, Hansen — or anybody among the crowd of 51,146 — had no way of knowing that Rodney Stewart's 13-yard run would be the clincher. Reesing would have a final say.

Just 5-feet-11 and 190 pounds, Reesing is from Austin and has a competitive spirit the size of Texas. He threw for 260 of his 401 yards in the second half and was driving for what might have been the party pooper for CU.

But on the game's final play, a 19-yard pass intended for Dezmon Briscoe in the end zone was batted away by Colorado senior cornerback Cha'pelle Brown.

CU fans could finally take a breath. Reesing would not go 4-0 against the Buffs.

"Reesing is tough, and he's been tough on us, so it felt good," Brown said. "Truthfully, I thought about picking it off. But I thought it was better if I knocked it away. We want to win the Big 12 championship. This is a first step."

Reesing puts opposing defenses in a predicament. If they give him a lot of time to throw, he will pick a secondary apart. If they blitz, he'll spot 6-foot-3 wideouts Kerry Meier and Briscoe in single coverage.

"That last drive of theirs," CU cornerback Jalil Brown said, "I was so nervous I didn't know if we were going to make it. But we stayed disciplined."

Put in a bad spot, Colorado's defense did what it could in the Kansas-dominated third quarter. Lost fumbles on consecutive possessions by CU's Stewart and Hansen (on a sack) gave the Jayhawks the ball in Buffs territory. Buff defenders dug in and forced Kansas to settle for field goals.

That preserved a 27-23 Colorado lead with one quarter to play — precarious at best against Reesing, who entered the game with a 25-6 career record as KU's starting quarterback.

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"It was a great game; give Colorado credit," KU coach Mark Mangino said. "It's unfortunate they picked this week (actually the previous week) to take Hansen's redshirt off. I think they found their quarterback, that's for sure."

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## Three questions

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

**1. In his first 2009 start, will Colorado sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen play well enough to remove any doubts that the job is his on a permanent basis?** Being modest, Hansen told reporters afterward, "We'll see. There were some mistakes out there." Go ahead and write in his name in the starting lineup with a Sharpie. Hansen's 175 yards passing and 34 net yards rushing don't begin to reflect the spark he gave CU's offense.

**2. Can Colorado finally beat Todd Rees-ing?** Yes, but wouldn't you know it that it would come down to the game's final play? After a so-so first half, Reesing finished 30-for-51 for 401 yards passing. Considering that NFL star Drew Brees also came out of Austin, Texas, college recruiters had better not overlook hotshot quarterbacks who might not stand taller than 6 feet.

**3. How will Colorado cornerbacks fare against KU's dynamic receiving duo of Dezmon Briscoe and Kerry Meier?** With Briscoe and

Meier combining for 19 catches for 257 yards and two TDs, it's hard to say CU's secondary was in shutdown mode. But, bottom line, the Buffs defenders came through at the end.

## Key stat

Kansas held to -8 yards rushing: In their last two games, the Buffs have limited their opponents to 38 yards rushing on 47 carries. Those teams, Texas and Kansas, have thrown for 698 yards.

## Key play

Trailing 30-27 and facing a third- and-15 from the CU 19-yard-line, Colorado QB Tyler Hansen scrambles in and out of traffic, eventually finding tight end Riar Geer on a 29-yard gain. The Buffs completed a 76-yard drive for the game-winning score, a 13-yard run by Rodney Stewart.

*Anthony Cotton, The Denver Post*

## Toppling the toughies

*CU's five most recent wins against Associated Press ranked teams:*

Date (Rk.)	Opp.	Result
Oct. 17, 2009 (17)	Kansas	34-30
Sept. 18, 2008 (21)	W. Va.	17-14
Sept. 29, 2007 (3)	Oklahoma	27-24
Nov. 8, 2003 (22)	Missouri	21-16
Aug. 30, 2003 (23)	*CSU	42-35

\* At Denver

*CU 2009 media guide*

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THE DENVER POST

cu football

## Colorado holds off No. 17 Kansas

By Anthony Cotton *The Denver Post*  
Posted: 10/17/2009 11:08:32 PM MDT

Updated: 10/17/2009 11:15:33 PM MDT



Tyler Hansen is the center of attention in the postgame celebration after leading CU to an upset. (Andy Cross, The Denver Post )

was entirely due to the switch to Tyler Hansen, it would be hard to find a better starting point.

When all seemed to be falling apart for the Buffs — the team had blown a 27-10 third-quarter lead and trailed 30-27 early in the fourth period — it was Hansen who steadied the ship.

The sophomore, making his first start of the season, led the Buffs (2-4, 1-1 Big 12) on a 10-play, 76-yard march that culminated in a 13-yard touchdown run by Rodney Stewart.

At that point it was up to the CU defense. Things looked bleak when, on a third-and-29, Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing, who spent much of the day pirouetting more than a prima ballerina at the Bolshoi, scrambled about and found Dezmon Briscoe on a 43-yard completion.

BOULDER — One of football's long-held adages is that quarterbacks get too much credit for a team's success and too much blame for its failures.

In that sense, while it may not be true that Colorado's 34-30 victory Saturday over Kansas

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## Colorado Football

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was broken up in the end zone by Cha'pelle Brown, giving the Buffs the victory and sending the joyous crowd of more than 51,000 rushing the field.

Kansas entered the contest perfect in its first five games this season and with a seven-game winning streak overall, but early on, it was the Buffs who had a noticeable pep to their collective step.

The Buffs put up 24 points in the second quarter, with Hansen running for a TD, throwing for one, and Stewart dashing in from the 4. That output was the most points scored by Colorado in a quarter in six years.

*Anthony Cotton: 303-954-1292 or [acotton@denverpost.com](mailto:acotton@denverpost.com)*

What seemed to be the go-ahead touchdown for Kansas (5-1, 1-1) was negated by an offensive interference penalty. Eventually, the Jayhawks were faced with a fourth-and-goal from the CU 6; a pass from Reesing to Briscoe was broken up in the end zone.

Kansas got the ball again, taking possession on its own 25 with 59 seconds to play. The visitors moved all the way to the Colorado 19, facing a third down with three seconds left.

On the final play of the game, a pass for Briscoe

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THE DENVER POST

dave kriegler

## Krieger: Leader emerges when Buffs look buried

By Dave Krieger  
Denver Post Columnist

Posted: 10/18/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — CU found a quarterback Saturday.

It happened in the fourth quarter, after the Buffaloes had turned a 24-3 lead into a 30-27 deficit, heartbreak again on their horizon.

"The quarterback for Colorado was the difference-maker today," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said after the Buffs pulled out a 34-30 triumph at Folsom Field. "It's unfortunate they picked this week to take his redshirt off, but I think they found their quarterback, that's for sure. He's a heck of a player."

The moment that Tyler Hansen became CU's leader came early in the winning drive, after a penalty and two incomplete passes backed the Buffs into a third-and-15 from their own 19.

Hansen set up to pass. No one was open. The pocket broke down. Hansen scrambled to buy

time, looking and moving, moving and looking, somehow escaping the rush until 6-foot-4-inch tight end Riar Geer broke free up the middle. Hansen fired a 29-yard strike.

"That was a crazy play," Hansen said. "I was going through my reads and they brought some heat, avoided it a little bit, looking down the field, about to run, about to pass, about to run and saw Riar. We work the scramble drill every week, and he did it perfect. He got open, and I got him the ball."

The most obvious difference between Hansen and Cody Hawkins, the quarterback he replaced, is Hansen's running ability. He had CU's long run of the day, 20 yards, and rushed for 64, although he got credit for only 34 after sack yardage was subtracted.

"He brings a whole new type of quarterback to our offense with his speed," Geer said. "We can count on him to get out of the pressure and then we can open up some more options."

Hansen's running ability helped the Buffs avoid the pass-happy play-calling that had sabotaged them earlier in the season. They ran 43 running plays and 25 pass plays, finishing with 175 yards through the air and 147 on the ground.

Just as important was Hansen's escapability in the passing game. Time and again when the Buffs' pass protection broke down, Hansen slid or sprinted away from the rush, buying time until someone came open down the field.

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"You're looking downfield, going through your reads, what's the corner doing, what's the outside backer doing," he explained. "You don't see the D-linemen. It's all passing lanes, so you don't really see anyone coming at you, but it's just all feel. You'll get a feeling that someone's coming off the edge real fast, and you've got to step up or something like that. It's really more of a feeling. Those guys are big guys. I'm running for my life."

The demoted young Hawkins seamlessly took on the role of adviser.

"He was telling me what they were doing defensively, what we were going to do on the next drive," Hansen said. "He was always there. He was like another coach."

Coach Dan Hawkins, who made the call to replace his son in the lineup, saw his decision pay off.

"He did a nice job," he said of Hansen. "He made a lot of plays with his legs and made some good throws. What a great kid he is. He and Cody from the get-go were being unselfish, and that's one of the cornerstones of our team. Having two guys like that bodes well for the foundation of this team. It's about the team, it's not about you, and in the end, the sun will shine on you."

Actually, on a gorgeous autumn afternoon, the sun shone on them in the beginning. It had retired for the evening by the time Hansen engineered the winning fourth-quarter drive.

Fans may blame the elder Hawkins for not replacing his son sooner, but the truth is Hansen's performance as a starter a year ago gave little indication of the maturity he demonstrated Saturday.

"I think I played a little smarter than I did last year," he said. "I think I took my time to go through my progressions and looked downfield a little more and didn't just look to run."

After CU's defense stopped KU's final drive in the end zone, the student section flooded the field. Hansen had a look of pure bliss as the wave of humanity briefly lifted him and then escorted him to the locker room.

"I have no words for that feeling," he said. "That's just like a dream come true. It was unbelievable."

Looking at the schedule, the Buffs now see an opportunity to turn their season around. Finally, they have the most important ingredient.

*Dave Krieger: 303-954-5297 or [dkrieger@denverpost.com](mailto:dkrieger@denverpost.com)*

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Longmont, Colorado  
Saturday, November 07,  
2009

Publish Date: 10/18/2009

## Buffs survive final play to beat Jayhawks, revive hope in 2009

By Patrick Ridgell

© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Don't even think about it.

Had that Kansas receiver caught that final pass in Saturday's game, and the Colorado Buffaloes awake this morning wondering what they have to do, wondering how much worse can it get, wondering how they ended up on the wrong side of a game they had no business losing.

Instead, the story they told from Saturday's 34-30 defeat of the No. 17 Jayhawks had a lot to do with determination and grit, because they made that last final play when they had to.

With 3 seconds left, Kansas had the ball on CU's 19 after the Jayhawks had rallied back from deficits of 24-3 in the second quarter and 27-10 in the third. They had the Buffs' season on the brink.

Quarterback Todd Reesing, who completed 30-of-51 passes, sent receivers into the end zone, where 6-foot-3 Dezmon Briscoe fought for Reesing's last throw against CU cornerback Cha'pelle Brown, who's listed — emphasize listed — at 5-7. Complicating matters was the fact half of CU's defensive backs were confused, according to safety Ben Burney. Half were in one coverage, the other half in another.

And Brown broke up the pass.

Fellow cornerback Jalil Brown grabbed the game ball as CU fans hopped to the field. He started sprinting around with it, stopping for congratulations and whatnot. He said he had no idea what he'll do with it. Probably keep it in his room. What a keepsake.

"We knew we had it all the time," Jalil said, running off the field, screaming through a thick facemask that had no chance of hiding that grin.

So here's the deal. The Buffs are 2-4, 1-1 in the Big 12, midway through an adventurous 2009 with what's suddenly a key game looming next Saturday at Kansas State, which is 2-1 in the league. The Tyler Hansen era is off and running. This team that would have been 1-5 and would have publicly said "we're close," though more doubt would be tough to deny.

Doubters may still scoff. But the Buffs aren't thinking today about what could've been. They can still envision what might be.

"I've been saying this for awhile — we're close, really really really close," head coach Dan Hawkins said. "I've been on the other side of it where I have teams come up to me in the offseason and say, 'we were close to beating you.' And you go, 'you're right, you were close.'"

"You have to learn to finish and get that nail that last quarter of an inch in the ground. The nice



CU sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen is mobbed by teammates and fans after leading the Buffs to a 34-30 win over Kansas Saturday at Folsom Field. **Lewis Geyer/Times-Call**

### COLORADO 34, No. 17 KANSAS 30

Kansas

37137—30

Coloado

02437—34

First Quarter

Kan—FG Branstetter 37, 6:01.

Second Quarter

Col—FG Goodman 45, 14:55.

Col—Stewart 3 run (Goodman kick), 14:31.

Col—Geer 12 pass from Hansen (Goodman kick), 6:57.

Col—Hansen 1 run (Goodman kick), 2:24.

Kan—Meier 4 pass from Reesing (Branstetter kick), :11.

thing about this deal was (Kansas) did come back and go ahead, and we had to come back and get back in it we had go ahead. Learning to ply a full 60 minutes and then look up at the scoreboard is a big deal.”

CU led 24-3, scoring twice on drives that started inside Kansas’ 5 thanks to turnovers, near the end of the first half when Kansas scrapped its ground game. The Jayhawks finished with minus-8 rushing yards, the sixth-lowest opposing total in CU history.

Reesing was Reesing, and combined with CU’s second-half turnovers, penalties, drops and miscues, Kansas found chances to win.

Trailing 34-30 late in the fourth, Kansas reached CU’s 1 on a drive that featured a converted third-and-29. Reesing hit Kerry Meier for a 1-yard touchdown, but officials called Kansas for offensive pass interference, pushing it back to the 16. On fourth-and-goal from CU’s 6, Jimmy Smith broke up a pass for Briscoe.

“They (officials) didn’t explain it,” Kansas coach Mark Manging said. “But I know that it’s a call where I think they called the pick. That’s a routine play. I don’t know. No comment.”

CU defensive coordinator Ron Collins said he believed Kansas should have been called for picks on earlier plays, but had not.

“They kept doing that,” Burney said.

CU took over on its 6, but punted the ball back to Kansas with 59 seconds left. The Jayhawks drove from their 25 to CU’s 19 before Cha’pelle Brown made that last play.

The Jayhawks will bemoan their lost chances and CU will study game film today and try to ascertain ways to improve a pass defense that allowed 431 net passing yards. Given everything into consideration, especially the fact the Buffs finally beat Reesing in their fourth try and won’t have to face him again, 431 net passing yards weren’t that bad.

“We have to fight for each other,” Cha’pelle Brown said as he ran off the field. “We just said we have to do it.”

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

#### Third Quarter

Col—FG Goodman 39, 10:36.

Kan—Opurum 2 run (Branstetter kick), 7:24.

Kan—FG Branstetter 43, 3:55.

Kan—FG Branstetter 42, 1:15.

#### Fourth Quarter

Kan—Briscoe 25 pass from Reesing (Branstetter kick), 13:02.

Col—Stewart 13 run (Goodman kick), 8:36.

A—51, 146.

#### KUCU

#### First downs

23 21

#### Rushes-yards

22-(-8) 43-147

#### Passing

431 175

#### Comp-Att-Int

32-54-1 14-25-1

#### Return Yards

0 40

#### Punts-Avg.

4-44.3 4-35.5

#### Fumbles-Lost

3-1 3-2

#### Penalties-Yards

7-55 8-60

#### Time of Possession

28:19 31:41

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Kansas, Sharp 13-37, Opurum 2-3, Reesing 7-(minus 48). Colorado, Stewart 24-108, Hansen 11-34, Sumler 2-3, Scott 3-2, Lockridge 2-1, Team 1-(minus 1).

PASSING—Kansas, Reesing 30-51-1-401, Meier 1-1-0-14, Rojas 1-1-0-16, Team 0-1-0-0. Colorado, Hansen 14-25-1-175.

RECEIVING—Kansas, Meier 11-103, Briscoe 8-154, J.Wilson 6-65, Sharp 3-44, Biere 2-23, McDougald 1-28, Reesing 1-14. Colorado, McKnight 5-33, Geer 4-65, Simas 3-47, Scott 1-19, Jefferson 1-11.



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Longmont, Colorado  
Saturday, November 07,  
2009

Publish Date: 10/18/2009

## Hansen outshines mentor

*By Patrick Ridgell*

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BOULDER — Since Tyler Hansen was a senior in high school, he has studied nearly every move Todd Reesing has made. On Saturday night, the Colorado sophomore wrote his own chapter in the thick Reesing textbook.

Hansen shined on a night when the art of the mobile quarterback was on full display in Boulder. The two athletic quarterbacks traded spectacular play for spectacular play, and for the first time in a long time, the Colorado Buffaloes got a first-hand look at what having one on their side can mean.

“The quarterback for Colorado was the difference maker today,” Mark Mangino said, following CU’s 34-30 upset of his No. 17 Jayhawks. “It’s unfortunate they picked this week to take his redshirt off, but I think they found their quarterback.”

For the second time in as many years, Hansen burned his redshirt to bail out his struggling Buffs. And while last year saw its ups and downs with the Hansen experiment, this go-around is off to a thrilling start.

Hansen said he’s a lot smarter this time around, and it showed despite two turnovers. He made plays with both his feet and his arm Saturday, executing both when he found his tight end on a critical third-and-15 play with CU trailing in the fourth quarter.

“That was a crazy play,” Hansen said. “I was going through my reads, and they brought some heat and I avoided it a little bit. I was looking down the field — about to run, about to pass, about to run — and I saw Riar (Geer). We work on scramble drills every week, and he did it perfect.”

That kind of play might sound familiar.

Perhaps it’s because Reesing has been burning CU with them for four years now. But it’s no coincidence that Hansen finds himself looking a lot like the Kansas quarterback, who Mangino made a Heisman case for earlier this week.

“When I was a senior in high school, it seemed like he was making all these plays, and he they went to the Orange Bowl that year, so I watched him a lot,” Hansen said. “He makes a lot of plays with his feet, and I try to do that, too. I feel like I can be the same type of player he is.

“He burned his redshirt, too. It’s like we’re on the same track, and that’s pretty cool.”

Hansen sought Reesing out following Saturday’s game, hoping to show his admiration and appreciation to the quarterback that he’s learned so much from. But, following a heart-breaking final series in which the Jayhawks came up just short, Reesing wasn’t in the mood to chat, Hansen said.

“He was really frustrated, and I went up to him and was like, ‘Hey, man. I just want to say that was awesome,’ and I said, ‘I really look up to you,’” Hansen said. “He didn’t say anything back, because he was really frustrated, but I just wanted to get that out because I really do look up to him.”

Reesing, a senior who probably witnessed his national title hopes disappear as the CU fans rushed the field, can probably be excused for his rudeness — and it certainly won’t diminish the hype that’s sure to follow Hansen the rest of this year.

When asked if he's the starter for good now, Hansen simply replied, "We'll see." Although, Hansen did have this to say when talking about burning his redshirt for the second time: "Right now, it's the best decision. We just beat Kansas."

There's a lot of truth, and even more relief for a frustrated fan base, to that statement.

The importance of a mobile quarterback in Division I football, particularly in the Big 12, is obvious. Hansen made plays Saturday night that CU has sorely missed in Dan Hawkins' 14-28 tenure prior to Saturday night. On one particular scoring drive in the second quarter, Hansen scampered for a 20-yard run for a first down, tightropeing the sideline, then flashed his arm strength a couple of plays later with a 36-yard strike down field to Markques Simas.

"Sometimes I think he thinks his running ability is a bit of a curse," coach Hawkins said. "But I told him just to play ball. You have to play ball how you know how to play ball."

"Whatever style that is, we'll live with it."

Winning is about the only style CU can afford to live with about now. And the switch to Hansen just might be the best move this regime has made to ensure that continues. After one game, the fans were sure to show their appreciation. They chanted Hansen's name and created a make-shift parade for their newest CU hero on his way to the locker room.

"I have no words for that feeling," Hansen said. "That's just like a dream come true. It was unbelievable."

You're telling us.

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Longmont, Colorado  
Saturday, November 07,  
2009

Publish Date: 10/18/2009

## Buffs weather conversion

*By Patrick Ridgell*  
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BOULDER — Allowing an opponent to convert third-and-29 late in a close game rarely leads to victory. Saturday was an aberration.

Colorado held on to defeat No. 17 Kansas 34-30 on Saturday night despite letting the Jayhawks convert a third-and-29 on a fourth-quarter drive. The play put Kansas at CU's 13 with less than 7 minutes to play while the Buffs clinged to their four-point lead.



CU's Rodney Stewart scores a touchdown against Kansas on Saturday at Folsom Field. **Lewis Geyer/Times-Call**

On the play, Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing scrambled away from CU's pass rush to the right side of the field, and then heaved a throw deep down the West sideline. Receiver Dezmon Briscoe, who finished with eight catches for 154 yards and a touchdown, jumped over CU safety Anthony Perkins to grab it 41 yards down field.

CU (2-4, 1-1) responded by holding the Jayhawks out of the end zone, forcing an incomplection on fourth-and-goal from the 6. An offensive pass interference aided CU's cause, costing Kansas what it thought was the go-ahead score three plays after the conversion.

According to CU defensive coordinator Ron Collins, preventing his defenders from growing deflated after the play was not a problem.

"The one thing about it is Reesing does that all the time," Collins said. "He's an awesome quarterback. He makes plays and they have great receivers.

"Our guys know they have to battle every play against that guy."

According to the players, they know they have to continue to battle against everyone.

"You just keep going," safety Ben Burney said. "They converted a lot of big plays. You dial it up again and keep playing."

Kansas (5-0, 1-1) finished 5-for-17 on third-down conversions. It entered converting 50.7 percent of its third conversions, good for 13th best in the nation.

**GOOD GOODMAN:** CU kicker Aric Goodman was 50-50 to play Saturday due to an abdominal strain, CU reported. Goodman played. He hit two field goals, both from 45 yards out, plus four extra points, and five of his kickoffs reached the end zone for touchbacks.

Special teams coach Kent Riddle said as of Thursday, junior walk-on Ryan Aweida was "the only guy that was active." Riddle said Goodman felt great in warm-ups. The coach also said Goodman has a little strain that's been "ongoing for awhile."

Goodman's successful tries made him 6-for-10 in 2009. Goodman's 45-yard field goal was his first successful try on kicks between 40 and 49 yards. He entered 0-for-8 from that distance.

**INJURY REPORT:** Offensive tackle Bryce Givens did not dress for the game, but was on the sidelines. He missed the game for what CU is calling personal reasons. His status for next week is unclear.

CU running back Rodney Stewart rolled an ankle in the fourth quarter. He's listed as probable for Saturday at Kansas State (10:30, FCS-C).

Stewart led CU with 108 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 24 carries. He became the 49th Buff to top 1,000 yards in his career.

Safety Anthony Perkins suffered a rib contusion and running back/receiver Brian Lockridge bruised his shoulder. Both are probable for Saturday.

Linebacker Doug Rippy (knee bruise suffered at Texas) did not play. He's probable for Kansas State.

**EXTRA POINTS:** CU linebacker Jeff Smart (team-high eight tackles) has 256 tackles for his career, tying him for 25th all time in program history. He's the 10th linebacker coached by CU's Brian Cabral to be on the top 25. ... CU has defeated at least one ranked team in 18 of the past 22 seasons. Its last win over a ranked opponent was last September against West Virginia. CU has played 103 ranked teams since 1989, tied for the second-most in college football. Eleven ranked and unbeaten teams have suffered their first loss of the season at Folsom Field since 1989. ... CU's 24 points in the second quarter were its most in a quarter since August 30, 2003, when it hung 28 on Colorado State in the second quarter. ... Attendance was 51,146.

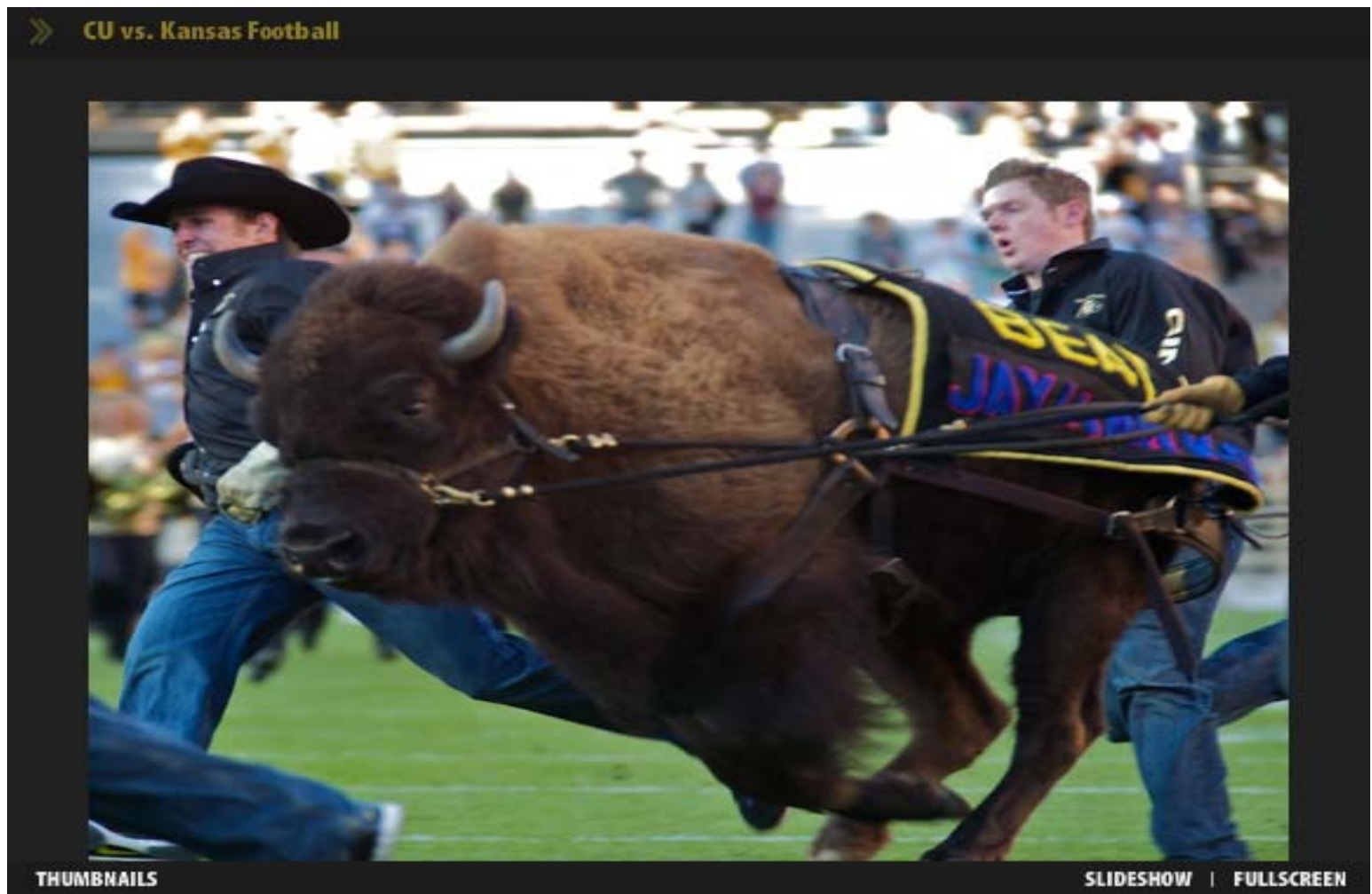
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## Bufs rock Jayhawks

CU holds off No. 17 Kansas on final play

*By Alex K.W. Schultz on October 17, 2009*



For a brief moment, Folsom Field stood still.

Kansas Jayhawks junior wide receiver Dezmon Briscoe initially looked to have snagged the game-winning touchdown, but Colorado Buffaloes senior cornerback Cha'pelle Brown swatted the pass away as time expired. The scoreboard read 34-30 in favor of the Buffs.

Then, the stadium erupted as a sea of yellow-clad Buffs fans swarmed the field.

"To be truthful, I thought about picking it off," Brown said. "There was no need to intercept it, though. We just needed the win."

Kansas senior quarterback Todd Reesing was able to attempt the final pass from CU's 19-yard line thanks to some big plays earlier in the drive. On third-and-3, Reesing hooked up with Briscoe down the middle for 14 yards. Two plays later, the Reesing-to-Briscoe combination was good for 26 yards with 10 seconds to play. After spiking the ball, Reesing overshot senior wide receiver Kerry Meier down the right sideline before attempting to go deep one last time.

"We knew we were going to go out there and get the win," said Brown when asked if he was nervous as KU marched downfield in the waning moments. "We just tried to make a play and have fun."

Colorado (2-4 overall, 1-1 Big 12 Conference), which led by as many 21 points, watched the 17th-ranked Jayhawks (5-1, 1-1) storm back to grab a 30-27 lead with 13:02 to play when Reesing hooked up with Briscoe for a 25-yard touchdown strike.

The Buffs responded with a scoring drive of their own when it mattered most. Sophomore running back Rodney Stewart capped a 10-play, 76-yard march with a 13-yard touchdown dash. Earlier in the drive, sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen scrambled around before slipping a pass to senior tight end Riar Geer for a 29-yard gain to CU's 48. On the next third-down play, Hansen converted with Geer again to the Jayhawks' 40. A roughing the passer call tacked on an additional 15 yards.

Hansen, who was supposed to redshirt each of the last two seasons, completed 14-of-25 passes for 175 yards while rushing for 34 on 11 carries. He scored on a designed quarterback draw and found Geer for a 12-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter.

"It's been a fun ride," said Hansen of burning his redshirt in consecutive seasons. "It's been wild."

Hansen's rushing touchdown gave CU a 24-3 lead late in the second. KU covered 80 yards in 11 plays when Reesing found Meier in the end zone from four yards out to slash the Buffs' lead to 24-10 as both teams headed for the locker rooms.

"I think we came out really strong, did some really good things," Geer said. "In the first half, we were pushing the tempo, trying to make some plays, get the offense rolling, get the defense rolling."

CU junior kicker Aric Goodman booted a 45-yard field goal to extend the Buffs' lead to 27-10, but KU scored 20 unanswered to make the game interesting.

Jayhawks freshman running back Toben Oporum scored on a 2-yard carry, and junior kicker Jacob Branstetter was true on field goals of 43 and 42 yards to shave the Buffs' advantage to four points at 27-23 before Reesing found Briscoe to give Kansas their second lead of the game.

"I was disappointed in our play, personally," Buffs senior linebacker Marcus Burton said. "Any time you have a big lead, it's your job on defense to stop them from scoring."

Reesing was 30-of-51 for 401 yards. While CU did surrender its fair share of big pass plays, its run defense was outstanding. The Jayhawks netted -8 rushing yards due in large part to Reesing's five sacks for -48 yards. The -8 rushing yards was CU's sixth best performance against an opponent's rushing attack.

"CU had a good game plan," Jayhawks head coach Mark Mangino said. "They came out with several different looks with a lot of line stunts and blitzing."

Stewart was the Buffs' leading rusher with 108 yards on 24 carries.

CU will play the Kansas State Wildcats for possibly a share of the Big 12 North division lead next Saturday at 10:30 a.m. MST in Manhattan, Kan.

“There’s a lot of football to be played,” CU head coach Dan Hawkins said. “You have to move on to the next one. That’s just how it has to be.”

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

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Posted on Sat, Oct. 17, 2009

## KU turnovers are key in 34-30 loss to Colorado

By J. BRADY McCOLLOUGH  
The Kansas City Star

BOULDER, Colo. | The clock showed three seconds when Todd Reesing took the snap from the Colorado 19, trailing by four. It would be a long three seconds.

Reesing lofted the ball high, high enough that only Dezmon Briscoe could catch it, and as it began to fall through the cool mountain air and Briscoe positioned himself for the jump among a group of Buffaloes, the Kansas Jayhawks believed.

"As soon as we got the ball back (with a minute left), I said the game was over," KU kicker Jacob Branstetter said.

For the better part of three years, they had been trained to think this way. Reesing and company had lost six games, all of them to teams who were ranked or considered favorites against the Jayhawks. They caught the country's eye by beating the teams that they were supposed to, and they never apologized for how they got their victories.

But when Reesing's pass fell out of Briscoe's grasp and KU had lost 34-30 to a Colorado team that had entered the game 1-4, a new reality set in. The 17th-ranked Jayhawks had blown it, and thousands of CU students were going to let them know it, storming the field with the fervor of Ralphie the Buffalo. Who knows how far one would have to look back in the KU annals to find another time that a win over the Jayhawks warranted such celebration?

It was a testament to the successes of the past three seasons. On this night in the foothills of the Flatiron Mountains, beating KU football felt like a big deal. There was no consolation for the Jayhawks, however, after they mounted yet another valiant comeback attempt after letting Colorado take a 24-3 lead in the second quarter.

"We dug a hole for ourselves," KU coach Mark Mangino said. "So we can't blame anyone but ourselves."

That's not entirely accurate. The Jayhawks hinted at dissatisfaction with the officials, who called an offensive pass interference penalty that negated what could have been a game-winning touchdown catch by wide receiver Kerry Meier. Mangino said he suspected that the official had called a pick by one of KU's other receivers to free Meier.

"That's a routine play," Mangino said. "That's called ... I mean, I don't know. No comment."

Reesing, who had experienced enough emotions for an entire career on Saturday night, was willing to comment.

"I'm still trying to figure out that pass interference call," Reesing said. "I don't know what that was about."

The penalty pushed KU out to the Colorado 16, and the Jayhawks turned it over on downs. KU got the ball back with 59 seconds left at its own 25 and marched down the field. Reesing hit Briscoe for a 26-yard completion — one of many acrobatic connections between the two — that put KU at the Colorado 19 with 7 seconds left. Reesing missed Meier and then Briscoe, and it was over.

Next up for 5-1 KU? Oklahoma in Lawrence and Texas Tech in Lubbock. The Jayhawks will now undoubtedly have to beat a Big 12 South power to have a chance at winning the Big 12 North.

"Every team in the North has a loss at this point," Reesing said.

The Jayhawks pulled out all the stops to get back into the game after two Reesing turnovers had swung the tide in Colorado's favor in the first half. A Reesing fumble and interception allowed Colorado to start twice inside the KU 5, and the Buffaloes cashed in for TDs on both occasions.

The third quarter was as wild as it gets. Reesing threw a lateral pass to Meier that Meier threw back to Reesing on one play. On another, punter Alonso Rojas executed a clever rugby-style fake punt pass to tight end Tim Biere. KU's defense recovered two fumbles, but the Jayhawks were only able to get two 43-yard Branstetter field goals out of it.

Mangino said Colorado first-time starting quarterback Tyler Hansen, who completed 14 of 25 passes for 175 yards and a touchdown, was the difference. Of course, Mangino's quarterback, the one he had touted earlier in the week for Heisman Trophy consideration, passed for 401 yards. But Reesing did so much damage in the first half that even he couldn't make up for it this time.

"I turned the ball over twice and gave them 14 easy points," Reesing said. "You can't spot 'em 14 points on the road."

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Posted on Sat, Oct. 17, 2009

## KU-Colorado game report

### FIRST QUARTER

**Key play:** KU kicker Jacob Branstetter connected on a career-long field goal of 37 yards that gave the Jayhawks a 3-0 lead.

**Key stat:** The Jayhawks missed on all three third-down opportunities.

### SECOND QUARTER

**Key play:** KU quarterback Todd Reesing ran into right tackle Jeff Spikes and fumbled the ball to Colorado at the KU 4. Colorado running back Rodney Stewart punched it in on the next play for a 10-3 Buffaloes lead.

**Key stat:** Colorado started inside the KU 5 twice because of Reesing turnovers, and scored touchdowns each time.

### THIRD QUARTER

**Key play:** KU converted a fake punt on fourth and 8 from the Colorado 39. Punter Alonso Rojas passed to tight end Tim Biere, moving the chains and getting KU in field-goal range for a 43-yard Branstetter field goal. Colorado led 27-20.

**Key stat:** The Jayhawks netted just two field goals out of two fumble recoveries by the defense.

### FOURTH QUARTER

**Key play:** Stewart galloped 13 yards for the game-winning touchdown with 8:36 left. Colorado led 34-30.

**Key stat:** KU was five of 17 on third downs.

**Player of the game:** Kerry Meier. Meier caught 11 passes for 103 yards and a touchdown and threw a 16-yard pass to Todd Reesing. He also had what would have been the game-winning touchdown called back because of an offensive pass interference penalty.

**Reason to hope:** Branstetter proved that he can be a reliable kicker, and KU's defense made clutch plays in the second half to get KU back in it.

**Reason to mope:** The toughest part of the schedule begins now. KU will have to battle for every win from here on out.

**Looking ahead:** The Jayhawks welcome Oklahoma to Memorial Stadium for a 2:30 p.m. kickoff on ABC.

### REPORT CARD

- |    |               |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| C  | Offense       | The defense — just as much as sustained offensive drives — got the Jayhawks back in the game. And KU's offense put the team in a hole with two first-half turnovers. |
| B- | Defense       | KU's defense created three turnovers but allowed Colorado to move the ball way too easily under first-time starter Tyler Hansen.                                     |
| B  | Special teams | Branstetter nailed three of the longest field goals of his career. KU struggled to contain Colorado's kickoff return men.                                            |
| B  | Coaching      | The Jayhawks never give up, and that's a credit to how Mark Mangino has trained them.                                                                                |

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## Bufs bust KU



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen, back, passes the ball as Kansas defensive end Jeff Wheeler applies pressure in the first quarter of an NCAA college football game in Boulder, Colo., on Saturday. Hansen was making his first start as quarterback of the Buffaloes since taking over from Cody Hawkins, son of Colorado's head coach Dan Hawkins. Cody Hawkins was benched during the team's game against Texas last week.

Photo 1 of 8

BY [TULLY CORCORAN](#)

Created October 17, 2009 at 6:58pm

Updated October 18, 2009 at 1:10am

**BOULDER, Colo.** -- There was a starkness to it all as Todd Reesing stood there with the blame pushing down on his five-foot-10 frame.

Here was the living legend, the trendy new Heisman candidate, the guy with all the answers, the guy who turns up after home games wearing suits and outsmarting everybody. The guy they call Sparky.

And here he was in Boulder, Colo., on Saturday night, after everyone else had already cleaned up, muddled and unshowered, standing there taking questions from reporters in his football pants and undershirt, saying what didn't need to be said, yet also somehow had to be said.

"I turned the ball over twice," Reesing said. "Gave them 14 easy points."

So 17th-ranked Kansas (5-1, 1-1 Big 12) fell at Colorado 34-30. It was not actually that simple, but Reesing chose to see it that way. He finished the game with 401 passing yards on 51 attempts, and was a jump ball to Dezmon Briscoe away from being the hero once more. With no time left on the clock, perhaps the most brilliant quarterback in Kansas history lobbed a pass to the most accomplished receiver in Kansas history, and it was going to work. Of course it was. The 14-point halftime deficit would be another anecdote in the legend. The two turnovers would be forgotten. The Jayhawks would be 6-0 and

Reesing would have his Heisman Moment and Oklahoma would be coming to Lawrence next week up against Reesing and all that sparkiness.

"I had the ball," said Briscoe, who called the loss the most shocking he's experienced at KU. "Coming down, the guy's helmet hit it."

It was a lot to ask -- the Heisman, the comeback on the road, the last-second lob. Maybe a little too much.

"We dug a whole for ourselves," KU coach Mark Mangino said. "We can't blame anybody but ourselves."

Reesing had a fumble and an interception, both of which gave Colorado (2-4, 1-1 Big 12) the ball inside the KU

5-yard line. Further, Kansas' offense, ranked No. 3 in the nation, could not block Colorado, or do much of anything, really, for all but the final two minutes of the first half. This being the same Colorado team upon which Toledo dumped 54 points just five weeks ago.

That part was unexpected, obviously.

What wasn't, but nonetheless was equally infuriating, was the defense, which was using five new players and looked like it. Misdirection plays sent various KU defenders darting in opposite directions like bacteria in a petri dish.

And new quarterback Tyler Hansen made KU pay, throwing for 175 yards and rushing for another 64 and a touchdown.

"He made all of the difference tonight in my opinion," Mangino said.

Granted, the point total had more to do with Colorado's extremely short fields than KU's defense, but the 24 points the Buffaloes scored in the second quarter were the most CU had in one period in six years. The larger point being, it takes both sides of the ball to create a disaster, and KU's offense and defense collaborated to that effect.

That part shouldn't qualify as stunning, exactly. Kansas has been a slow-starting offensive team for three years. Combined with a gashable defense, the Jayhawks have a real ability to put themselves in sticky situations. But for the last three years, they just haven't lost to teams like Colorado, which is to say teams they should definitely beat. There is always a play, or a series, or something. But KU wins the game.

"As soon as we got the ball back with a minute, eleven left, I was like, 'The game's over,'" kicker Jacob Branstetter said. "When (Reesing) let go of that last one, I thought Briscoe was gonna come down with it."

What made Saturday's game different was that, once the game began, it was hard to say that Kansas was definitely the better team. KU just wasn't good enough to exert its will over the Buffaloes, so to get back in the game, the Jayhawks needed some help. As 1-4 teams often do, Colorado obliged. Rodney Stewart fumbled, Hansen fumbled, Colorado jumped offsides on a fourth-and-1 play, too, and the breaks started going KU's way.

It wasn't a case of the better team just needing to calmly overcome some adversity. Kansas was trying to steal one.

You got the sense offensive coordinator Ed Warinner and Mark Mangino were shaking out their tackle box looking for something shiny. The Jayhawks threw a pass to Reesing. They put backup quarterback Kale Pick in the backfield with Reesing. They faked a punt, which produced a 16-yard pass from Alonso Rojas to Tim Biere.

The heck of it all was that Kansas almost won the game twice. An offensive pass interference call whiped out a Kerry Meier touchdown with five minutes left and killed a drive. Kansas got it back, though, needing to go 75 yards in 59 seconds with no timeouts.

"It was close," Briscoe said.

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