

Snyder comes to K-State's rescue again

K-State coach returns to rebuild struggling program

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- It's officially Homecoming weekend at Kansas State.

But the athletic department and fan base have been celebrating since last November when legendary coach Bill Snyder decided to rebuild the football program.

Again.

Snyder, who turned 70 on Oct. 7, signed a five-year contract for a base salary of \$250,000 and a total compensation of about \$1.85 million annually.

Having the face of Kansas State football on the sideline for a second tour of duty is priceless for an athletic department looking for some stability at the top after Ron Prince's controversial departure.

"Bill Snyder being back makes K-State feel like it's K-State again," Wildcats women's basketball coach Deb Patterson said during an interview with the Camera at the Big 12 media days. "I just think it feels as though we're back at the basic foundation of who we are.

"You can see it in the results. I think our football program is taking positive strides and getting back to the simple signature of hard work day to day."

Prince struggled to win games in the shadow of his predecessor, who watched the games from the stands at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The Wildcats were 17-20 over the past three years.

Prince, hired the same year as Dan Hawkins was at Colorado, departed Manhattan in Wall Street bailout fashion -- with a \$3.2 million deferred payment plan negotiated by the former athletic director, a contract being contested in court.

Perhaps no one in the history of college football has done a better job of turning a program's fortunes around as Snyder did at Kansas State when he was first hired two decades ago.

The Wildcats had gone winless in their previous 27 games before he arrived and posted 137 wins in the previous 54 years.

Snyder won 136 games in 17 seasons, leading the Wildcats to six top-10 finishes in the polls, 11 consecutive bowl appearances, four North Division titles and a Big 12 championship in 2003.

"What it gave more than anything was a sense of calmness, a sense of security," third-year Kansas State men's basketball coach Frank Martin said of Snyder's active return to the athletic department. "If a new football coach would have come in that K-state people didn't know, I think there would have been some uncertainties there, not being sure about the direction knowing the growth that has to take place with the relationship."

There isn't nearly as much work to do in rebuilding the program this time around, although the Wildcats are several steps behind Texas and the other elite programs in the South Division.

"There were similar questions when I came here 20 years ago. Where can you go, and how long can it take you to get there?" Snyder told USA Today before the season. "My answer was exactly the same: I have no clue. We just need to find ways to get ourselves a little bit better every single day."

After opening the season with a shaky 21-17 victory over Massachusetts and a 17-15 loss at Louisiana Lafayette, it looked like the preseason predictions that had the Wildcats pegged as the worst team in the Big 12 were right on.

Kansas State, however, opened conference play with a 24-23 victory over Iowa State. The momentum disappeared in Lubbock during a humbling 66-14 loss at Texas Tech, and returned with last Saturday's 62-14 home win over Texas A&M.

The Buffs, who visits Manhattan this Saturday, are hoping the trend continues and the inconsistent Wildcats are due for another long afternoon on the gridiron.

"When Bill's here and we do hit a skid, we don't over-react," Patterson said. "It's just nose to the grindstone. That really is the K-State way."

The other members of the Kansas State coaching family were not surprised when Snyder returned. Notorious for working 17-hour days when coaching, he spent time with his eight grandchildren the past three years but also attended the practices of the other programs on campus.

"I just went up to him the other day and said, 'Coach, I haven't seen you at practice. We just finished our fifth day,'" Martin said. "He said, 'Frank, I'm a little busy this year.'"

The Wildcats (4-3), like the Buffs (2-4), must win Saturday's game to keep their North Division and bowl hopes alive. K-State's final four games are at Oklahoma, home against Kansas and Missouri, and at Nebraska.

"I was more surprised that he stopped coaching than I was that he came back. I think it's in his blood and it's who he is," said Patterson, who is entering her 13th season at the school. "And you can see that he continues to be exceptional in knowing what it takes to win and build at Kansas State. ..."

"Bill Snyder really was the hope when I took the job at Kansas State. You understood that if he could win here, there was hope with any program to win and succeed over time with the support of the administration and with hard work. Bill really gave you the vision."

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CU's Speedy Stewart in a hurry to become one of nation's top running backs

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/23/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



CU's Rodney Stewart is emerging as one of the Big 12's top running backs.
(Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — For much of the past two years, the lone vision of Colorado's otherwise faceless offense was one of quarterback Cody Hawkins. The TV cameras would show him either gamely throwing over a towering defensive line or on the sideline wearing a headset. He's the coach's son in the perpetual melodrama that has become the Colorado quarterback position.

Lately, however, another face has surfaced from the depths of Colorado's once-struggling

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offense: sophomore tailback Rodney Stewart's. He's not just the too-short, two-star recruit from Westerville, Ohio, who received only a glance from the Mid-American Conference, yet came here and beat out the top prep back in the country.

Stewart has become a bona fide national-caliber tailback. While new starting quarterback Tyler Hansen's heroics in beating then-No. 17 Kansas last week have Buffalo Nation atwitter with optimism, it's Stewart who has slowly emerged as the Buffaloes' most dangerous weapon.

His 108 yards and two touchdowns against Kansas — his third 100-yard game of the season — puts him fourth in the Big 12 at 83.6 yards per game.

He may not be on any Heisman watch lists, but he's gaining cred in the most explosive offensive conference in the country.

"Rodney is pound for pound as good as anybody," Texas coach Mack Brown said on a teleconference. "He's hard to tackle. He has a low base but is also very strong. He's got all the elements that make you a good football player. He's much like the little guy (Darren Sproles) at Kansas State who played so well."

Texas based much of its defensive game plan on stopping Stewart on Oct. 10. It did, holding him to 40 yards and winning 38-14. Others haven't been so lucky.

"He's an elusive runner," said Dave Christensen,

whose Wyoming defense gave up 127 yards to Stewart in a 24-0 loss. "They're doing a much better job of blocking for him as time has moved on. He's explosive."

Two areas have separated Stewart from last year's little-known rookie who beat out ballyhooed phenom Darrell Scott to rush for a team-high 622 yards and earn third-team freshman All-America.

Stewart no longer launches himself into the line as if he were back at Brookhaven High, choosing to wait for the hole to develop. And when he does run, he actually hangs onto the ball.

"I'm trying to be more patient," Stewart said. "Last year, I was just coming out of high school, so the game was a lot faster. Now that I'm more settled down, two years in, it kind of slowed down a little bit. I'm able to read holes better and make wiser choices."

Take Saturday's game against Kansas. With Colorado trailing 30-27 in the fourth quarter and the ball on the Kansas 13, Stewart took a handoff and paused a split second. He then burst through a hole over left tackle untouched for 8 yards before dragging a Jayhawk 5 yards for the winning score.

Dare we compare him to another great Colorado back? Why not? CU running backs coach Darian Hagan said Stewart reminds him of his old teammate who helped the Buffs to their only national title back in 1990. Think about it. Stewart runs like Eric Bienenmy.

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The only difference is the 5-foot-7, 195-pound Bieniemy was the top prep running back in the country, and Stewart, 5-7 and 170, was asked to walk on at Eastern Michigan.

"They're just alike," Hagan said. "Their mentality, everything. The only thing was Eric was a little bit thicker lower."

Stewart is no longer a big-reward, big-risk back. In nine games last year, he fumbled three times and lost two. This year, his first and only fumble came Saturday.

"I don't wear gloves," Stewart said. "In high school, I fumbled in a game. A guy took the ball from me, but he only took it because I had gloves on. It came out within the grip of the glove. Ever since then I haven't worn gloves."

"Well, I wore them a couple games last year. I can feel the ball more. In games I fumbled, I think I wore gloves."

Stewart likes to surprise people, whether it's hanging onto the ball or being more physical than his bowling-ball frame would suggest.

"God didn't give me height," he said, "but I'm glad he gave me the ability to be naturally physical."

He benches more than 400 pounds and last semester pulled a 3.0 GPA, a stunner to those who remembered him struggling in classes in high school.

He carries a chip on his shoulder beyond the football field.

"It's because I don't want to end up back in the same neighborhood and everybody's going, 'What are you doing back here?' " he said. "There are a lot of people like that growing up that I talk to. Older fellas are like, 'Man, if I'd got my grades, I wouldn't be here right now.' "

Saturday, his Buffs (2-4, 1-1 Big 12) play at Kansas State (4-3, 2-1), another revitalized team with the 11th-best rush defense in the country (106.43 ypg). Last year against Kansas State, Stewart scored his first career touchdown en route to rushing for 141 yards in a 14-13 win.

You can bet that the Wildcats know Stewart's name.

A few of Rodney Stewart's favorites

What's on your iPod?

I don't have one. I like slow music. T-Pain. Gucci Mane. Jay-Z. And I like girls. Beyonce. Rihanna.

Favorite TV show?

I don't watch TV.

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Favorite dance partner if you were on "Dancing with the Stars"? Gabrielle Union.

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CU's Darrell Scott has surgery, will miss 2-3 weeks

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

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Darrell Scott has been slowed by a knee he injured in the second game of the season.

BOULDER — Colorado running back Darrell Scott, playing behind sophomore sensation Rodney Stewart, had arthroscopic surgery on his knee Thursday.

CU officials estimate he'll be out two to three

weeks.

Coaches said health was the main reason Scott has struggled this season, with only 23 carries through six games.

"He can't get down or frustrated over his playing time because he hasn't been 100 percent since he's been here," running backs coach Darian Hagan said Tuesday. "He's running tentative because his knee isn't where it should be."

When asked what percentage Scott is, healthwise, compared to two years ago when he rushed for 2,433 yards and 33 touchdowns for St. Bonaventure High in Ventura, Calif., Hagan said, "Not even half."

Scott, who has 95 yards rushing this year after gaining 343 a year ago, said earlier this week he is not discouraged and will not transfer.

"I'm not satisfied," said Scott, who has one career touchdown. "It's all to do with my knee."

Scott said his leg felt "loose" after one play of the Toledo game on Sept. 11, and he has tried to play through it.

"It's been holding me back. It's been pretty frustrating so far in college trying to bounce back," he said.

Scott is third in the Big 12 in kickoff returns at 26.9 yards per return and likely will be replaced by fellow sophomore Brian Lockridge, who has nine returns, also for a 26.9 average.

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John Henderson, *The Denver Post*

Three questions for CU

1. Which team, Colorado or Kansas State, will build on the momentum and confidence it gained from big victories the previous week?

With the Big 12 North seemingly up for grabs, each conference game from here on out could be called a "showdown." Colorado must wonder which Kansas State team will show up: the one that lost 66-14 at Texas Tech on Oct. 10 or the Wildcats that trampled Texas A&M 62-14 last week in Manhattan?

2. In his second 2009 start, can CU sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen continue his great escapes from pass rushers? Last week, Kansas State's defense recorded six sacks against Texas A&M. Pressure on the quarterback helped the Wildcats intercept three passes. Expect KSU coach Bill Snyder to come up with something in an effort to rattle Hansen. How Hansen handles that could be a key to the game.

3. Can the CU coverage teams keep Kansas State return specialist deluxe Brandon Banks under wraps? Last month against Tennessee Tech, Banks became the 12th player in major-college football to return two kickoffs for touchdowns in a game. CU leads the Big 12 in kickoff coverage, but Banks, a 5-foot-7, 150-pound blur, can burn anybody. *Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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Opinion: Spirits show flaws in Buffs, Wildcats

Reliving "A Christmas Carol" in anticipation of Saturday's game

By Cheng Sio on October 23, 2009

The opinions represented in this article do not necessarily represent those of the staff of CUIndependent.com nor any of its sponsors.

This opinion by CU Independent Sports Editor Cheng Sio is part of a column swap leading up to the Colorado Buffaloes vs. Kansas State Wildcats football game. To read Kansas State Collegian Assitant Sports Editor Grant Guggisberg's opinion, click [here](#).

I looked at my mirror before going to bed on a chilly Wednesday evening and I jokingly said to it, "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who will win this Saturday between the Colorado Buffaloes and the Kansas State Wildcats?"

The mirror cracked.

I scratched my forehead and had a puzzled look on my face wondering why the mirror broke. Fifteen minutes later, I stopped wondering and went to bed.

Or so I thought.

You probably wouldn't believe me, but I was met by spirits in my sleep. It felt like I was in my own production of Charles Dickens' 1843 novel, "A Christmas Carol." It was creepy.

The first spirit to fly through my bedroom window was CU sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen – the ghost of Buffaloes past.

Hansen smiled and then with the snap of his fingers, we were at last year's game between the two schools at Folsom Field.

Hovering above the playing field, we watched Hansen burn his redshirt late in the first quarter and engineer two second-quarter touchdown drives as the Buffs rallied to beat the Wildcats 14-13.

It was great watching Hansen juke, stiff-arm and lower his shoulder on his way to 86 rushing yards and a touchdown pass. As I watched in excitement, I remembered what took place next game. Hansen started and the Buffs were embarrassed 58-0 by Missouri at Faurot Field in Columbia, Mo.

I asked Hansen why history won't repeat itself. After all, he just wowed CU fans last Saturday in a thrilling 34-30 victory over then-undefeated Kansas in his first start of 2009.



Cheng Sio (Courtesy)

"I've definitely thought about that," Hansen said after Wednesday's practice. "Last year, playing K-State, that was a real high. But then coming back against Missouri and that was really low. That was a horrible loss. It's definitely gone through my mind.

"You got a whole week to prepare. You have to prepare the right way, you got to watch film, you got to watch practice, you got to get with the coaches and go over the game plan. I've been doing that. I feel like I'm prepared right now. The more you prepare, the more confident you're going to be on Saturday."

Well, knowing Hansen is starting is better than not knowing if Kansas State will start junior Carson Coffman or senior Gregory Grant.

When I returned to my bedroom, there was Wildcats head coach Bill Snyder – the ghost of coaches present – waiting.

Snyder led me to the living room of my apartment. We watched me listening to Monday's Big 12 Media Teleconferences on Thursday night.

A couple of reporters asked Snyder various questions about the team's performance in its last two games. Texas Tech demolished the Wildcats 66-14 on Oct. 10, but K-State blasted Texas A&M 62-14 last Saturday. That's a 100-point swing.

Unbelievable!

"It probably tells us we're a little goofy and we have no idea where we are or who we are," Snyder said Monday.

Goofy? Is the great Bill Snyder coaching a bunch of Disney characters? Snyder said his team needs to handle prosperity better and addressed the issue.

"We talked about that immediately after the Iowa State game and we didn't respond well in our preparation and our play against Texas Tech," Snyder said Monday. "We revisited the issue immediately after the Texas A&M game for the exact same reason. Everything is responsive regardless of circumstances."

To be honest, I'd rather have the Wildcats' Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde routine from game-to-game rather than the Buffs half-to-half version. In its last three games, CU has blown a pair of 14-10 halftime leads and almost blew a 24-10 halftime lead against Kansas. The Wildcats' Jekyll and Hyde version is less likely to give me a heart-attack because at least I'll know which Wildcats team will show up by the end of the first quarter. The CU version is just plain frustrating.

Once Snyder's teleconference ended, he quickly flew out of the living room window and caused a whirlwind. Debris flew and a piece of paper smacked me in the face. When the wind died down, I unglued the paper off my face and the sheet showed both teams' schedule and the Big 12 Conference standings.

Then, senior cornerback Cha'pelle Brown – the other hero in CU's win over Kansas and the ghost of Buffaloes future – tapped me on the shoulder.

"I think we're aware [of playing for first place in the Big 12 North], but that's not our focus," Brown said after Wednesday's practice. "Our focus is K-State. That's what we're worried about. We're going to go one game at a time and that's it."

If CU wins, they will have at least a share of first place despite its sub .500 record. If K-State wins, they will hold on to the division lead at 3-1. But after the Buffs, the Wildcats final four games are at Oklahoma, vs. No. 25 Kansas, vs. Missouri and at Nebraska.

Ouch!

Then, Hansen popped his head back in.

“That’s a tough spot,” he said after Wednesday’s practice. “If that’s the case, they are definitely probably looking at this game as a must-win for them too. It should be a good game. It’s going to be a battle.”

Hansen snapped his fingers and in an instant, they were gone. I woke up sweating profusely at 3 a.m. Thursday and looked to my left. The crack in the mirror was not only gone, but it lit up and spoke.

“Colorado 20, Kansas State 17,” the mirror said.

Contact CU Independent Co-Sports Editor Cheng Sio at Cheng.Sio@colorado.edu.

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CU seeks statement win in Big 12 North

RB Darrell Scott out with knee injury against KSU

By Alex K.W. Schultz on October 23, 2009

Don't call Tyler Hansen a savior just yet. Even Hansen says he doesn't want to be labeled as such.

"I have to get a couple of more wins and give our team a chance to get to the Big 12 [Conference] Championship Game," the Colorado Buffaloes sophomore quarterback said.

The next step toward Arlington, Texas – the site of the Big 12 Championship Game pitting the Big 12 North and South division winners — comes Saturday at 10:30 a.m. MST in Manhattan, Kan., where CU will attempt to tame the Kansas State Wildcats.

In his first start of the season last weekend against the Kansas Jayhawks, who brought with them a sparkly-clean 5-0 record and the No. 17 ranking to Folsom Field, Hansen tossed and ran for a touchdown to help the Buffs shock KU 34-30.

While Hansen said the Buffs have improved, he said he believes more work certainly needs to be done.

"We're taking some steps in the right direction," Hansen said. "But it's going to take some more wins."

Both teams will look to make an early statement in the Big 12 North. KSU (4-3, 2-1 Big 12) is currently the division leader. Three other teams, including CU (2-4), are nipping at the Wildcats' heels with 1-1 records in conference play.

"This is a big game," Hansen said. "It's going to be a battle."

Hansen could be asked to go aerial a bit more against KSU as sophomore running back Darrell Scott is out with a knee injury.

CU head coach Dan Hawkins didn't speak much about the extent of Scott's injury.

"We just have to clean up some stuff," Hawkins said.

According to www.cubuffs.com, Hawkins said Scott could miss up to three weeks once he undergoes arthroscopic knee



After upsetting visiting Kansas on Oct. 17, 34-30, the Buffs head to the road to play Kansas State Saturday. Hansen may have impressed fans with his first start of this season, but more wins are necessary if CU hopes to compete for the Big 12 Championship. (CU Independent/Lee Pruitt)

surgery Thursday.

Sophomore running back Rodney Stewart, the Buffs' leading rusher with 418 yards and five touchdowns, will look to offset Scott's absence by heading the ground attack.

"I can definitely carry the load," Stewart said. "That isn't a problem."

As far as Hansen is concerned, Hawkins said he expects "more good things."

"He's got a lot more experience," Hawkins said. "He's a lot more comfortable, so he's a way different player than he was last year."

The Buffs' defense, which surrendered 806 rushing yards in its first four games, has allowed a mere 38 in its last two contests.

CU defenders will have their hands full against KSU junior running back Daniel Thomas, who ranks 17th in the nation in rushing with 669 yards. Thomas is a sure-handed ball carrier as he hasn't put the ball on the turf all season.

Luckily for the Buffs, who were gashed for 401 passing yards by Jayhawks senior quarterback Todd Reesing, KSU hasn't posed much of a passing threat.

Junior Carson Coffman and senior Grant Gregory have combined to throw five touchdowns. They have also been intercepted five times combined.

Hawkins said he wasn't sure which quarterback would start, but "it really doesn't matter."

"They will probably play both of those guys," Hawkins said.

CU limped past KSU last year 14-13. Hansen, who made his first collegiate appearance against KSU in 2008, said he is not looking past the Wildcats.

"You can never be less prepared," Hansen said. "The more prepared you are, the better you will be on Saturdays."

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Alex K.W. Schultz at Alexander.schultz@colorado.edu.

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Reliable Buffs RB Rodney Stewart ready to roll at KSU

By [Kyle Clark](#) on October 23, 2009 · [Comment](#) · [Email This](#) · [ShareThis](#)



CU's Rodney Stewart carries the ball against Wyoming at Folsom Field in Boulder on Sept. 19. (INDenverTimes photo)

At the start of the year, Colorado fans were ready for running back Darrell Scott to take over the running attack. But after a season full of knee issues for Scott, who underwent an arthroscopic procedure yesterday that will take him out for up to three weeks, another back has emerged as the workhorse for CU.

Rodney Stewart has provided some of the more exciting plays for an offense that has been somewhat dull. His 36-yard touchdown run is still the longest scoring play of the season. He's also been a reliable option, carrying more than 20 times the past four weeks. Many thought Stewart would be used as a change-up back, but Stewart always expected to be the guy.

"Yeah, because of how I did last year," Stewart said. "Before I was injured, I was getting the ball a lot of times each

game. I knew if I was stronger and faster coming into this sophomore season I could do better things.”

While Stewart has been ready for the responsibility, he’s also aware of the risks. Stewart has rushed 104 times in five games, four times as much as the next closest player. At 5-foot-6 and 170 pounds, you wonder if such a frame can hold up the rest of the season.

“Am I worried? Kinda,” Stewart said. “I hope I don’t have to sit any games out and finish out the season different from last year.” Stewart missed the final three weeks of 2008.

Now with a role as the feature back secured, he’ll need to continue improving a rushing attack that’s second to last in the conference. Stewart and the Buffs will get another chance Saturday morning against 4-3 Kansas State. The Wildcats are the early leader in the Big 12 North race, with a 2-1 conference record.

Coming off a surprising 62-14 win against Texas A&M, the Wildcats may be ready for a letdown, or could be looking ahead to their next opponent, Oklahoma. Here are the three keys for Colorado to catch Kansas State napping.

RUN STUFFERS

For the past two weeks, Colorado has been as good as anyone stopping the run. CU let Texas do minimal damage in Austin, holding it to 46 yards. The next week, the rush defense was more than perfect; Kansas lost 8 yards net.

How have they done it? Dan Hawkins says it’s a matter of time. “Just some experience,” Hawkins said. “Those guys have played more games, and you go from having true freshmen starting their first games to playing some of the best teams in the nation. That helps them kind of get a feel for it.”

You could see that feel last week when Kansas kept trying to lull the Colorado defense to sleep with a simple toss play. Kansas ran this about four times to the right side, and each time the Buffs held the attempt under a couple of yards. Twice they made a tackle for a loss, and the Jayhawks had to abandon whatever they were trying to set up.

A fine showing of discipline for the younger players, more of whom will be needed against a stronger running back Saturday. Daniel Thomas is a big, strong ball carrier for the Wildcats. He rarely gets pushed backward for a loss. He scored four touchdowns and gained 91 yards last week as part of Kansas State’s rout of Texas A&M, all in the first half.

KEEP UP THE PRESSURE

If the Buffs force Kansas State to become one-dimensional, they can finish them off with a strong pass rush. Kansas State’s passing game is last in the Big 12, with only one game over 200 yards. The Wildcats also have changed quarterbacks: Grant Gregory was named the starter over Carson Coffman after week four.

Getting to Gregory is important because while he isn’t putting up huge yards, he is very accurate in the pocket, throwing at a completion rate of 66 percent. Colorado had its best night of quarterback pressure last week against Kansas, recording five sacks.

“It’s just the details, the little things,” said defensive end Marquez Herrod, who had three of those sacks himself. “We came out there and played with a passion. We know we’re better than our record shows, and we just want to prove it.”

The other time Colorado got four or more sacks this season, they shut out Wyoming, 24-0.

GRAB AND HOLD THE EARLY LEAD

Another common thread between the wins against Kansas and Wyoming is the way the Buffaloes quickly built a large lead. Kansas State is a dangerous team to trail. Since 1990, the Wildcats are 136-5 when leading at the half, 3-0 this season.

What's different about the two Colorado wins, and more concerning, is Kansas' stretch of 20 unanswered points to take back the lead. Kansas QB Todd Reesing led the Jawhawks to scores on four of their last six possessions in the second half and had a chance to win on the final play. The Buffs need go up on the Wildcats early and then try to wear them down. This is especially key on the road, given that CU hasn't won a game as the visitor for more than two years. Winning big in Manhattan could give the team the confidence necessary for its two final road games, against Iowa State and Oklahoma State.

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2009

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CU coaches push QB Hansen to think pass first, run second

By Patrick Ridgell
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Asked for an assessment of his starting quarterback, Colorado offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau used this word: “phenomenal.”

He wasn’t referring to Tyler Hansen’s work in CU’s 34-30 defeat of Kansas last Saturday, the quarterback’s first start of 2009. And he wasn’t describing CU’s late fourth-quarter touchdown drive to bring the Buffs back from a deficit — not that “phenomenal” fails to describe Hansen’s contributions.

Kiesau was discussing Hansen’s work during Wednesday’s practice. The coach said he stood behind Hansen as he worked against CU’s scout defense, barking out, “Get rid of the ball! Get rid of the ball!” while receivers ran their routes.

“What I’m trying to get him to understand is that when he’s going against the scout team, it’s not the same speed as it is in the game,” Kiesau said.

“I’m trying to get the timing down to how it’ll be in the game, and you can see him — he’s throwing balls before guys get out of their breaks, and they’re almost shocked the ball’s coming. But I’d rather have that now than on Saturday and have them not be used to the speed of the game.”

Hansen, Kiesau said, was “on fire” Wednesday, anticipating those breaks and delivering the ball in prompt fashion.

Kiesau has long maintained that Hansen’s scrambling, while sometimes productive and always exciting, is an indication of things falling apart around him. As Hansen makes his fourth career start Saturday at Kansas State (10:30 a.m., FCS-C), Kiesau continues to seek a guy who, first and foremost, stands in the pocket and delivers.

“The first thing he has to do is believe he can be a pocket passer and not just run out of there,” Kiesau said. “Now again, we have to use that to our advantage. He can stand in there and drop back and throw the ball and not always have to break out of there and run out and try to make things happen with his feet.

“I’m not saying it’s a bad thing, but he has to be able to stand in there and throw the ball.”

Hansen might have been the busiest guy in the CU football program this week. He held a news conference in addition to the all the interviews he granted. He didn’t give a number; he just left it there were “lots” of them.

He said people he doesn’t even know approached him on campus to offer their congratulations. Such is life when you’re the winning quarterback.

He went about preparing for Kansas State, an opponent that’s never easy for the Buffs, in a game that’ll weigh heavily in each team’s

College Athletes of the Week

CU Athletes of the Week

Jalil Brown, Jr., football

In Saturday’s win over Kansas, Brown had an interception and broke up a pass with 3 seconds to play to help preserve the victory.

Jenny Barringer, Sr., cross country

Barringer took first place in the NCAA-Pre National Invitational last Saturday in Irving, Texas. She finished in 19 minutes, 50.9 seconds.

CSU Athletes of the Week

Ben DeLine, So., football

His two field goals, including a 47-yarder, provided the Rams’ only points in a 44-6 loss to TCU last Saturday.

Danielle Minch, Jr., volleyball

She recorded a match-high 19 kills as she helped the Rams sweep Utah 3-0 on Oct. 17.

postseason plans.

And he's trying to learn how to be a better pocket passer, corralling instincts he has embraced for years. Does Hansen's ball security make anyone else nervous?

"I have to be more proficient in passing and not turn the ball over," he said.

Last week was a good start for Hansen.

It was a good start on a very long road.

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

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Thursday, Nov 12, 2009

Posted on Thu, Oct. 22, 2009

K-State-Colorado football preview

•When/where: 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Bill Snyder Family Stadium in Manhattan, Kan.**•TV/radio:** Fox College Sports Central; WHB (810 AM)**•Series:** Colorado leads 44-19-1**•The line:** K-State by 4 1/2

What's at stake

Few anticipated it, but this is a battle for the top spot in the Big 12 North. K-State can go to 3-1 in the Big 12; Colorado can move into a tie for the division lead with a win.

Cheers if ...

K-State can give itself good field position. When faced with short fields last week against Texas A&M, the Wildcats' offense scored at will.

Jeers if ...

The Wildcats let Colorado run the ball effectively. "That's the worst thing that could happen to us," K-State coach Bill Snyder said.

Three things about Colorado

1 After a rough start, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins benched his son Cody, who plays quarterback, in favor of sophomore Tyler Hansen.

2 The Buffaloes are 0-3 on the road.

3 Running back Rodney Stewart paces the Buffaloes' offense. He averages 83 rushing yards a game and has scored five touchdowns.

Key matchup

This game could end up being all mental. Both teams proved last week they can play at a high level, but early in the season they proved how much they can struggle. Attitude and focus play a factor.

Kellis Robinett's pick: K-State 28-23

K-State is undefeated at home and Colorado is winless on the road. With plenty on the line, that will make all the difference.

K-STATE OFFENSE

P	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	83	Brandon Banks	5-7	150	Sr.
LT	64	Nick Stringer	6-6	285	Sr.
LG	59	Zack Kendall	6-3	297	Jr.
C	74	Wade Weibert	6-4	290	Jr.
RG	67	Kenneth Mayfield	6-4	320	Jr.
RT	75	Clyde Aufner	6-7	290	So.
TE	85	Jeron Mastrud	6-6	253	Sr.
WR	7	Lamark Brown	6-3	225	Jr.
QB	6	Grant Gregory	6-1	210	Sr.
RB	8	Daniel Thomas	6-2	227	Jr.
FB	48	Braden Wilson	6-4	245	Fr.

K 19 Josh Cherry 6-1 183 Jr.

K-STATE DEFENSE

P No. Name Ht. Wt. Cl.

DE 95 Jeffrey Fitzgerald 6-4 280 Sr.

DT 46 Prizell Brown 6-4 265 Jr.

NT 99 Daniel Calvin 6-3 310 Sr.

DE 40 Antonio Felder 6-2 253 Jr.

LB 39 John Houlik 5-11 219 Sr.

LB 51 Ulla Pomele 6-1 228 Sr.

LB 21 Troy Butler 6-1 200 Jr.

CB 4 Joshua Moore 5-11 184 Jr.

S 2 Tysyn Hartman 6-3 207 So.

FS 23 Emmanuel Lamur 6-4 214 So.

CB 8 Stephen Harrison 5-11 181 Jr.

P 9 Ryan Doerr 6-3 185 Fr.

COLORADO OFFENSE

P No. Name Ht. Wt. Cl.

WR 21 Scotty McKnight 5-11 185 Jr.

LT 78 Nate Solder 6-9 305 Jr.

LG 63 Ethan Adkins 6-4 305 So.

C 64 Mike Iltis 6-3 280 So.

RG 73 Ryan Miller 6-8 320 So.

RT 77 Bryce Givens 6-6 275 Fr.

TE 87 Riar Geer 6-4 250 Sr.

WR 6 Markques Simas 6-2 215 So.

QB 9 Tyler Hansen 6-1 200 So.

RB 5 Rodney Stewart 5-6 175 So.

FB 41 Jake Behrens 6-0 240 Sr.

K 13 Aric Goodman 5-10 190 Jr.

COLORADO DEFENSE

P No. Name Ht. Wt. Cl.

LE 92 Forrest West 6-1 245 Fr.

DT 50 Curtis Cunningham 6-1 275 So.

NG 83 Will Pericak 6-4 280 Fr.

RE 90 Marquez Herrod 6-2 280 Jr.

LB 45 Jeff Smart 6-0 225 Sr.

LB 54 Marcus Burton 6-0 265 Sr.

LB 59 B.J. Beatty 6-2 220 Jr.

CB 29 Cha'pelle Brown 5-7 175 Sr.

SS 42 Benjamin Burney 5-11 195 Sr.

FS 46 Anthony Perkins 5-10 195 So.

CB 3 Jimmy Smith 6-2 205 Jr.

P 14 Matt DiLallo 6-1 205 Sr.

KANSAS STATE (4-3, 2-1 Big 12)

Date Opponent Result/time

Sept. 5 UMass W, 21-17

Sept. 12 at La.-Lafayette L, 17-15

Sept. 19 at UCLA L, 23-9

Sept. 26	Tenn. Tech	W, 49-7
Oct. 3	Iowa State (at KC)	W, 24-23
Oct. 10	at Texas Tech	L, 66-14
Oct. 17	Texas A&M	W, 62-14
Saturday	Colorado	11:30 a.m.
Oct. 31	at Oklahoma	6 p.m.
Nov. 7	Kansas	TBA
Nov. 14	Missouri	TBA
Nov. 21	at Nebraska	TBA

COLORADO (2-4, 1-1 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result/time
Sept. 6	Colorado State	L, 23-17
Sept. 11	at Toledo	L, 54-38
Sept. 19	Wyoming	W, 24-0
Oct. 1	at West Virginia	L, 35-24
Oct. 10	at Texas	L, 38-14
Oct. 17	Kansas	W, 34-30
Saturday	at Kansas State	11:30 a.m.
Oct. 31	Missouri	11:30 a.m.
Nov. 7	Texas A&M	TBA
Nov. 14	at Iowa State	TBA
Nov. 19	at Oklahoma State	TBA
Nov. 27	Nebraska	TBA

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