

KSU ready for Hansen this year

Buff QB came off bench last year to lead CU to win

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/24/2009 12:20:31 AM MDT

MANHATTAN, Kan. -- It's not often in the Big 12 Conference these days when not just one, but two coaching staffs enter the same game with the mindset of forcing the opposing quarterback to be the difference maker.

The league has become home to dominant signal-callers with reputations for coming through with the perfect pass in the glare of the big moment.

It's not the case today in Bill Snyder Family Stadium, where Colorado faces an old rival at Kansas State and welcomes back coach Bill Snyder, who had been away for three seasons prior to re-taking the reins of a program he once built into a national power. The Wildcats are clinging to an early and surprising lead in the Big 12 North Division, where many pegged them to finish last this season.

Both programs have quarterbacks trying to prove themselves while also hoping to keep their respective teams in the hunt for postseason play and the Big 12 North Division title.

Colorado enters the game with a two-year road losing streak and a quarterback making just his second start of the season and fourth of his college career. Tyler Hansen dazzled Buffs fans with his play-extending and playmaking ability last week in a win over then-No. 17 Kansas.

Hansen showed he has clearly matured from last season when he made his college debut in an upset win over these Wildcats in Boulder. He came off the bench that day and surprised KSU, which hadn't prepared for his ability to run from the quarterback position.

"They had no idea who I was," Hansen said this week. "I don't even think they knew I was on the roster. There was actually a couple of guys who said something to me like, 'Who are you? What are you doing out here?'"

"They'll probably want me this Saturday. They'll come after me pretty hard."

He hopes to keep the positive atmosphere building for the Buffs by breaking the program's string of eight consecutive losses in true road games dating back to Oct. 27, 2007 at Texas Tech. It also has been more than a year since the program won consecutive games. The last time came when CU started the 2008 season with three straight wins.

The funk that set in after those wins ultimately led to Hansen's debut.

"To get two wins in a row and kind of build some momentum for the rest of our Big 12 games would be awesome," Hansen said.

Kansas State has been using a pair of quarterbacks for much of the season, with Carson Coffman and sixth-year senior Grant Gregory each producing on an inconsistent basis. Kansas State features a tough rushing attack but has thrown for more than 200 yards in only one game this season. The two quarterbacks have combined for only five touchdown passes and five interceptions in six games.

It makes sense for CU to do all it can to force that passing game to produce today. If the Buffs allow running back Daniel Thomas, the Big 12's third leading rusher, to have his way, it might be a long day for the defense.

Like Hansen, Gregory is new to the starting role and is coming off a big victory over Texas A&M at home last week. CU coach Dan Hawkins said Gregory is similar to Hansen in his ability to run and throw effectively.

Gregory has started the past three games for the Wildcats and is leading the conference in completion percentage and pass efficiency in league games only. Snyder is asking Gregory to rely on the running game and not make mistakes when he is forced to throw.

"I think he has made some significant improvements, but I also think that he has some issues that have to get cleaned up," Snyder said of his quarterback. "Those issues may be associated with his inexperience in our system, but that will come with time."

CU wants to stuff the run and make the Wildcats pass. It has been a winning formula for CU twice this season and led to some near-misses as well.

Defensive coordinator Ron Collins has the Buffs playing well after a slow start this season. The most dramatic improvement has come in stopping the run. CU has held Kansas and Texas -- both nationally ranked programs -- to a combined total of 38 rushing yards the past two weeks once sack yardage is deducted.

The Wildcats have been an enigma this season. They lost to Louisiana-Lafayette in nonconference play and were blown out just two weeks ago 66-14 at Texas Tech. They answered that debacle with a 62-14 beatdown of the Aggies.

Even Snyder seems unconvinced his team has finally found itself.

"If we play well this Saturday against Colorado, that shows me we are making some improvements as a team and that has always been our goal," Snyder said this week. "We want to get better every week. We have the opportunity on Saturday to show what kind of improvements we are making."

Colorado is coming off its best game of the season. Its running game has been productive at times as well, with tailback Rodney Stewart coming off his third 100-yard performance of the season. Stewart is the reigning co-offensive player of the week in the conference.

The Buffs won't have Darrell Scott in the backup role today. The sophomore underwent minor knee surgery on Thursday and is expected to miss two or three weeks. His absence will mean more opportunities for Brian Lockridge and Demetrius Sumler.

Scott will also be missed on kickoff returns and faces a team today that has enjoyed plenty of success in the kicking game over the past decade. The Buffs are just two weeks removed from a series of costly blunders on special teams that might have robbed them of an upset win at Texas.

KICKOFF: 10:40 a.m., Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000), Manhattan, Kan.

TELEVISION: Fox College Sports with Dan McLaughlin (play-by-play), Yogi Roth (color commentary) and Samantha Steele (sidelines).

RADIO: KOA (850 AM) will broadcast the game with Mark Johnson (play-by-play), Larry Zimmer (color commentary) and Charles Johnson (sidelines). The pre-game show begins at 8:30 a.m.

ODDS: Kansas State by 4.

THE COACHES: Dan Hawkins is 15-28 in his fourth year at Colorado and is 68-39 in his ninth season as a Division I head coach. Bill Snyder is 140-71-1 in his 18th season at KSU and as a Division I head coach.

RANKINGS: Neither team is ranked.

THE SERIES: This is the 65th meeting. Colorado holds a 44-19-1 advantage, including a 17-14-1 mark in Manhattan.

Close Window

Send To Printer

Woelk: More than survival at stake for Buffs

Posted: 10/24/2009 12:21:15 AM MDT

At the risk of attaching perhaps a bit too much importance to today's Colorado-Kansas State game, I'll say this much:

This is one of those season-defining games, the kind that people will look back to long after the year is complete.

In Dan Hawkins' three-plus years at CU, there have been only a handful of such games, beginning with the last two Nebraska contests. In those games, a Buff bowl bid hung in the balance both times.

Today, there is no bowl bid at stake, but there is plenty on the line.

If the Buffs can scratch out a rare road victory, it at least puts them in the conversation when it comes to Big 12 North contenders. Not the favorite -- not by any means -- but at least in the conversation.

Two weeks ago, even the mention of such a thought would have been ludicrous. Since then, the Buffs have put up a credible performance against Texas and a win over No. 17 Kansas. Couple that with the current state of the Big 12 North (yes, that's Kansas State atop the division this morning), and the Buffs, who opened the season with losses to Colorado State and Toledo, still have a chance to carve something respectable out of this season.

It won't be easy. Colorado has not been a good road team under Hawkins, and the Wildcats have a head of steam of their own after a stunningly easy win over Texas A&M. The Wildcats also have designs of putting a dent in the Big 12 North leaderboard, something most observers didn't believe possible after a 1-2 start that included a loss to Louisiana-Lafayette.

No doubt, there's a renewed sense of confidence among the Buffs these days. Sparked by new starting quarterback Tyler Hansen, the CU offense came alive last week with a solid performance against Kansas. Hansen's scrambling ability brings a new dimension to the Buff attack, one that no doubt kept Kansas State defensive coaches up late this week.

But a win today in the Little Apple will also require another solid effort from a CU defense that has been stellar against the run over the last two weeks. Such a performance will be crucial today against a K-State offense that hit Texas A&M with 232 yards on the ground. If Colorado can limit K-State's running game, it will force the Wildcats to the air -- and that's where KSU has been most susceptible this season.

What will be most interesting today, though, is to see how the Buffs react when there is clearly something on the line.

That's not a situation they've encountered much this season. Their stunning early season slide left them in a hole that put them in survival mode beginning in Week 3. Today, they are only beginning to be able to see out of that hole.

Now, there's something more than survival at stake -- again, a rarity in the Hawkins era.

The Buffs have spent most of the last three seasons trying to break even with respectability. It's been an uphill task, one that grew immensely this year with their early season slump.

But today, they have the opportunity today to turn some heads.

Simply, there's a little pressure on the Buffs. Hawkins and his staff may not agree with such an assessment, but you can bet the players feel it. They know what a win today would mean to the team. They know that folks around the conference are curious as to which team today in Manhattan will walk away with the designation as contender.

It's a terrific opportunity for Colorado. Win today and the pressure will grow -- which is exactly what fans want for their program. More wins, more pressure and more meaningful games.

Realistically, a loss today will not end the season. There will be five games remaining on the schedule no matter what happens.

But a win would be a statement that the Buffs and their coaching staff can handle the pressure of a meaningful game in October.

There have been precious few of those in past years. It will be interesting to see how they answer the bell in this one.

Close Window

Send To Printer

Colorado-Kansas State matchups

Kyle Ringo
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/24/2009 12:29:10 AM MDT

CU RUN OFFENSE VS. KSU RUN DEFENSE -- Rodney Stewart is coming off his third 100-yard game of the season against a Kansas defense that is rated better against the rush than Kansas State, which ranks 26th nationally. The Buffs still haven't put together their best game on the ground and continue to be one of the worst rushing teams in the nation (108th), despite Stewart. Not having Darrell Scott for the next several weeks will be a blow and Demetrius Sumler must come through with his best games of the year. This is one of those matchups and one of those opponents when the question must be asked. Do the stats thus far really mean much? That No. 26 ranking against the run has been built at KSU on wins against three sub-par nonconference teams and a game against Texas Tech, which passed the ball 49 times against the Wildcats. Throw in CU quarterback Tyler Hansen's scrambling ability and this might even tilt toward the Buffs. **Edge:** EVEN.

CU PASS OFFENSE VS. KSU PASS DEFENSE -- Weather conditions are always hard to predict this time of year on the Kansas prairie. Wind is usually a factor, and if it's strong, that will make this even more of a bulldozer battle than it already figures to be. Hansen wasn't spectacular in the passing game in his first last week, but he found a way to make plays. When he becomes adept at reading coverages and defenses before the snap, he could be a very dangerous player. Today is another step in that development against an improving KSU defense that has made nine interceptions so far this season. KSU has an average pass rush with 12 sacks in six games, but you can count on coaches trying to confuse Hansen and pressure him into making poor decisions. If the Colorado offensive line can give him some help, we're guessing he finds a way to make enough plays once again. **Edge:** EVEN.

KSU RUN OFFENSE VS. CU RUN DEFENSE -- Again, we must ask, what story do the stats really tell? Sure, Kansas State is averaging 184 yards per game on the ground and 4.1 yards per carry. Tailback Daniel Thomas is the Big 12 Conference's leading rusher. Do you feel a BUT coming on here? But, three of the Wildcats' four most productive offensive games this season came against Massachusetts, Louisiana-Lafayette and Tennessee Tech. Thomas hasn't had a 100-yard rushing performance against a Bowl Championship Series school yet and the Wildcats are averaging only 356 total yards of offense in three Big 12 games. CU is improving against the run, and has been tested by teams dedicated to running the ball such as Colorado State and West Virginia. CU has to guard against getting burned by runs from the quarterback. It will be a surprise today if they shut down the Wildcats on the road, but we'll give the Buffs a slight edge here. **Edge:** CU.

KSU PASS OFFENSE VS. CU PASS DEFENSE -- The Buffs want the game to come down to this matchup. If they can stop the KSU running game and at least play even on special teams, they figure to be in pretty good shape if Wildcats quarterbacks Grant Gregory and Carson Coffman have to be the difference makers. Kansas State has thrown for more than 200 yards in only one of its first six games. The two quarterbacks have played in all six games and have combined for five touchdown passes and five interceptions. The Buffs have improved in stopping big plays and in limiting yards after the catch. CU is also getting solid pressure on the quarterback with 17 sacks at the midway point of the season. The Buffs had 27 sacks all of last year. The Wildcats have weapons certainly capable of burning the Buffs, but we think CU has matured from its early season struggles. **Edge:** CU.

SPECIAL TEAMS -- Kansas State is always among the best in the nation in producing game-changing plays in the kicking game. They have blocked three kicks and returned three kickoffs for touchdowns already this season. Return man Brandon Banks is a threat on both kickoffs and punts. The numbers favor KSU nearly across the board here. CU does have one of the nation's best kickoff coverage units. Colorado place-kicker Aric Goodman might have a chance for another game-winning field goal in this one. He seems to be coming around and finally broke through from between 40 and 49 yards last week after starting his CU career going 0-for-8 from that area on the field. Not having Scott to return kickoffs could be a factor for the Buffs, but Brian Lockridge has been nearly as effective when he has had his opportunities. That wasn't going to sway this in CU's favor anyway. **Edge:** KSU.

COACHING -- This is Dan Hawkins' first encounter on the field with Bill Snyder and it comes in a stadium named for Snyder. No need to say who has the more impressive resume. These teams have produced similar seasons with close wins, big losses to teams they were favored to beat and some blowout victories, too. It was just two weeks ago that Kansas State was smoked at Texas Tech. The Wildcats continue to be wildly inconsistent. The Buffs seem to be improving every week. The next step is getting a win on the road. Dan Hawkins finds a way to snap the 2-year-old streak. **Edge:** EVEN.

PREDICTION -- Colorado 24-21

-- Kyle Ringo

Close Window

Send To Printer

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

Bufs aim for road reversal

CU is 2-16 in away games under coach Dan Hawkins

By Chris Dempsey
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/24/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



Quarterback Tyler Hansen, who will be making his second start of the season Saturday, has experience in tough circumstances when he had considerable playing time at Texas A&M last season. (AP file photo)

BOULDER — If Colorado could erase its recent road history and start anew, the team would jump at the chance.

CU is 2-16 on the road under coach Dan Hawkins, including last year's game against Florida State at Jacksonville, a contest that was technically a "neutral site" game although it was played in Florida and more than 1,700 miles from Boulder.

The Buffs have lost their past nine road games

Advertisement

Get a Free GE Home Alarm System
Call Now: 866-943-3874
Protect America



Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

— including Florida State — and have not won a Big 12 road contest since Oct. 27, 2007, when they beat Texas Tech 31-26. That year, CU also beat Baylor in Waco. Those are the two road wins in the Hawkins era.

"It's always tough to win on the road," Hawkins said earlier this week as the Buffs prepared for today's game at Kansas State. "So, you've got to understand all the variables that are working against you. Hopefully, your team gets to a point where they understand all of the things that are working against you, all the variables, and you work that much harder to counteract all that."

But the coach isn't worried.

"We'll see how they handle it," Hawkins said. "We'll see what happens when we get there. Certainly, I think they are poised for (success)."

Making matters a bit dicey is going into Kansas State with Tyler Hansen in just his second start at quarterback this season. Hansen did play against the Wildcats last year and had success in the 14-13 victory, but the road is a different animal.

Colorado hasn't won in Manhattan since a 23-20 win in 2005. However, the Buffs have been good at KSU — 17-14-1 there all-time.

Hansen says his experience last year on the road at Texas A&M, where he had 86 yards rushing and a touchdown pass, will help Saturday.

"Texas A&M was a loud place last year," Hansen said. "As a true freshman, I had to deal with the

line not being able to hear me and stuff like that. So, I know what that's going to be like and I can deal with it."

Under Hawkins, the Buffs have altered their road routine a bit, staying in town to practice Friday instead of flying out and going through a run-through at the stadium.

"I don't think that's been a huge thing for our guys," Hawkins said. "But I always talk about relaxed focus. I like that. You shouldn't be gritting your teeth, but you're not going on vacation either."

Hawkins stressed there isn't a singular message he gives to the team prior to road games. It differs depending on the opponent and the situation the Buffs find themselves in.

What he will talk about is a Kansas State team that has the ability to collect turnovers and turn them into points, as the Wildcats did last week in a 62-14 win over Texas A&M.

"They're a tough defense," wide receiver Scotty McKnight said. "Their offense is putting up a ton of points. . . . Anytime you see an offense doing that you have to be prepared for a shootout."

Chris Dempsey: 303-954-1279 or cdempsey@denverpost.com

Advertisement



Send flowers for any occasion

Bouquets \$19.99 +s/h

from

ProFlowers®

Order ONLY at proflowers.com/happy or call 1-877-888-0688

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**

[Print page](#)[Close window](#)

Longmont, Colorado
Thursday, November 12,
2009

Publish Date: 10/24/2009

Buffs seek way to win when they leave the state

By Patrick Ridgell
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Road to ruin.

That might describe the Colorado Buffaloes' recent excursions outside of their home state. "Road to nowhere" works. "Road less traveled" sort of does, though it doesn't appear the Buffs find themselves when they leave Boulder.

Today at Kansas State, CU visits a program that loses by 52 points one week, then wins by 48 the next. The Buffs have won twice in Manhattan this decade: in 2001 and 2005. Not surprisingly, CU won the Big 12 North both times. In 2001, it won the Big 12.

Back in August, this was one of those games deemed winnable for the Buffs, and nothing has changed that. And nothing has changed regarding CU's fortunes — the Buffs had better figure out a way to win some football games when they venture out of town, or there'll be only one way to describe their travels: road kill.

CU has lost its past 10 times it has left the state. It has two true road wins during coach Dan Hawkins' tenure. That's 2-17 beyond Colorado's borders. It's almost two years since the Buffs won at Texas Tech, which had more or less overlooked its visitors. Terrence Wheatley picking off those three passes that day helped, too.

At least one Buff, freshman Forrest West, acknowledged that when something goes bad on the road, they don't always handle it well.

"We have to go hard throughout the whole game," West said. "Sometimes on the road, momentum completely shifts, and we play a little bit differently. We can't do that anymore this season."

The most glaring example at Texas came when the Longhorns intercepted a pass and returned it 92 yards for a touchdown when the Buffs threatened to take the lead. CU couldn't get out of its own way the rest of the night.

It's not like every loss has been an embarrassment or the Buffs have played poorly in each one. But the losses seemed to affect the players and coaches to varying degrees.

Pain from the loss at Nebraska last year lingers. The Buffs should have beaten Georgia in 2006 and could have beaten Texas A&M in 2008. Missouri in 2008? Toledo last month? Ugh.

There isn't much left to ask the coach about CU's travel troubles. Hawkins believes his team is poised for a breakthrough. He still wants the players to understand the variables that leaving Boulder presents. He addresses the road losing streak with them, and in different ways. Each trip presents new challenges.

Countdown to kickoff

Colorado (2-4, 1-1)
at Kansas State (4-3, 2-1)

When: Today, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Bill Snyder Family Stadium in Manhattan, Kan.

TV/Radio: FCS-C/850-AM

The series: CU leads 44-19-1, 17-14-1 in Manhattan. Kansas State has won two of the past three meetings.

In the spotlight: CU — QB Tyler Hansen: He had a successful first start, and now must build upon it.

Kansas State: KR Brandon Banks — CU was vulnerable to big returns against Texas, and Banks already has three kick returns for touchdowns (two came against Tennessee Tech). He leads the Big 12 with 31.2 yards per try.

When CU has the ball: If Rodney Stewart's rolled ankle is a problem, the Buffs are in trouble. CU needs a running game to keep defenses honest and help Hansen, who's making only his fourth start. Kansas State's erratic results the past two weeks make conclusions difficult to draw. That's straight from coach Bill Snyder. But the Buffs still trail the rest of the conference in points and yards.

Advantage: Kansas State

When Kansas State has the ball: This should be interesting. Kansas State — behind tailbacks Daniel Thomas and Keithen Valentine, plus quarterback Grant Gregory — wants to run the ball. The Buffs want to stop the run, and they have the past two weeks.

Hawkins said the Buffs sport a business-type mindset when they travel. He wants things professional and efficient.

“I always talk about relaxed focus,” he said. “I like that; we shouldn’t be gritting our teeth.”

But then there’s this, from one of his team captains:

“It’s a mindset,” senior linebacker Marcus Burton said. “We have to play fired up and stay fired up.”

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

Advantage: Even

Special teams: Kansas State’s special teams are a staple of its success, and it already has three kick returns for touchdowns and three blocked kicks in 2009. Last time CU visited Manhattan, a blocked punt turned things completely in Kansas State’s favor. Meanwhile, CU leads the Big 12 in kickoff coverage and its kick return, even without Darrell Scott, is dangerous.

Advantage: Even

Prediction: Tough call, but CU’s recent improvement against Texas and Kansas gives it the edge.

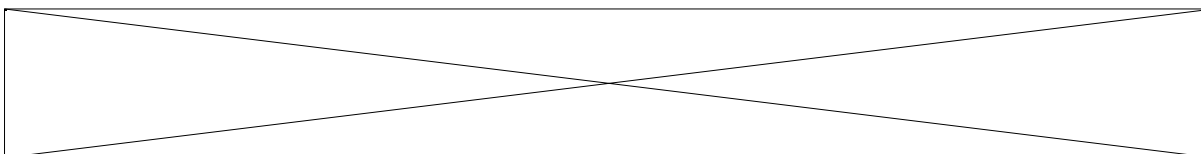
CU 28, Kansas State 26

Patrick Ridgell

[ESPN](#)The logo features the ESPN 'U' logo on the left, followed by the words 'College Football' in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font.

- [TV](#)
- [RADIO](#)
- [MAGAZINE](#)
- [INSIDER](#)
- [SHOP](#)
- [ESPN360](#)
- [SPORTSCENTER](#)

- [Register Now](#)
- [myESPN \(Sign In\)](#)

The logo features the Big 12 'XII' logo on the left, followed by the words 'Big 12 Blog' in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font.

- [Blogs Home](#)
- [College FB Nation](#)
- [ACC](#)
- [Big 12](#)
- [Big East](#)
- [Big Ten](#)
- [Pac-10](#)
- [SEC](#)

[Hansen helps trigger Colorado turnaround](#)

October, 23, 2009

Oct 23

12:55

PM ET

[EmailShare](#)

By Tim Griffin

Posted by ESPN.com's Tim Griffin



Ron Cheney-US PRESSWIRE

Buffaloes quarterback Tyler Hansen has helped change the attitude on his team.

After leading his team to its first conference victory last week, Colorado quarterback [Tyler Hansen](#) is struck by the dramatic attitude change about his team.

"It's kind of weird," Hansen said. "We were 1-4 and struggling only a couple of weeks ago. But now we've got a win and everybody is talking about us going to the Big 12 championship. It shows how everything can change quickly. You just have to be resilient."

The biggest reason has been the play of Hansen, who earlier this season appeared headed for a redshirt season.

That all changed a couple of weeks ago when Colorado coach Dan Hawkins benched his son, Cody, and inserted Hansen into the lineup at halftime of a loss at Texas. The result has been a more productive offense with Hansen in charge, helping to lead the Buffaloes to a stunning 34-30 victory over Kansas last week.

"It was an awesome experience and a great victory for our team," Hansen said. "Hopefully, we can build momentum from it where we can hope to take the Big 12 North. Coach Hawkins said we were right there -- really close. We just needed a little spark and I guess I was the spark."

His big effort has propelled the Buffaloes into a key early-season showdown at North Division leader Kansas State on Saturday. The winner will claim an early share of first place in the wacky North, where four teams have one loss and the Wildcats are ahead because of their 2-1 conference record.

Hansen's statistics were rather pedestrian -- 175 yards passing, a touchdown run and a touchdown pass and 34 net rushing yards after three sacks. But it was his leadership and moxie that caught the attention of rival coaches after they analyzed his game.

"He's a little scary to be going up against," Kansas State coach Bill Snyder told reporters earlier this week. "I looked at the stats after the game and thought they weren't very dynamic in that respect. But then you watch their game film and you say 'Wow!' That guy can really fly around and make things happen."

The Colorado offense has sputtered earlier in the year, but Hansen directed them on four scoring drives in a five-possession period late in the first half last week that boosted the Buffaloes into an early 24-3 lead against the Jayhawks.

And then after Kansas had rallied to reclaim the lead early in the fourth quarter, Hansen coolly directed a 10-play, 76-yard game-winning touchdown drive in the fourth quarter that provided the margin of victory.

Some have compared Hansen to Kansas quarterback [Todd Reesing](#) because of his size, elusiveness and maneuverability.

"He's a very smart kid, he's very competitive and he's a good player so it didn't surprise me at all that he played well," Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said. "I think our team is getting better and has gone through a few situations, so I was not surprised by the victory and I wasn't surprised with the way he played, not at all."

Hansen similarly burned his redshirt season late last year, directing the Buffaloes to a victory over Kansas State. But he struggled as the season went on and [Cody Hawkins](#) reclaimed the starting job by the end of the year.

"I'm just more relaxed than before," Hansen said. "Last year, playing before 60,000 for the first time was kind of overwhelming. This year, I've seen and played in those situations, so I'm a little more relaxed."

Before both decisions, Hansen counseled with his father, former San Diego State college quarterback and current high school coach Rick Hansen, before deciding to play.

"He told me there are no guarantees in life and I might not get a chance to play again," Hansen said. "When you get the opportunity, I think you've got to take it. It was a big decision that could affect the rest of my life, but I prayed about, talked to the coach and went ahead."

Colorado fans showed their appreciation for the Kansas victory by charging the field after the upset. Hansen savored that celebration after so much disappointment around the program earlier in the season.

"It was unbelievable to see that," Hansen said. "There are no words to explain that feeling. Earlier, there was all of that talk about Coach Hawkins being fired and cleaning up shop. Everybody was disappointed after our 1-4 start. But then to show them we are still here and to be able to turn them around after the win was just a great feeling."

Tags:

[Colorado Buffaloes](#), [Kansas Jayhawks](#), [Kansas State Wildcats](#), [Bill Snyder](#), [Todd Reesing](#), [Dan Hawkins](#), [Tyler Hansen](#), [Cody Hawkins](#), [Rick Hansen](#)



Posted on Fri, Oct. 23, 2009

Wildcats have to show they can stay motivated after big win

MANHATTAN, Kan. | Kansas State proved last week it is capable of moving on from a tough loss. Today we find out whether the Wildcats can do the same after a big win.

With K-State sitting atop the Big 12 North standings, and first place on the line at 11:30 a.m. against Colorado, there is more than enough motivation to go around.

But different kinds of motivation can do funny things to football teams. Some play well when faced with adversity. Others perform best during prosperous times.

"There's not really a lot of time to think about what happened the previous game because you have one day to process the emotions that come with either a win or a loss," K-State coach Bill Snyder said. "So it is very important for myself and the rest of the coaching staff to keep our players focused on the task at hand."

Still, the last two weeks aren't easy to forget. First was the 66-14 loss at Texas Tech, followed by the 62-14 domination of Texas A&M.

"You're at both ends of the spectrum the last two weeks," K-State quarterback Grant Gregory said. "It could happen again either way. That's what makes this game so great. You can go out there and get creamed. You can also go out there and cream somebody. You don't know what's going to happen."

But players can determine how well they practice. Last week, the Wildcats said they worked harder after the Texas Tech loss.

Could they put the same amount of effort into drills this week, with duplicating the Texas A&M game as their motivation?

"We can't really just rest on the win that we got last week," left tackle Nick Stringer said. "We have to work even harder. We've got to get better."

Colorado at Kansas State

•**WHEN:** 11:30 a.m. today

•**WHERE:** Bill Snyder Family Stadium, Manhattan, Kan.

•**TV/RADIO:** Fox College Sports Central; WHB (810 AM)

Other story lines

•**HOW GOOD IS HANSEN?** Sophomore Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen shocked Kansas last week with his mobility, but the K-State coaching staff has had a week to plan for him. Can Hansen be as effective against the Wildcats?

•**FITZGERALD COMING ON:** Senior defensive end Jeffrey Fitzgerald looked like a legit pro prospect rushing the quarterback a week ago. A repeat effort would help K-State tremendously.

•**TIME-OF-POSSESSION BATTLE:** Both the Wildcats and Buffaloes pride themselves on holding the ball for long lengths of time. K-State averages almost 35 minutes per game; Colorado comes in at 31:13.

| Kellis Robinett, The Star

© 2009 Kansas City Star and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.kansascity.com>

THE MANHATTAN MERCURY

Wildcats look to cool Colorado's new QB in his tracks

Joshua Kinder jkindier@themercury.com

The numbers did not impress Kansas State coach Bill Snyder.

According to the box score, it was by most standards, a below-average day throwing the football.

All that changed once Snyder watched the game and saw Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen make plays, improvising at times, to lead the Buffaloes to a 34-30 upset win over a Top 25 Kansas team last Saturday.

"(Kansas coach) Mark (Mangino) said after the ballgame that the difference was Tyler Hansen and I look at the stats and see that they're not real dynamic in that respect," Snyder said. "Well, then you watch the game and you say, 'wow, this guy can really fly around.' He can run, he's elusive, he can make you miss; he can throw the ball well. He's a pretty good player."

Hansen, in his first start of the season last week, completed 14-of-25 passes for 175 yards with one touchdown and one interception. For the second straight season, the sophomore had his redshirt pulled midseason -- both times at the expense of junior Cody Hawkins.

But with one start, the 6-foot-1, 200pound Hansen has appeared to be securely in the driver's seat of a Colorado offense that has struggled to score points all season.

"He's a very smart kid, he's very competitive and he's a good player so it didn't surprise me at all that he played well," Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said. "I think our team is getting better and has gone through a few situations, so I was not surprised by the victory and I wasn't surprised with the way he played, not at all."

K-State (4-3, 2-1 Big 12), coming off a big win of its own last weekend and in first place in the Big 12 North, will look to temper Colorado's momentum on Saturday when the Wildcats host the Buffaloes for an 11:30 kickoff at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Hansen won't be the first athletic quarterback K-State has seen this season, though. The Wildcats dealt with Texas Tech's Steven Sheffield, who was mobile, but relied more on his 490 yards passing and seven TDs to dismantle the KSU defense. The most success K-State had against a dual-threat QB was last week when the Wildcats locked down on Texas A&M's Jerrod Johnson who came into the game among

the nation's leaders in total offense but left on the short end of a 62-14 rout.

"You watch the KU game and he's all over the place," Snyder said of Hansen.

"The numbers don't necessarily fortify that... You watch the game and you see big play after big play. They get him trapped and he gets out of it, gets the ball off, and if you don't stay in coverage, he's going to find somebody free running around. And he can get the ball to them because he can throw it well."

Statistically, Hansen's rushing numbers were quite modest last week -- 11 carries for 34 yards. However, Hansen actually gained 64 yards, but took a hit on three sacks.

While Hansen is trying to find a comfort level on the field, Saturday won't be the first time K-State has seen the dynamic quarterback in action. Hansen was on the winning side of a 14-13 loss for K-State in Boulder a year ago -- his first career game.

K-State safety Tysyn Hartman thinks Hansen is better than he was last season when he completed 7-of-14 passes for 71 yards, while rushing for 86 yards on 19 carries against the Wildcats.

"He's a good athlete and not much different than the other athletic quarterbacks we've faced thus far," said Hartman, who leads KSU with four interceptions this season. "He can throw it well and move around the pocket well. He can escape and make some things happen in that area too.

Seeing him on film, he's gotten a little bit better since then, too."

Hansen is just one part of a Colorado offense that is starting to turn a corner, due in large part to its running game led by sophomore Rodney Stewart, who averages 83.6 yards on the ground per game. Stewart is coming off a 108-yard, two-touchdown performance against Kansas last week that helped him earn Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week honors.

As a team though, Colorado (2-4, 1-1) ranks 11th in the conference in rushing at just 94 yards per game and 2.9 yards per rush. Snyder said the numbers, again, don't tell the whole story.

"When you take away all the sacks that they've had, they're pretty good at rushing the football," Snyder said. "They can put several backs in there that can run it well. Now, when you add the new quarterback there, that changes things dramatically. Up front, they're good run-blockers and their schemes are good. They make you have to make a lot of adjustments on the move, prior to the snap."

Colorado has had its share of struggles on the other side of the ball too, ranking last in the Big 12 in total defense -- 11th against the pass and ninth against the run -- while allowing 30 points per game, which is also 11th best in the Big 12.

All of that could prove to be good news for a K-State offense that appears to be hitting its stride, especially after its near 500-yard and 62point outburst against the Aggies last week. The Wildcats are tied for second

in the Big 12 with 184 rushing yards per game, while finally finding some stability at quarterback in Grant Gregory.

The senior transfer turned in his most efficient performance of the season last week by completing 10-of-13 passes for 147 yards and a score.

"I think that he has made some significant improvements, but I also think that he has some issues that have to get cleaned up still," Snyder said.

"Those issues may be associated with his inexperience in our system, but that will come with time. But I thought that he played well against Texas A&M and hopefully he can continue to improve over the course of the season."

Gregory, who has just three career starts under his belt, said that despite the newfound success on offense, there is zero chance of it all going to his head.

"When you've been on the bottom so long, when you haven't accomplished much in your career, you know how easy it is to go from the penthouse to the outhouse," he said. "I'm not going to get overconfident in any way. I know there's a lot to improve on. I mean, two weeks ago, we were getting beat by 60 points."

Saturday's game will mark the second of a stretch of four home games in five weeks for the Wildcats -- sandwiched around a road trip to Norman, Okla., next week to face the Sooners.

HOME THEATER EXPERTS!**ALEXANDER
& RAY'S****TV
& APPLIANCES**1740 E Harold St
Olathe, KS 66061
913-764-2424www.alexraytv.com
KansasCity.com
THE STAR

upon further review

analytical commentary and insight on Kansas City sports

[HOME](#) [KANSASCITY.COM](#) [SPORTS](#) [CHIEFS](#) [ROYALS](#) [COLLEGE FOOTBALL](#) [COLLEGE BASKETBALL](#) [MISCELLANEOUS](#)[Home](#)

COOL FACTOIDS OF THE DAY

- The Nets are the 24th NBA team to begin 0-8. Two of the 23 other teams won 40 games and 4 of them made the playoffs.
- Phoenix is the 1st team to reach 100+ pts in each of its first 9 games since the Jazz opened with a 12-game streak in 1994.

CONTRIBUTOR

- Martin Manley: Mission statement and contact info here.

RECOMMENDED BLOGS

- 82 Games
- Baseball Prospectus
- Basketball Prospectus
- Football Outsiders
- HoopStats - NBA
- HoopsZone - KU
- More Cool Factoids
- Pro Football Reference
- The Hardball Times
- Ball Star
- Red Zone

Wildcats vs Buffaloes



KSU Football

Snyder: "One might think that coming off the loss at Texas Tech would be very emotionally difficult. But in order to get ready for the next game you always have to keep things in perspective. You have to be careful about how you think about the previous game. You have to put the past behind you in order to focus on the next game. There's not really a lot of time to think about what happened the previous game because you have one day to process the emotions that come with either a win or a loss. So, it

is very important for myself and the rest of the coaching staff to keep our players focused on the task at hand."

KSU favored by 4.5

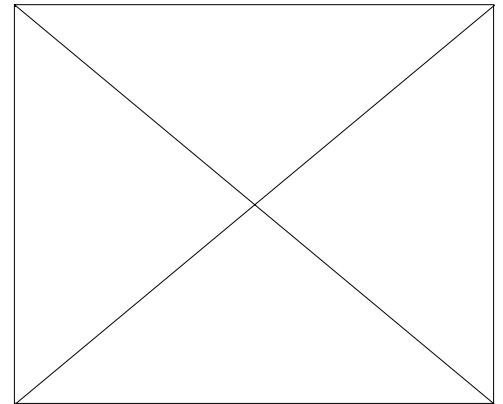
KSU vs COLORADO RAW STATS - NATIONAL CATEGORY RANKINGS

Category	Kansas State		Colorado	
Rush Y/G	184.0	33	94.0	108
Pass Y/G	182.9	95	217.5	61
Pass EFF.	132.1	55	102.8	109
Total Off.	366.9	69	311.5	103
Score Off.	27.7	58	25.2	78
Rush Def.	106.4	26	140.7	66
Pass Def.	233.0	81	254.5	105
Total Def.	339.4	47	395.2	96
Score Def.	23.9	63	30.0	100
Turnover Margin	+0.86	17	-0.33	76

SERIES: Colorado leads 44-19-1

2008: Colorado 14, Kansas State 13

COLORADO: 2-4 overall record and a 1-1 mark in Big 12



USER LOGIN

Username: *

Password: *

[Create new account](#)[Request new password](#)

MARTIN'S BEST

- 5 Things Right about the BCS System
- BCS Tournament - My Idea

Conference play after its big 34-30 win over Kansas last week. CU has yielded just 38 total rushing yards in its two Big 12 contests, which includes holding Kansas to -8 yards on the ground last week.

Rodney Stewart has led the offense with 418 yards rushing and five touchdowns, while Hansen has completed 17-of-30 passes on the season and also poses a threat running the ball. Scotty McKnight leads the receivers with 35 catches for 370 yards and three scores. On defense, Colorado is paced by Jeff Smart's 46 tackles, while Marquez Herrod's 4.5 sacks and 7.0 tackles for loss leads the defense and Jalil Brown has six breakups and two interceptions in the secondary.

K-STATE: After an impressive 62-14 win over Texas A&M last week, the Cats look to improve upon their 3-0 record at home in 2009 when they play Colorado Saturday in the homecoming game.

VS A&M: The Wildcat defense was the story of last week's win over Texas A&M as the unit shut down one of the league's top offenses. K-State, with six sacks, doubled its season total to 12 and picked off Aggie quarterback Jerrod Johnson three times after he had set a new Big 12 record for consecutive pass attempts without throwing an interception. Jeffrey Fitzgerald, John Houlik and Joshua Moore led the defense last weekend as Fitzgerald had 2.5 sacks, forced a fumble and recovered another, Houlik had 3.5 tackles for loss and a breakup and Moore had three breakups, an interception and 1.5 TFL's.

WHAT A TURNAROUND: K-State's 62-14 win over Texas A&M was impressive in all three phases of the game. A week after dropping a 66-14 contest at Texas Tech, the Cats responded with a 100-point turnaround from being defeated by 52 points to winning by 48. In fact, the 100-point differential is the largest in school history in consecutive games as the next closest was a 92-point difference in 1999 after the Nebraska and Missouri games.

AGAINST THE NORTH: K-State will look for its third straight win (second this season) against a north division opponent on Saturday. The Wildcats are 42-24 (.631) vs. division opponents since 1996, which is second to only Nebraska among Big 12 North schools.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES: Kansas State has put an emphasis on defensive improvement in 2009 after the Wildcats finished towards the bottom of the NCAA rankings a year ago; and after seven games this season, the Cats are well on their way to being one of the most improved units in all of college football.

After averaging nearly 218 yards rushing allowed and 261 yards passing a year ago, K-State has held its opponents to just 339.4 total yards a game, 233.0 through the air and 106.4 on the ground. The numbers through seven games compared to last year are more impressive as the Cats have surrendered nearly 100 less total yards a game. The Cats rank fifth in the Big 12 in total defense, sixth in rushing defense and seventh in passing defense.

GETTING DEFENSIVE: Through seven games this season, K-State's defense has done a masterful job of holding its opponent and getting its offense back on the field. The Cats have forced their opponents into 21 three-and-outs, including five against Texas A&M and four each against Louisiana, Tennessee Tech and Iowa State, but what is more impressive is that K-State has held opponents to six plays or less (without

scoring) on 57 drives this season. Also, the Wildcats have allowed 26 plays of 20 or more yards this season after surrendering a whopping 75 all of last season (33 through the first seven games).

GROUND GAINS ON DEFENSE: K-State's rush defense has yielded just 106.4 yards on the ground this season and held both Texas A&M (-13 yards) and Tennessee Tech (-19) to negative rushing yards, the fewest surrendered since the 2002 Baylor game (-37). Also, the two negative rushing performances were the fourth (-19) and seventh (-13) lowest totals allowed in a game this season in the nation.

GROUND GAINS ON OFFENSE: Kansas State's controlled running game this season has been led by running backs Daniel Thomas and Keithen Valentine as the duo has combined for 995 yards (5.4 yards a carry and 142.1 yards per game) in seven games. Valentine has quietly averaged a Big-12-best 8.1 yards a carry, while Thomas has been the workhorse for the Wildcat offensive attack.

GRINDING IT OUT: Kansas State has shown the ability to grind it out offensively through seven games as the Wildcats have collected 132 first downs and averaged 184.0 rushing yards a game. Of K-State's 27 scoring drives this season, 16 have covered 50 or more yards and eight have consisted of 10 or more plays. Because of the consistent rushing attack and the ability to sustain drives, K-State has possessed the ball for an average of 34:41 per game this season, a figure that currently ranks first in the Big 12 and second in the nation.

LIGHT UP THE BOARD: Kansas State's offensive outbreak against Texas A&M ranks as one of the top scoring performances by a Bill Snyder-coached team and in school history. The 62 points scored last week were the most against a Big 12 South opponent under Snyder and were the most in a conference game since scoring 64 points at Kansas in 2002. Also, K-State's 38 points in the first half tied for the second-most in a Big 12 Conference game. The Cats also scored 38 in a half against Kansas in 2000.

CATS OWN NATION'S 10TH-LONGEST SCORING STREAK: Kansas State extended one of the nation's longest scoring streaks last week against Texas A&M. The Wildcats have now tallied points in 159 consecutive games. The 159-game stretch is the 10th-longest streak in the nation after Colorado and Washington State - who each held a spot in the top 10 - were blanked in a game last season. The Wildcats have not been kept off the scoreboard since Colorado shutout K-State, 12-0, on Nov. 16, 1996. In the Big 12, only Nebraska (169 games) owns a longer streak than the Cats.

HOME SWEET HOME: Few teams in college football have taken care of their home field as well as the Wildcats since the start of the 1990 season. Over the past 18 years, K-State is an amazing 104-23-1 (.816) when playing at Bill Snyder Family Stadium, including a 50-17-1 mark (.743) in league games (combined Big 8/Big 12).

RUNNING WILD: Daniel Thomas has done most of his damage on the ground as he is second in the Big 12 with 669 rushing yards on a conference-high 145 attempts. Thomas, who is 25th nationally in rushing yards per game, is seventh in the country in rushing attempts. When you also add in his 17 receptions for 187 yards, Thomas is fifth in the Big 12 in all-purpose yardage at 125.9 yards per game. Thomas' season was jump-started by a consecutive 100-yard rushing games against UMass and Louisiana, the first time since Cornelius Davis in 1966 that a

Wildcat had back-to-back 100-yard rushing games to start a career.

SCORING MACHINE: Running back Daniel Thomas moved into elite status against Texas A&M as he was a vital part in the Wildcats' rout of the Aggies. Thomas, who entered the game with four rushing touchdowns, scored four touchdowns on the ground - all in the first half. His four rushing touchdowns tied for second in school history as he became the sixth player (seventh occurrence) to register four or more rushing scores in a game. Even more impressive is that his four rushing scores were the most in the Big 12 this season, as well as the fourth best in the nation.

OFF TO THE RACES: Last season, Brandon Banks was known as the small, shifty wide receiver that collected over 1,000 receiving yards. This season, Banks is becoming known as the versatile athlete who can make a significant contribution on special teams as well.

Banks exploded with returns of 91 and 92 yards for scores against Tennessee Tech, setting a school and Big 12 record for kickoff return touchdowns in a single game. Also, Banks tied the NCAA Division I-A record, becoming the 12th player (13th time) to return two kickoffs for scores in a single game.

Banks came back to return a kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown against Texas A&M to set the school and Big 12 record for kickoff-return touchdowns in a season, while he tied the conference record with four in a career. The Garner, N.C., native's 29.6-yard average on kickoff returns currently ranks first in school and Big 12 history.

ALL-PURPOSE PLAYER: When you add his receiving number to his kickoff return yards, Brandon Banks also ranks as one of the best players in school history in all-purpose yardage. Banks, who is second in the Big 12 and 10th nationally in the category, currently ranks second in school history in all-purpose yardage per game (155.1), while he needs just 56 yards to tie for 10th in a career. Also, Banks' current 173.1-yard mark this season currently ranks third in school history.

Against the Tennessee Tech, Banks had 303 all-purpose yards, the fifth-most in school history and the most since Darren Sproles notched the school record of 351 on September 18, 2004, against Louisiana.

Submitted by Martin Manley on October 23, 2009 - 1:38am.
College Football - KSU | Stories | [login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

NOT a Catbacker but . . .

Submitted by brent on October 23, 2009 - 10:13am.

As a Tigers alum, it was painful enough to see the score of last year's game once in your summary of the Mizzou/UT game this year. To see it again here (when you intended to put the score of last year's KSU/CU game), is just too much to take.

Thanks for all the hard work

brent

[login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

Brent

Submitted by Martin Manley on October 23, 2009 - 1:23pm.

Thanks for bringing that to my attention. As is probably obvious, I did the MU post first and then cut and pasted the top part of it to the KSU post. I thought I typed over all the MU stuff, but obviously forgot the 2008 score.

Working with editing as my day job I see lots of mistakes that others catch. Of course, you have to have editors in a newspaper because once it goes to print, you're screwed! Still, I've seen thousands of times when someone catches something that got by someone else.

Frankly, it's a modern-day miracle I don't make a hundred times as many of these types of errors as I do considering how much data I plow through.

Martin

[login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Shop Local](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)
[About www.kansascity.com](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#)
[Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [Copyright](#)

Matching Up

By Grant Guggisberg

Published: Friday, October 23, 2009

Updated: Friday, October 23, 2009

Offense

The Wildcat offense showed it has the potential to score points in large numbers last week against Texas A&M. However, they have also shown all season that inconsistency is a big problem. The Wildcats were efficient on offense, especially at the line of scrimmage, with running back Daniel Thomas scoring four touchdowns. The Wildcats also benefited from a short field on most drives. Time of possession will be an important statistic for the Wildcats against Colorado. Neither offense is particularly efficient, which could make for an ugly game, similar to last year's 14-13 loss.

The Colorado Buffaloes were efficient last week in their defeat of Kansas at home. Their quarterback, Tyler Hansen, has played well after replacing Cody Hawkins in the starting lineup. Hansen brings to the table more mobility, with the opportunity to use his feet to stifle the Wildcat defense. Last season, Hansen split time with Hawkins at quarterback, similar to the way Grant Gregory and Carson Coffman are splitting time for the Wildcats now. The Buffaloes also have a quality running back in Rodney Stewart, who is averaging more than 80 yards per game.

Defense

The K-State defense shined last week in a surprising turnaround, giving up no meaningful points in the game, with the second unit giving up just two touchdowns to the high-scoring Aggie offense. The defensive line stepped up and put pressure on the opposing quarterback all game long, forcing him into errant throws and three interceptions. The Wildcats will need to do their best to contain Buffalo quarterback Tyler Hansen, who is known for his abilities as a mobile quarterback. Limiting big plays and controlling the line of scrimmage will be key to a Wildcat victory Saturday.

The Buffalo defense has given up large amounts of points in every game so far this season. Colorado opponents have averaged 30 points per game, including a 54-point loss to Toledo. In addition, the defense is giving up nearly 400 yards of offense to opposing teams. Colorado does boast a solid defensive line, with 17 sacks so far this season, with five of those 17 coming against the Kansas Jayhawks last week. The Buffalo secondary has been largely unproductive, coming up with only four interceptions through the first six games. The secondary will need to protect against big plays by the Wildcats.

Special Teams

The Wildcat special teams have performed admirably in the past few weeks, with each game bringing improvement to the table. Kick returner Brandon Banks has done especially well, taking a kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown, his third of the year. In addition, Josh Cherry has shown improvement and has had fewer pressure-filled situations in recent weeks.

The Buffalo special teams have been average this season. Against Texas, they gave up two special teams touchdowns on punt plays, while netting only 31 yards on punts all season. They have fared well blocking kicks, with three blocked kicks on the season. Their return game has been decent, and they have held opposing teams' returners to just 16 yards on kickoffs.

Prediction

K-State 31, Colorado 17

This is another game that could go either way, with K-State having the edge playing at home. Colorado showed last week against Kansas that it can come up with big plays to win games, but on the road, the Buffaloes have not fared well. The 54-point loss at Toledo was an embarrassment, and the Buffaloes have not had the season they were hoping for. I would guess head coach Bill Snyder will have the Wildcats prepared for a physical game that will be won or lost at the line of scrimmage. In the end, Colorado makes too many mistakes and will fall to the Wildcats.

Powered by  and 



YOU ARE HERE: [CJOnline](#) » [Sports](#) » [Football](#)

3 questions, K-State vs. CU



OCTOBER 2008 FILE PHOTOGRAPH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen, front left, runs for a long gain against Kansas State in a NCAA college football game in Boulder, Colo., on Oct. 18, 2008. Hansen is a threat to escape the pocket under pressure, and he forces defenders to stay in coverage when a play breaks down.

Can either team win the North?

BY [AUSTIN MEEK](#)

Created October 23, 2009 at 1:03pm

Updated October 23, 2009 at 3:52pm

1. Can either of these teams win the North?

Both Kansas State and Colorado looked impressive in wins last week -- the Buffaloes in a upset of Kansas, and the Wildcats in a blowout against Texas A&M. Is it a fluke that K-State and Colorado now will play for top billing in the Big 12 North?

Saturday won't provide a definitive answer, but at least we will have a better idea. If K-State handles Colorado easily, fans will hold out hope that K-State can do the same against KU and Missouri. But an unimpressive performance against the Buffs means Wildcat fans might want to enjoy this first-place thing while it lasts.

2. Can K-State pressure the quarterback?

K-State finally found a consistent pass rush last week against Texas A&M, recording a season-high six sacks. And Colorado's quarterbacks have been dropped 16 times this season, which ties for 10th in the Big 12.

The wild card here is Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen, who provides more mobility than recently benched Cody Hawkins. Hansen is a threat to escape the pocket under pressure, and he forces defenders to stay in coverage when a play breaks down.

3. Will the Buffs run the ball?

With Hansen under center, you can bet Colorado will be looking to establish the run. Rodney Stewart is the league's No. 4 rusher, and he will be carrying the load with Darrell Scott sidelined.

K-State coach Bill Snyder said Colorado's overall rushing numbers -- the Buffs rank 11th in the league at 94 yards per game -- are somewhat skewed by yardage lost to sacks. We will see whether Colorado can pound the ball against a Wildcat defense that limited Texas A&M to minus-13 rushing yards.