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CU football: Cody Hawkins gets some help heading into game at Texas

By The Denver Post

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BOULDER — Speaking Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said the offensive staff "has a bead on some things" that should help junior quarterback Cody Hawkins minimize his mistakes as the team prepares for Saturday's game at No. 2 Texas.

Cody ranks last among Big 12 starting quarterbacks in pass efficiency with a 104.2 rating. The next-lowest is the 116.9 rating of Kansas State's Carson Coffman. Blaine Gabbert of Missouri leads with a 168.6 rating.

"I think we're on to a few things and will try to clean up a few things here or there," Dan Hawkins said. "That involves a lot of different scope and sequence."

Through four games, Cody has thrown for seven touchdowns and seven interceptions. No other Big 12 quarterback has thrown for that many picks.

"The interceptions, to me, are obviously the most alarming part," Dan Hawkins said. "They've all been sort of different, in different cases. I do think he's been pounded a little bit, so I think he has a tendency to get it out (too quickly).

"I think also, most of the time when he throws it to Scotty (McKnight), he doesn't throw an interception. Cody has a pretty good idea of where Scotty is going to be and what he's going to do. (Having new receivers), that's part of it."

Acknowledging only that he is working on "some things," Cody Hawkins said it's important to put skill players in situations in which they can find a rhythm.

"We need to play within ourselves," he said. "If we try to stretch what we're capable of doing, guys are going to press a little bit and might make some errors."

Camping with Mack.

Cody Hawkins spent part of the summer before his sophomore year of high school at the Texas football camp in Austin. Growing up in Boise, Idaho, Hawkins said he was "a big fan" of the Longhorns.

Hawkins recalled waiting three hours to get his picture taken with 'Horns coach Mack Brown. "But

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I don't think I ever paid for one. I don't know if I brought it home," Hawkins said.

Footnotes.

Dan Hawkins said reserve wide receiver Anthony Wright (ankle sprain) and starting center Mike Iltis (concussion) will be available for Saturday's game at Texas. Also, sophomore Jason Espinoza (thumb fracture) may not be limited to returning punts and could also return to his duties at wide receiver. . . . Hawkins gave junior place-kicker Aric Goodman (4-for-8 on field goals, with two misses at West Virginia) a vote of confidence. "I think the guy's a good kicker. I do," the coach said. . . . As for the confidence level and morale of the team, Hawkins gave a thumbs up despite the 1-3 start. "I think they all have a feeling that things are coming together," he said.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

OCTOBER 6, 2009, 3:17 PM

CU's Iltis, Wright ready for Texas

By **TOM KENSLE** |  3 Comments

Newsy stuff from Dan Hawkins' media luncheon on Tuesday:

Hawkins said reserve wide receiver Anthony Wright (ankle sprain) and starting center Mike Iltis (concussion) will be available for Saturday's game at No. 2 Texas.

It's possible, Hawkins said, that sophomore Jason Espinoza (thumb fracture) will not be limited to returning punts and could also return to his duties at wide receiver.

Hawkins gave junior kicker Aric Goodman (4-for-8 on field goals, with two misses at West Virginia) a vote of confidence.

Sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen will be available for the Texas game (although he is unlikely to play because it is hoped that he will sit out of the season as a redshirt) after apparently serving a one-game suspension for his participation in a recent off-campus incident.

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2009/10/06/cus-iltis-wright-ready-for-texas/>

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

OCTOBER 6, 2009, 12:18 PM

Hawk: Cody's interceptions 'alarming'

By **TOM KENSLE** |  11 Comments

Speaking Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said the offensive staff "has a bead on some things" that should help quarterback Cody Hawkins improve on his pass efficiency.

Cody ranks last among Big 12 starting quarterbacks in pass efficiency with a 104.2 rating. The next lowest is the 116.9 rating of Kansas State's Carson Coffman. Blaine Gabbert of Missouri leads with 168.6.

"I think we're on to a few things and will try to clean up a few things here or there," Dan Hawkins said of Cody's mistakes. "That involves a lot of different scope and sequence."

Through four games, Cody has thrown for seven touchdowns and seven interceptions. No other Big 12 quarterback has thrown for as many picks.

"The interceptions, to me, are obviously the most alarming part," Dan Hawkins said. "They've all been sort of different, in different cases. His first year, there was a decent amount that came off batted balls, like our guys dropping 'em.

"I do think he's been pounded a little bit, so I think he has a tendency to get it out (too quickly). This year, I do think some of it has to do with a couple of things: 1) Is him trying to force the issue a little bit. I think also, most of the time when he throws it to Scotty (McKnight), he doesn't throw a pick. (Cody) has a pretty good idea of where Scotty is going to be and what he's going to do. That's part of the whole mixture in there."

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS COLORADO SPORTS tweet<http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2009/10/06/hawk-codys-interceptions-alarming/>Click [here](#) to print.

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Longmont, Colorado
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CU's QB, team seek cohesion

Hawkins may not improve until the 'big picture' does

By Patrick Ridgell
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — When assessing his quarterback's play, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins says he looks beyond numbers.

If he didn't, numbers alone might make him cringe.

Cody Hawkins has thrown more interceptions — seven — than any other Big 12 quarterback, a figure Dan Hawkins called “alarming.” Cody has the league's lowest pass-efficiency rating, the fewest yards per completion and attempt, and the lowest completion percentage.

Dan Hawkins said in September when discussing plans to redshirt Tyler Hansen that Cody would have to play well or the Hansen plan would be scrapped. On Tuesday, as Hawkins discussed Saturday's trip to No. 2 Texas for CU's Big 12 opener (5:15 p.m., ESPN), he did not say change is coming.

What he did say is that there's more to Cody's struggles than mere numbers.

“He'll be the first guy to tell you, ‘I don't want to throw as many interceptions, yeah, I want to win more games, yeah, my efficiency numbers should be better.’ He's never going to say the other stuff.

“But when you're the coach, you have to look at the whole big picture.”

There is another number the coach and quarterback should heed. It's the 187 attempts Cody has thrown, the second-highest total in the Big 12. CU does not want to mimic Texas Tech.

In its losses, CU (1-3) had to abandon the running game that it's supposed to be emphasizing in 2009.

Opposing pass rushers have sacked Cody 10 times in 2009. Only Texas Tech's 11 sacks allowed exceed CU's.

Dan Hawkins said CU's coaches have drawn a bead on some things that could help. Asked if one of those should be to stay in games, thus enabling Cody to stick with the game plan and not feel forced to get the Buffs caught up, he said, “I think that's some of it.”

Cody conceded that the Toledo loss, during which the Buffs trailed 30-3, was a game “where you get down by a lot and you're like, ‘all right, I don't care what's going on, we have to make plays or nothing's going to happen.’” He said that forcing passes causes problems.

“We're all working on a couple of things we can do better,” Cody said. “I think the most important thing is putting guys into a situation where they can get into a rhythm and not asking too much of ourselves and playing within ourselves. If we try to stretch what we're capable of doing a little bit, then guys might make some errors.



Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins, top, celebrates a touchdown with running back Rodney Stewart during the first quarter of their game against West Virginia on Thursday in Morgantown, W.Va. **Jeff**

Gentner/AP

"I really like the stuff we're doing this week. We're going (to Texas) with a good game plan, and I think guys feel confident in what we're doing."

Some of the "other stuff" to which Dan Hawkins referred sounds familiar. He said Cody has "gotten mashed a lot and has never wilted."

Cody shrugged when asked how he feels, saying he's good, and that "you have to get used to that. That's what happens in Division I football."

Dan Hawkins also cited inexperience, saying that when Cody throws to CU's only experienced receiver, Scotty McKnight, he's rarely picked off because he knows where McKnight is going to be.

"You get a little more consistent up front, protection-wise and continuity-wise, and your running game is a little bit better, and you have receivers that have been around for awhile and everybody is on the same page, and all of that stuff kind of starts seeping in there together," Dan Hawkins said.

"No story is ever complete, because you look at the numbers and go, 'well here's what the numbers say.' You go 'all right, what about the other side of it?'

"Then there's the side, too, of who's the last quarterback to beat Nebraska and Oklahoma in the same year?"

DIFFERENT TIMES: During the summer prior to his sophomore year of high school, Cody Hawkins attended a camp at Texas and one day waited in line for three hours to have his photo taken with Longhorns coach Mack Brown. Cody, who said he was a Longhorns fan growing up, said that when he finally reached the front, Brown told him that he should have just come to the front, and they would have taken care of him then.

Cody might best be not expecting any special treatment Saturday in Austin.

EXTRA POINTS: Dan Hawkins said Hansen was unavailable to play last week. Hansen and teammate Vince Ewing were involved in a fight at a fraternity party on Sept. 25. Hansen will be available Saturday. ... Hawkins gave a vote of confidence to kicker Aric Goodman, whose 1-for-4 night at West Virginia dropped him to 4-for-8 in 2009. "He's a good kicker," Hawkins said. ... Center Mike Iltis (concussion) is expected to play Saturday, Hawkins said. Receivers Anthony Wright (sprained ankle) and Jason Espinoza (broken thumb) are also expected back. Espinoza could only return punts at West Virginia.

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

CU coach Hawkins evaluates play of Buff QB Hawkins

Coach says many factors go into judging QB's play

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

Posted: 10/06/2009 11:53:01 PM MDT



It might be impossible for anyone to fully understand what it has been like for Dan and Cody Hawkins experiencing successes and failures, highs and lows, criticism and praise during their time together in Boulder as coach and quarterback and father and son.

There are some fans of the Colorado football program who are convinced, and forever will be, that nepotism is the only factor keeping the younger Hawkins in the starting quarterback post entering the fifth game of his third year in the job.

Entering Saturday's game at No. 2 Texas, Cody Hawkins has led the Buffs to an 11-17 record as the starter, with last season's Kansas State game left out of those totals because true freshman Tyler Hansen played a much larger role under center.

Cody Hawkins' career statistics are mediocre when compared with the top quarterbacks around the country during his tenure, but he has played on a mediocre team. He has completed 520 of 931 passes for 5,630 yards, with 43 touchdown passes and 32 interceptions.

His numbers this year are similarly ordinary. Hawkins has completed 98 of 187 passes this season for 1,045 yards and seven touchdowns. He also has thrown seven interceptions, two of which ricocheted off receivers hands and into the arms of a defender.

However, he is quickly closing in on many of the school's career passing marks. He will tie the record for career touchdowns and career interceptions with his next throw in each category.

Dan Hawkins said Tuesday during his weekly press conference that he and his assistants believe they have identified some things that, when corrected or adjusted, can help his son play better.

Later, during a discussion with beat writers covering the team, Hawkins might have provided the most insight to date into how he views his son's ability and performance and how other factors play into those evaluations.

Here are three questions he was asked and the answers he gave.

Question: "I know you generally don't look at it as simply as this, but if you just look at Cody's numbers across the board, what story do they tell you?"

Dan Hawkins: "The interceptions to me are obviously the most alarming part, and they've all been sort of different cases. I think his first year there was a decent amount that came off of batted balls, like our guys dropping them. I do think he has been pounded a little bit, so I think he has a tendency to get it out.

"Last year, I think the overall numbers were down and I think that was due to a number of factors. I do think this year some of it has to do with a couple things. One, I think him trying to force it a little bit, trying to force the issue. I think also most of the time he throws it to Scotty (McKnight), he doesn't throw a pick cause he has pretty good idea about where he's going to be and what he's going to do. So that's part of the whole mixture in there.

"But like I said, I think we have a bead on a few things that are going to help there."

Q: "Would you assess his play as meeting expectations?"

DH: "That's a hard question to ask of me because you're looking at a whole big picture. Obviously, from an objective standpoint, you'd love to win more games. Bottom line, I think every quarterback is kind of measured off of winning more games. You'd love to have the efficiency number be higher. You'd love to have the interceptions lower, from a purely objective standpoint.

"From a subjective standpoint, the guy is pretty tough. He's gotten mashed a lot and never wilted. He's what you want out of your quarterback from that standpoint in terms of being a leader and being a rock-solid guy and being consistent and being there. Does that exceed my expectations? I don't know if that's the case.

"Again, from a subjective standpoint, you look at the three-year progression, the consistency both in receivers, in having guys who have been around. ... Then the offensive line part of it, the protection and running game. All those little things sort of inch in there. So you say, 'OK. You get a little more consistent up front, protection-wise and continuity-wise and your running game is a little bit better and you've got receivers who have been around for awhile and everybody is kind of on the same page, then all that stuff kind of starts seeping in there together.

"That's why I say no story is ever totally complete because you can just go, 'Look at the numbers and go well, here is what the numbers say.' You can also go, 'All right, what about the other side of it?' There is the side, too. Who is the last (CU) quarterback to beat Nebraska and Oklahoma in the same year?

"The other thing with him, too, is obviously being my kid. I mean, you're already going to get the lightning rod as the quarterback anyway, and he gets double the lightning rod. And I think he's handled that pretty darn good. The other thing is, I'd love to have a quarterback be here three years and then start playing his junior year. So there is always a little bit of you're getting into the fire a little bit sooner than maybe you really want to or ought to or should. There is a trial by fire that way.

"Again, there is a whole circular picture there. I mean, he'll be the first guy to tell you, 'Yeah, I don't want to throw as many interceptions. Yeah, I want to win more games. Yeah, my efficiency numbers should be better.' He's never going to say the other stuff. He'll never say that stuff. But when you're the coach and you've got to look at the whole big picture, you kind of go, 'Yeah, OK, there are some other things going on there.'"

Q: "Seems like you might get all that stuff in line just in time to break in a brand new quarterback."

DH: "Well, and you know what? That's awesome. That's where you want it to be. You want to bring in, whether it's Tyler (Hansen) or whoever the next guy is, you're kind of going, 'Guess what? We've got a junior and senior offensive line and we've got five (wide receivers) who have been here for four years and when you tell them to run a route, they're going to be there and they're going to see the coverage change and they're going to know the adjustment to it. That's what you want, so the kid can go out and just play within himself and let that other stuff grow. That's OK. That's just part of the whole deal. Some gotta pave the way and some gotta raise the roof."

The Buffzone Blog

CU football with Kyle Ringo

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My formula for bowl eligibility

Written by [kyle](#) in Monday, October 5th 2009 under [Uncategorized](#)
[Comments \(8\)](#)

Buck up Buffs fans. There is still hope for a bowl game this season, and it's really not all that farfetched. OK, it's a little bit of a long shot, but why not be a glass-is-half-full person?

Of course, I'm assuming the team continues to get better, cut down the errors on defense and develop its young talent on offense to make this happen.

Here is how it could be done.

The Buffs are 1-3. Let's assume they lose at Texas and at Oklahoma State. That takes them to five losses.

Now, let's say they find a way to finally get not just one road win, but two, at Kansas State and Iowa State. That gives them three wins and five losses.

Then it comes down to winning 3 of four home games against Kansas, Missouri, Texas A&M and Nebraska.

Sure, it might be a bit much to ask considering how this team has performed, but it's also not out of the realm of possibility. The Buffs could finish 6-6 and go back to the Independence Bowl or the Texas Bowl with a chance to give Dan Hawkins his first winning season in Boulder.

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Colorado-Texas at a glance

10/07/2009

Associated Press

No. 2 Texas (4-0) vs. Colorado (1-3), 7:15 p.m. Saturday (ESPN)

Line: Texas by 31 1/2.

Series Record: Texas leads 10-7.

Last meeting: 2008, Texas 38-14.

What's at Stake

Texas is looking every bit like the big dog in the Big 12 and wants to keep things rolling along heading into next week's showdown with Oklahoma. For Colorado, the start of Big 12 play is a good reason to try to forget the disaster that was September.

Key Matchup

Colorado kick coverage vs. Texas returners Jordan Shipley and D.J. Monroe. Shipley and Monroe have already returned three punts and kickoffs for touchdowns.

Players to Watch

Colorado: Freshman DE Nick Kasa, the Buffaloes' top 2009 recruit. Kasa missed the first three games with a left knee injury and returned for Colorado's loss at West Virginia. Buffaloes will look to him to create a pass rush on Texas QB Colt McCoy.

Texas: WR Dan Buckner. Buckner has joined Shipley as a favorite target for McCoy with 23 catches and four touchdowns in the first four games.

Facts & Figures

Texas has outscored Colorado 181-41 in the last four meetings. The Buffaloes' last win in the series was the 2001 Big 12 championship game that kept Texas from playing for the national title. ... Shipley is averaging nine catches per game and is on pace to join Kwame Cavil (100 in 1999) as the only Longhorns to catch 100 passes in a season ... Texas leads the nation in scoring at 49.5 points per game.

LONGHORNS FOOTBALL

Scouting Texas' next opponent: Colorado

By Mark Rosner

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

Note to sports editors: do the staff a favor and make Dan Hawkins a permanent guest on the college pick-it line next season.

He looks like an easy mark.

Hawkins, the Colorado coach, adopted a "10 wins, no excuses" attitude for the 2009 season. The Buffaloes already are virtually assured of failing to meet that directive after beginning the season 1-3. They are a 31 1/2-point underdog for Saturday's game at No. 2 Texas. After Texas comes 16th-ranked Kansas.

Hawkins, a hot name at Boise State before moving to Boulder, set the bar high this year despite having failed to produce a winning record in any of his first three Colorado seasons. He's 14-27 so far, including eight straight losses on the road.

The coach's son, junior quarterback Cody Hawkins, ranks last in the Big 12 in passing efficiency. He's thrown seven interceptions, including three last Thursday in a 35-24 loss at West Virginia.

"Too many," Dan Hawkins said.

The running game has suffered from injuries to its best tailback, Rodney Stewart, and the player who was supposed to become a star, Darrell Scott. And, Dan Hawkins points out, major defensive lapses have left the Buffs in deep holes they could not escape by running with the ball. They've needed to pass.

"We've given up big plays," Dan Hawkins said. "Big gashers."

Colorado ranks 102nd in the country on defense, allowing 408.7 yards a game. In four games, opponents have produced 23 plays of 20 yards or more (with 11 going for more than 40 yards), including 11 by Toledo. West Virginia made runs covering 77, 56 and 26 yards as well as a 48-yard pass completion. The 77- and 48-yard plays produced TDs.

Fleet West Virginia tailback Noel Devine rushed for 226 yards on 22 carries, including a 77-yard touchdown. He made another run for 56 yards.

The Buffs made the outcome look closer than it was by scoring a touchdown with three seconds left.

Colorado squandered opportunities in the game, recovering four West Virginia fumbles in the first half with just three points to show for that hustle. The kicking game provided no relief either, with three missed field goals in four attempts.

No wonder Hawkins cannot identify a single problem that needs repair. "When you are searching for wins, there are a lot of targets," he said.

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BUFFALOES NOTEBOOK

Great Scott — not yet

Many Longhorns fans were angry when **Darrell Scott**, a tailback from Ventura, Calif., signed with Colorado instead of Texas. Some Texas insiders insist that Scott committed to the Longhorns before switching. Scott said he came close to committing to Texas, but never did.

Regardless, he did not become an instant star.

Scott rushed for 364 yards as a freshman last season, averaging 3.9 a carry as a part-time player. He gained 4 yards on two tries against Texas before leaving the game in Boulder with an ankle injury. As the clock ran down in a game the Longhorns won 38-14, Texas fans chanted Scott's name.

This season, Scott — playing with a bruised knee — has 17 carries for 91 yards in three games. Nearly all of his production was against Toledo, when he gained 85 yards on 12 carries. He also returned eight kickoffs for 204 yards during the 54-38 Toledo victory.

But Scott was removed last week from his role returning kickoffs because of the knee injury.

Keep an eye on ...

Marcus Burton is the largest linebacker in school history, packing 265 pounds on his 6-foot frame. Burton, a senior from Channelview who plays in the middle, is also the fastest linebacker on the team. He ran the 40-yard dash in 4.78 seconds last spring. He has 20 tackles, including two sacks.

Buffaloes' statistical leaders

Passing Att. Comp. Yds. TD Int

Cody Hawkins 98 187 1,045 7 7

Rushing Att. Yds. Avg. Yds/game TD

Rodney Stewart 59 270 4.5 90.0 3

Darrell Scott 17 91 5.3 30.3 0

Demetrius Sumler 21 84 4.0 21.0 0

Receiving Rec. Yds. Avg. Yds/game TD

Scotty McKnight 29 325 11.2 81.3 3

Riar Geer 20 208 10.4 52.0 1

Jason Espinoza 13 136 10.5 34.0 1

Schedule

Date Opp. Result

Sept. 5 Colorado St. L, 23-17

Sept. 11 at Toledo L, 54-38

Sept. 19 Wyoming W, 24-0

Oct. 1 at West Va. L, 35-24

Saturday at Texas* —

Oct. 17 Kansas* —

Oct. 24 at Kansas State* —

Oct. 31 Missouri* —

Nov. 7 Texas A&M* —

Nov. 14 at Iowa State* —

Nov. 19 at Oklahoma State* —

Nov. 27 Nebraska* —

* Big 12 game

SPOTLIGHT ON: Rodney Stewart, Buffaloes TB

Year: Sophomore

Size: 5-6, 175

Stats that matter: 59 carries, 270 yards, 4.5 average.

Slow season start

Stewart started the season slowly because of a hamstring injury. He carried six times for 38 yards in the opening-night loss to Colorado State and not at all in the next game against Toledo, another defeat.

He's baaack

Stewart marked his return to the lineup by contributing 127 yards and two touchdowns in a victory over Wyoming. Though Stewart is small, he can handle a big workload. He carried 32 times in the Wyoming game and gained 64 of his 127 yards after contact. And he gained 105 yards on 21 carries against West Virginia. He averages 90 yards a game, fourth-best in the Big 12.

Bane of West Virginia

He appears to enjoy playing against West Virginia. He gained 166 yards on 28 carries against the Mountaineers during a 17-14 Colorado win in 2008. Last week, he rushed for 105 yards on 21 carries, including a 36-yard touchdown at West Virginia.

Triple-digit runner

Stewart cleared 100 yards three times as a freshman in 2008, gaining 141 on 29 tries against Kansas State and 107 with 21 carries versus Florida State in addition to the big game against West Virginia. He gained just 27 yards on 12 carries during a loss to Texas. Stewart's season ended with three games left because of a broken leg he suffered when Texas A&M's Von Miller made a horse-collar tackle on him.

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LONGHORNS FOOTBALL

Longhorns notebook

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

UT, Buffs make others see a lot of red

If season statistics are any indication, Saturday's Texas-Colorado matchup should be a game of touchdowns.

The Longhorns and Buffaloes are tied for the top red zone offenses in the country. Both teams have scored every time they've gotten inside the opponent's 20-yard line this year.

Colorado is 12 of 12 so far, with 10 touchdowns. The Longhorns are an impressive 23 of 23 in the red zone. Texas has scored 16 touchdowns — 12 by running plays — and kicked seven field goals.

There are six other teams in the country that also are perfect.

Colorado coach hopes QB improves

Colorado coach **Dan Hawkins** on Tuesday said coaches may have identified some parts of quarterback **Cody Hawkins'** mechanics that could help improve the quarterback's pass efficiency.

Cody Hawkins — the coach's son — ranks last among Big 12 quarterbacks in pass efficiency with a rating of 104.2.

Through four games, Hawkins has thrown seven touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Texas, meanwhile, has intercepted six passes this season, led by **Earl Thomas'** three picks. He had two interceptions in Texas' last game, a win over Texas-El Paso, and was named the Big 12's defensive player of the week.

"The interceptions, to me, are obviously the most alarming part," Dan Hawkins told the Denver Post. "They've all been sort of different, in different cases. His first year, there was a decent amount that came off batted balls, like our guys dropping 'em.

"I do think he's been pounded a little bit, so I think he has a tendency to get it out (too quickly)."

— Alan Trubow

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