

Buffs wrangle first victory

CU blanks Wyoming to halt early slide

Ryan ThorburnCamera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/19/2009 04:50:18 PM MDT

A simple but important decision was made during a players-only meeting leading up to Colorado's third game of a season that appeared to be slipping away in September.

"We just decided to get a win," cornerback Cha`pelle Brown said.

And it was just about that easy on Saturday as the Buffs stiff-armed the scrutiny surrounding Dan Hawkins and the program after humbling losses to Colorado State and Toledo by blanking Wyoming 24-0 at Folsom Field.

A fast start on offense, a simplified game plan on defense and a near-flawless effort by the special teams had everyone in the CU locker room feeling good about themselves as the players celebrated like it was 1937 in their silver and gold throwback uniforms.

A defiant Hawkins said the venom being spewed in his direction by outsiders never seeped into the Dal Ward Center.

"It's easy to stand outside of the arena and say you're not good enough and be negative," scolded Hawkins, who improved his record at CU to 14-26 with the victory. "But when you're in the arena and you're scrapping, it's little things that decide the game."

Like the coin flip.

The eyes of the team captains lit up when CU won the toss because the focus was to get off to a better start offensively to take some pressure off the defense and get the crowd of 50,535 cheering instead of booing.

"One of the biggest things we preach is to start fast," senior linebacker Jeff Smart said. "Offensively, that means score. Defensively, that means get a three-and-out or a turnover."

Cody Hawkins and Co. followed the script with a quick scoring drive that opened with a 10-yard run by Demetrius Sumler, included a 26-yard play-action completion to Scotty McKnight on second-and-19 and was capped with Sumler fumbling and McKnight scooping the loose ball up and scoring a 2-yard touchdown.

The Buffs found themselves leading for the first time this season, 7-0, just 90 seconds into the game. Right on cue, the defense followed the 5-play, 69-yard drive up with a three-and-out.

"There wasn't any negativity in the locker room," said Cody Hawkins, who suffered a concussion at the end of the Toledo game but bounced back to complete 17 of 31 passes for 175 yards with no touchdowns or interceptions. "I think all of our guys knew we were capable of this. You look at our strong points, it was our running game and our defense. Those are areas we knew we were great."

CU tried to get the Cowboys' stagnant offense going when center Mike Itlis snapped the ball over Cody Hawkins' head for a 19-yard loss. Linebacker Brian Hendricks recovered the loose ball to give the visitors possession at the 18.

But the defense stiffened, and Austin McCoy missed a 35-yard field goal.

"I'm proud of (defensive coordinator) Ron Collins and the defensive staff and our guys on defense hanging in there," Dan

Hawkins said. "They did an awesome job."

On the Buffs' next series they failed to convert a fourth-and-1 at their own 45 midway through the first quarter, but Wyoming was once again unable to do anything with the field position.

The Cowboys (1-2) tried to spark their sputtering spread attack with a fake punt on fourth-and-eight but Ben Burney sniffed the play out and stopped McCoy after a 5-yard gain.

After a leg-whip call on Matthew Bahr, who was playing right guard with Ryan Miller having to move to right tackle in place of Bryce Givens, Hawkins avoided the rush and completed a 28-yard pass to McKnight on third-and-19.

Aric Goodman, who transferred to CU from Wyoming in 2007, made a 20-yard field goal moments later to make the score 10-0 early in the second quarter.

Click on any photo to see full gallery

The momentum continued when Burney forced running back Darius Terry to fumble, and Jalil Brown recovered at the Wyoming 27. The turnover led to a 2-yard touchdown run by Rodney Stewart, who missed the Toledo game with a hamstring injury, to make the score 17-0 with 11:40 remaining in the second quarter.

Wyoming only mustered 11 yards on 13 plays in the first quarter and had 61 yards of total offense at the intermission compared to 206 for the Buffs.

"Win or lose we always have to flush the game and get on to the next opponent. That's what we did after Toledo," said Smart, whose team trailed 23-3 at halftime and 30-3 early in the third quarter against the Rockets. "We moved on and had a great game plan, the coaches did a great job with that, and we just stayed positive and kept believing.

"We know we're a good team. We just had to get the right start and we were able to do that today."

An impressive 13-play, 76-yard drive that chewed 6:35 off the clock at the end of the third quarter broke the Cowboys' spirit for good. Stewart, who got the bulk of the carries with Darrell Scott out of the lineup due to a knee injury, capped the march with an 11-yard touchdown run to make the score 24-0.

Wyoming head coach Dave Christensen's spread offense, which had scored 113 points on the Buffs the past two seasons when he was the offensive coordinator at Missouri, was dominated by a CU defense that was ranked 111th nationally through two games. The Cowboys failed to convert their first 11 third-down plays and only gained 10 yards or more on five of their 71 snaps.

"That dude has scored a lot of points on me in his career," Chappelle Brown said. "So we treated them in preparation like Missouri. We did some things that I think are going to help us out. We're looking forward to playing the other spread offenses in the Big 12."

The Buffs (1-2) get to bask in the glow of their first victory for a few extra days while preparing for back-to-back road games at West Virginia (Oct. 1) and No. 2 Texas (Oct. 10).

"This is a great place and we all need to hang together and go in the same direction," Dan Hawkins said. "When you talk about feeling some loyalty, when you're 0-2 and you see that many people here to support you, that's big time."

Close Window

Send To Printer

Woelk: Step forward, but Buffaloes by no means fully healed

By Neill Woelk Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/20/2009 12:10:55 AM MDT

That's a start.

Buff fans can back away from the edge of the cliff, at least for today. That sound you heard coming from Folsom Field on Saturday was a collective sigh of relief, one that started from the offices of Dal Ward and spread throughout the stadium.

Colorado won a football game. Actually, Colorado dominated a football game, something most of us would have thought to be impossible just a week ago.

Not that anyone -- from Dan Hawkins on down -- walked away from CU's 24-0 win over Wyoming proclaiming that the Buffs' problems have been magically cured. But at least many of the things that had plagued the Buffs in their 0-2 start appeared to be on the mend on a sun-splashed Saturday.

The defense played well. Outstanding, in fact. Wyoming's anemic offense -- which now hasn't scored a touchdown in nine quarters -- was the perfect antidote for a CU unit that had given up 1,000 yards and 77 points in its previous two games.

But credit must also be given to Hawkins and his defensive coaches, who recognized the need for change and implemented it. Fewer personnel groups and fewer changes resulted in fewer mistakes -- and more opportunities for CU's players to do what they are supposed to do: make plays.

Two sacks for linebacker B.J. Beatty and one each from lineman Marquez Herrod and linebacker Doug Rippy. Three more tackles for losses. A 4-for-18 day on third-down conversions for the Cowboys and just five Wyoming plays for 10 or more yards.

All of which added up to zero points on the board for Wyoming.

Then there was CU's running game. With Darrell Scott nursing a sore knee on the sidelines, sophomore Rodney Stewart ran for 127 yards and a pair of touchdowns as CU finished with 151 on the ground -- by far the Buffs' best performance of the year.

Don't dismiss those numbers. That same Wyoming defense gave up 191 on the ground to Texas a week ago while limiting the Longhorns to just 13 first-half points in a 41-10 loss.

Colorado did, however, struggle in the passing game. Buff quarterback Cody Hawkins was a modest 17-for-31 for 175 yards, and missed at least two wide-open receivers on plays that would have significantly added to that yardage total.

"I thought we left a lot of points out there," Dan Hawkins said. "We had a couple of penalties and a turnover and missed some throws. So I would like to see us get on track a little more and be a little more efficient."

But maybe the most telling statement came from Wyoming coach Dave Christensen, the former Missouri offensive coordinator who had become accustomed to having his way against Colorado's defense. The Cowboys came to Boulder figuring on a win. They'd seen Colorado's first two games, and were confident that they could extend CU's skid to three.

"We thought we'd come in here and have a chance to win this football game," Christensen said, "and we didn't do it. I don't know if they're shocked, just disappointed that we didn't play well. ... We took a step back, unfortunately."

For the Buffs, however, it proved to be a desperately needed step forward.

"It's great," said offensive lineman Ryan Miller. "It's too bad we waited until the third game of the season, but we wanted to come out and play well from the start today. To get a fast start like we had today was a good feeling. We needed that."

No doubt, the Buffs will need more in the coming weeks if they're going to turn this into a trend rather than an aberration. Again, nobody is proclaiming that all has been healed. CU's passing game is sporadic, the Buffs continue to shoot themselves in the foot with penalty flags (10 for 86 yards against the Cowboys) and the offense in general lacks a sense of consistency.

But they did show improvement on Saturday. Hawkins and his staff spent the last couple of weeks vowing to fix the "little things," and for one game at least, they made good on that promise.

Whether they can continue that improvement remains to be seen. The schedule becomes infinitely tougher from here on out, beginning with an Oct. 1 date at West Virginia, followed by a trip to Texas and a home game against Kansas.

But for the moment, at least, the free-fall has been halted.

That's a start.

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

Stewart steps in to spark CU offense

Bufs tailback has solid day against Cowboys

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/20/2009 12:07:12 AM MDT

Speedy to the rescue.

The last thing Colorado needed after a stunning 0-2 start was for one of the team's only bright spots -- Darrell Scott -- to go down with an injury.

But the talented running back was a spectator on Saturday after injuring his knee on the first kickoff of the 54-38 loss at Toledo. Fortunately for the Bufs, just as Scott entered the training room, Rodney Stewart was exiting.

The diminutive "Speedy" returned from his hamstring injury and rushed for 127 yards and two touchdowns to lead CU to a 24-0 victory over Wyoming on Saturday at Folsom Field.

"Rodney doesn't talk much and when he does you can't hardly understand him. So he just gives a big ol' smile and takes off running and that's awesome to see," said a relieved Ryan Miller, who started at right tackle and took out some of the frustration to the offense's flawed start to the season by executing the smash-mouth style of play fans had been expecting two weeks earlier. "You think you see him running through a hole, but you don't know. Then you look up and he's gone. It's wonderful to see that."

Stewart, who did not play against Toledo, averaged 4.0 yards on 32 carries. Demetrius Sumler started the game and finished with 37 yards on eight carries (4.6 per), and Brian Lockridge added 12 yards on two carries.

The commitment to the ground attack took pressure off Cody Hawkins, who was able to convert some key passes using the play-action.

"Having a healthy Speedy is really going to help your chances on offense," Hawkins said. "He brings energy, fun, play-making ability, speed, explosion, swagger and confidence to the field."

The quarterback forgot to mention power. Most of Stewart's yards came between the tackles as he bounced off and plowed through Wyoming's physical front seven.

"It felt good because I'm a little dude," said Stewart, who stands tall at 5-6. "So running into those linebackers and not falling backwards made me feel good."

The Bufs' offense will really be in a better place if Scott (bruised knee, day-to-day) and Stewart are ever healthy at the same time this season. Dan Hawkins expects both tailbacks to be ready by Oct. 1 when CU returns to action at West Virginia.

"Both of those guys are just phenomenal athletes," Miller said. "We've got athletes at all of the positions. When we're all healthy, it's going to be a great day."

Close Window

Send To Printer

CU's simplified defense nets success

Collins scales back plan against Wyoming

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/20/2009 12:04:49 AM MDT

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said no massive changes were made to his defense Saturday against the Wyoming Cowboys, but there was a massive difference in the results.

A week after allowing Toledo to rack up 624 total yards and 54 points, the Buffs shut out Wyoming and new coach Dave Christensen, who had beaten them by the combined score of 113-10 the past two years in his previous role as Missouri offensive coordinator.

CU allowed the Cowboys just 230 total yards from scrimmage a difference of 394 from one week to the next. It was the sixth largest one-week turnaround for the Colorado defense in history.

Defensive coordinator Ron Collins simplified the approach, cut down on the number of substitutions and used players in different roles to make it happen. Collins said he hopes his players have regained some confidence now and can build on that confidence going forward.

"The thing that these guys got to understand is we've got a lot of good teams coming up and we've got a long ways to go to get better," Collins said. "We have not arrived."

Senior defensive back Ben Burney played safety much of the game, giving the unit more experience than it had the previous two weeks when sophomores Patrick Mahnke and Anthony Perkins and redshirt freshman Ray Polk played there.

Burney said he has practiced throughout fall camp and in the early going this season at both safety and cornerback. He said he feels comfortable at both positions. He said he believes his experience helped against Wyoming.

Burney finished with five tackles and a forced fumble early in the second quarter that led to CU points.

"I think our preparation as a defense led to me being able to make plays out there," he said. "It wasn't necessarily my innate ability at safety or something like that because I don't believe I really have that. I just know how to play DB and I go out and do that."

Players said coaches drastically cut back the number of calls and looks they showed the Cowboys and it helped them play more confident and aggressively. It also helped that CU was facing a Wyoming offense that has not scored an offensive touchdown in the past nine quarters of football it has played.

"I think we called three or four plays the whole game," Burney said. "It was the same calls over and over again. It obviously helped a lot."

The Buff defense had been victimized by a slew of big plays in the first outings this year. They had surrendered 16 plays of 20 or more yards to Colorado State and Toledo. The Buffs allowed only five plays of 10 or more yards Saturday and three plays went for 20 or more.

"Guys were running around making plays, not worrying about making mistakes," senior linebacker Marcus Burton said.

Colorado put pressure on three different Wyoming quarterbacks who played in the game and came away with four sacks, including the first from a defensive lineman this year from Marquez Herrod. Linebacker B.J. Beatty made two sacks and Doug Rippy had one.

Collins credited his players for playing their best game to this point, but he acknowledged the Buffs might not be able to afford the luxury of such simple game plans going forward, particularly when Big 12 Conference play arrives next month.

"There is going to be a certain amount of complexity," Collins said. "You can't just sit in one coverage against all the offenses that are coming up and we're facing."

Collins said he won't put his players in a position where they can't be successful. He said if a situation comes up where players are struggling, he will reexamine his approach. Burney said players will be able to absorb more and perform better as the season wears on.

"I think, as the season goes, players mature," he said. "And we'll definitely mature and be able to do whatever our coaches ask us to do."

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

Simas starts, but slowed by injury

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/20/2009 12:07:40 AM MDT

Colorado football fans finally know what wide receiver Markques Simas looks like on the football field on Saturday afternoons. They just don't know what he looks like with the ball in his hands.

Simas made his long-awaited debut Saturday against Wyoming after a redshirt season in 2007, missing 2008 academically ineligible and being suspended from this season's first two games.

He made his first career start and played Saturday despite a sprained knee, which prevented him from practicing earlier this month and is slowly healing. The knee began to bother him in the first half and he played sparingly the rest of the way.

Quarterback Cody Hawkins targeted Simas on one play early in the game, but the pass was incomplete. Simas said he didn't feel as mobile as he needs to be to be effective.

"I didn't get as many reps as I wanted. My knee was kind of bothering me, but I'm happy with a win," Simas said. "I'm not going to complain. I'll do whatever it takes. If that means sitting the bench and let my team go out there and handle it, I'm going to do it."

A bye week arrives at a good time for Simas who said he believes he will be much closer to 100 percent healthy when the Buffs play next on Thursday night, Oct. 1, at West Virginia.

"I'll be all right after this bye week," he said.

True freshman wide receiver Will Jefferson had played in the Buffs' first two games this season, but he didn't get his first career catch until the second half of Saturday's game.

Record book

Wide receiver Scotty McKnight is likely to be among the most decorated receivers in Colorado history when he leaves the program following next season.

McKnight tied a school record Saturday by catching a pass in his 27th consecutive game. McKnight tied former receiver Charles E. Johnson, who caught balls in 27 games between the 1991 and 1993 seasons.

Johnson actually caught passes in 29 consecutive games if bowl games are factored in. McKnight has caught passes in 28 games, including the 2007 Independence Bowl. He also moved into eighth place on the school's career receptions list with 109 catches and into 11th place on the receiving yards list with 1,234.

The commish

Big 12 Conference commissioner Dan Beebe watched the game from the athletic director's suite and spoke briefly with reporters after visiting the Buffs in the locker room.

Beebe said the conference is a few weeks away from announcing its future bowl lineup, which will begin in 2010. He said a new bowl to be played at Yankee Stadium in New York is the only new game being added to the list of the league's bowl partners. It will likely replace the relationship the Big 12 has with the Gator and Sun Bowls, which share a Big 12 bowl slot.

Beebe said the pecking order will likely change because of changes in the size of payouts different bowl partners have agreed to.

Beebe wore a Buff polo shirt. He said he is allowed to wear specific school colors during nonconference play.

Red zone success

The Buffs are perfect so far this season when driving inside the opponent's 20-yard line. CU has scored all 12 times it has penetrated the red zone, including 10 touchdowns.

Red zone success was one of several focal points for the offense during both spring ball and fall camp.

Old friends

CU place-kicker Aric Goodman reunited with former Wyoming teammates Saturday. Goodman began his career in Laramie but transferred to CU in 2007.

Goodman made his only field goal attempt and three extra points against his former team on a day when Wyoming looked like it missed him. Cowboys' place-kicker Austin McCoy missed two field goal attempts that could have prevented the shutout. He missed a 35-yard try in the first quarter and a 37-yard attempt in the fourth quarter.

"I'm happy we went out there and played up to our potential in all three phases of the game," Goodman said.

Get your throwbacks

Fans can purchase silver helmets and gold throwback jerseys worn by the Buffs in Saturday's game for \$600 when purchased together at CUBuffs.com. Game-worn items from the contest are also being sold separately on the athletic department's Web site.

Notable

The CU defense has given up some big plays on third downs this season, but is doing a good job in those situations for the most part. Opponents are just 14 of 47 (29.8 percent) on third down conversions against the Buffs. ... Senior punter Matt DiLallo averaged 47.7 yards per punt Saturday and helped change field position three times when punting from deep in his own territory. ... Linebacker Guy Sargent and offensive lineman David Clark saw the first action of their careers. ... Senior linebacker Shaun Mohler returned from a bad concussion suffered against Colorado State and recorded three tackles.

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

Harried Hawkins fiesty after win

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/19/2009 10:03:31 PM MDT

Dan Hawkins has some breathing room after an inspired effort from his football team Saturday produced a 24-0 shutout victory over Wyoming that few saw coming.

The win takes some pressure off the Colorado coach, who has been under fire for the way his team performed in two losses to start the season. Hawkins and the 1-2 Buffs have a bye week before traveling to West Virginia on Oct. 1 and then to Texas a week later. They won't be favored in either game, and how they perform in those contests could determine whether the negative atmosphere surrounding the program the past two weeks returns.

Hawkins insisted after Saturday's game that speculation about his job security is entirely media driven.

"The only speculation was from you guys," he said. "There has been no speculation from my boss, no speculation from our big hitters. That speculation came from you guys."

Hawkins was clearly irked by that speculation. The first question in his postgame press conference was about what led to significant improvement from his defense. He answered it with three words and then began talking about criticism he has faced.

"It's easy to stand outside the arena and point fingers and criticize and say you're not good enough and be negative, but when you're in the arena and you're scrapping, you're never that far away from victory and you're never that far away from defeat," he said. "Until you are in the arena, until you've gone through it a time or two, until you've done some things in your life, until you've strived and you've succeeded and you've failed, and you've tried and you've failed and you succeeded, people don't get that."

At least one national media outlet and several other out-of-state publications sent writers to Saturday's game at Folsom Field believing there was a chance Hawkins could be fired postgame if the Buffs had lost. Athletic director Mike Bohn said last week that he hasn't considered the idea and it was much too early in the season to make any concrete judgments about this season's team.

Hawkins said he was proud of his team. He said there were no big changes made, just "little things" that led to the win.

Hawkins made a point to thank CU fans for their support. The announced attendance Saturday was 50,535, about 3,000 shy of a sellout.

"I thought it was awesome for our fans," he said. "To show up and over 50,000 people in the stands. Again, you've got everybody flicking dirt on you, and for those people to show up and be supportive and be enthusiastic and cheer and hang to the end, I thought that was awesome."

"The students were great. They showed up early. We need that. We need to keep doing that. It's a good place. We've all got to hang together and row in the same direction. When you talk about building some loyalty, when you run out there and you're 0-2 and you see that many people here to support you, that's big time."

Players said they have paid little attention to questions about Hawkins' long-term future with the program. They said there has been no concern in the locker room. They focused their efforts on playing better football.

"It's nice to know people care so much, but it's also nice to know that the guys around you care so much," quarterback Cody Hawkins said. "I thought there was a lot of confidence in the locker room in what we could do. Just because we didn't perform the way we wanted to, there is no reason to slap a panic button and start freaking out."

Close Window

Send To Printer

Hosted by 

Colorado Buffs curb Cowboys with 24-0 win

By ARNIE STAPLETON – Sep 19, 2009

BOULDER, Colo. — The Colorado Buffaloes quieted the cacophony of criticism stemming from their bad start with a 24-0 win over Wyoming on Saturday.

Quarterback Cody Hawkins returned from a concussion and directed four scoring drives, and Rodney Stewart returned from a hamstring injury to carry 32 times for 127 yards and a two touchdowns.

The Buffaloes (1-2) simplified their defensive game plan after allowing 77 points and 1,000 yards in opening their season with losses to Colorado State and Toledo, and it worked wonders.

Wyoming (1-2) went three-and-out six times in the first half, when they managed just three first downs and 61 yards of offense.

The Buffs led 17-0 at the half on the way to their second shutout in the Dan Hawkins era. The first was a 42-0 whitewash of Miami-Ohio two years ago.

It was a welcomed respite for the Buffaloes, who spent the week defending their coach and hearing about their poor play from fans and media — and even a geology professor who called out linebacker Marcus Burton in class last week, according to the senior captain.

After scoring just a field goal in the first half of each of their first two games, the Buffaloes scored a touchdown on their opening drive Saturday, but it took a heads-up play by wide receiver Scotty McKnight, who scooped up tailback Demetrius Sumler's fumble at the 2 and barreled into the end zone.

Center Mike Iltis snapped the ball over Hawkins' head on the Buffs' next possession and Cowboys linebacker Brian Hendricks recovered at the Colorado 18. But Austin McCoy was wide right on a 35-yard field goal try after three snaps yielded no yards.

A failed fake punt gave the Buffs the ball at midfield and Colorado made it 10-0 on a 20-yard field goal by Aric Goodman, who began his collegiate career at Wyoming before transferring to Boulder in 2007.

Stewart's 2-yard TD run made it 17-0 after cornerback Jalil Brown recovered Darius Terry's fumble at the Cowboys 27 in the second quarter.

The Buffs stalled on their next five possessions before making it 24-0 on Stewart's 11-yard touchdown run. His two TDs matched his total from last season.

The Cowboys reached the Buffs' 6 but went backward from there and McCoy was wide left on a 37-yard field goal attempt, keeping the shutout intact.

After completing just one of four passes for 2 yards, Cowboys quarterback Robert Benjamin was replaced by Austyn Carta-Samuels, who finished 11-of-24 for 125 yards.

Hawkins was 17-of-31 for 175 yards in the first meeting between the former conference foes since 1997.

Copyright © 2009 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Related articles

Stewart shines for CU
Longmont Daily Times-Call - Sep 20, 2009

Harried Hawkins fiery after win
Daily Camera - Sep 19, 2009

Wyoming vs Colorado College Football Picks
Sports-Odds.com - Sports Betting Odds - Sep 18, 2009

[More coverage \(48\) »](#)

[Teen, Young Adult Therapy](#)

Poor Grades? Defiant? Poor Coping? Substance Abuse? Call now!
www.MarkleSolutions.com/Group

[Criminal Defense Attorney](#)

DUIs, felonies, misdemeanors. Free consultation about your case.
www.bethkelleylaw.com

[Colorado Health Plans](#)

Free health insurance quotes! Find the right plan and apply online.
www.GoHealthInsurance.com



Photo 1 of 3



Colorado wide receiver Scotty McKnight, front, picks up a fumble by tailback Demetrius Sumler, back left, on a hit by Wyoming strong safety Shamiel Gary in the first quarter of an NCAA college football game in Boulder, Colo., on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009. McKnight went in for a touchdown on the play. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)



Map



Add News to your Google Homepage

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

Bufs show signs of recovery with shutout

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/20/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



Rodney Stewart (5) lets out a roar after he scored his second touchdown to give Colorado a 24-0 victory. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — It was Legacy Day at Folsom Field on Saturday afternoon, and the Colorado Buffaloes commemorated it with gold jerseys from 1937 and silver helmets from 1956. Years from now,

no one will pay tribute to winless Colorado's 24-0 win over a rebuilding Wyoming team.

But this isn't 1956. This is 2009, and in the annals of Colorado football, few times have the Buffaloes come through when they needed a win more.

With a bye next week, the vultures hovering around the program can spend a few weeks searching for other carrion. The Buffs are 1-2, the embattled defense pitched a shutout and tailback Rodney Stewart came back from a sore hamstring to rush for 127 yards and two touchdowns.

Fourth-year coach Dan Hawkins could finally answer questions about his revived running attack and suddenly formidable defense, at least for one day. With his hot seat turning into a winning seat for the first time in five games, Hawkins also chose to snap back at his critics.

"It's easy to stand outside of the arena and say you're not good enough and be negative," said Hawkins, obviously perturbed. "But when you're in the arena and you're scrapping, it's little things that decide the game. Until you've gone through it a time or two and done some things and succeeded and failed, people don't get that it's the little things."

The little things were junking a complicated, multiplatooning defense the 1976 Steelers couldn't comprehend and finding the right combination on an underachieving offensive line.

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

That produced big things, like a 17-0 lead early in the second quarter and holding Wyoming to only 61 yards at halftime.

"There wasn't any negativity in the locker room," said quarterback Cody Hawkins. "All the guys totally knew what we were capable of. If you look at our really strong points, that was our running game and our defense. Those were things during camp we knew were great."

Well, the defense isn't great yet. Wyoming first-year coach Dave Christensen is trying to rebuild last year's lowest-scoring team in the country. These Cowboys haven't scored an offensive touchdown in nine quarters.

Colorado Football

- [View](#) slide show of Wyoming-CU football Sept. 19 .
- [Analyze](#) boxscore for Wyoming-CU football Sept. 19 .
- [View](#) slide show of Colorado-Toledo football Sept. 11 .
- [Analyze](#) boxscore for Colorado-Toledo football Sept. 11 .
- [View](#) slide show of Colorado State-Colorado football Sept. 6 .
- [Watch](#) video of Rocky Mountain Showdown .
- [View](#) slide show of Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins .
- [Visit](#) the CU Stats Page for boxscores, Big 12 standings, team leaders and more .
- [Visit](#) Tom Kensler's All Things Bufs blog for a behind-the-scenes look at CU sports .

But against a defense that gave fits to second-ranked Texas eight days ago, Colorado's offense showed some impressive spark. In the game's first five plays from scrimmage, Cody Hawkins led the Buffaloes on a 69-yard scoring drive. Demetrius Sumler raced up the middle 15 yards before fumbling but receiver Scott McKnight recovered at the 2 and fell in the end zone for a 7-0 lead.

After Aric Goodman's 20-yard field goal made it

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON

\$50 OFF

MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

10-0 in the second, Buffs safety Benjamin Burney, just converted from cornerback, drilled tailback Darius Terry and forced a fumble. Cornerback Jalil Brown recovered at the Cowboys' 27, and Stewart rushed three times, slashing over from the 2 for a 17-0 lead.

Stewart's presence can't be underestimated. Sophomore Darrell Scott, the five-star tailback who has shown only one or two stars since arriving here, was sidelined with a bad knee. He'll need more than good health to unseat Stewart.

"Find a bunch of positive adjectives," said Hawkins, who was 17-of-31 for 175 yards. "Energy. Fun. Playmaking ability. Speed. Explosion. Swagger. Confidence."

Keep in mind, just because they wore the jersey from Whizzer White's era doesn't mean the Buffaloes played like him. The offense sputtered at times, with Brian Lockridge dropping a perfect

bomb, Hawkins overthrowing a wide-open Jason Espinoza and a delay-of-game penalty also producing boos.

For a badly needed win, however, Colorado only needed its defense — or Wyoming's inept offense. Christensen yanked junior college transfer-quarterback Robert Benjamin after one ineffective quarter, and true freshman Austyn Carta-Samuels, while better, could only produce enough yardage for a second failed-goal attempt.

The Buffs held Wyoming to only 2.2 yards a carry and only three first downs in the first half.

"I'm not interested in switching off," Christensen said. "But nobody has really stepped up."

Speaking of stepping up, Colorado hopes the throwback uniforms are an omen. White's 1937 team went 8-0 before losing to Rice in the Cotton Bowl, and the '56 team finished 8-2-1 and beat Clemson in the Orange Bowl.

Colorado did it, by the way, after losing its opener.

John Henderson: 303-954-1299 or jhenderson@denverpost.com

Three questions

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

Wyoming Football

- [View](#) slide show of Wyoming-CU football Sept. 19 .
- [Analyze](#) boxscore for Wyoming-CU football Sept. 19 .
- [Analyze](#) boxscore for Texas-Wyoming football Sept. 12 .
- [Evaluate](#) the latest team numbers on the Wyoming Stats Page .

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Will Colorado's defense prevent the gashers?

The simplified defense couldn't have worked much better. Wyoming managed only one completion of longer than 22 yards — a 37-yarder to Donate Morgan. That was a remarkable improvement over the first two games, when CU yielded a combined eight plays of 40-plus yards.

Is CU's offense certain about the scheduled time for kickoff? Not only did Colorado score its first first-half touchdown of the season, the Buffs scored two. Taking a 17-0 lead early in the second quarter enabled the CU offense to maintain a balance between the run and the pass.

Will the Buffs' revamped offensive line control the line of scrimmage? Even without tailback Darrell Scott, the Buffs moved the ball on the ground effectively. Rodney "Speedy" Stewart rushed for 127 yards, his fourth career game beyond the century mark. And CU won the time-of-possession battle, keeping the ball for 35 minutes, 8 seconds.

Key stat

2.2: Wyoming's yards per carry against a Colorado defense that was 112th nationally against the run at 236.5 yards a game and 5.38 yards a crack.

Key play

Cornerback Benjamin Burney jarred the ball loose from Wyoming tailback Darius Terry and cornerback Jalil Brown recovered at the Cowboy

27. Colorado scored in four plays to all but put the game away in the second quarter, 17-0.

John Henderson, The Denver Post

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

woody paige

Paige: It's proof positive — Buffs are great

By Woody Paige
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/20/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



CU quarterback Cody Hawkins is positively perfect in the pocket well, almost. The coach's son went 17-of-31 for 175 yards and no interceptions. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — CU 24, Wy 0.

The Retro Buffalo shut out the Lonesome Cowpoke on a lazy, old West kind of Saturday afternoon.

CU wins! Great day! Hawk Feels No Heat!

Despite Colorado's first, rather significant victory of the season, coach Dan Hawkins wasn't in a particularly celebratory mood. He chose the postgame media conference to criticize those

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

who criticize him.

We in the media and the fandom should be more supportive of him and his team, Hawk squawked.

OK.

Let's cheer on the Buffs and rip on the Cowboys, although it should be remembered that the football team in our good-neighbor state could be called the University of Colorado at Laramie Cowboys.

Twenty-three members of the Wyo team and 41 players on the home team are from Colorado. (None of the Buffs is from Wyoming.) Go, Colorado.

So, so many were our own boys, and we who have children understand, as Hawkins lectured me in the hallway, "unconditional love."

On a totally positive, perfect day in Boulder, the Buffs began their drive to what could be, as Hawkins had indicated to his players and others before in the offseason, 10 victories — or maybe even 11, or — let's be way optimistic — a dynamic dozen.

The Incredible Hawk had pointed out earlier in the week how the Giants of '07 and the Buffs of '86 had turned around their seasons after a sluggish start.

If the Buffs continue to hold opponents scoreless while scoring 24 points behind Rodney "Whizzer" Stewart, and they "simplify" and "diversify" and

"electrify," they will finish the regular season 10-2, could go to the Big 12 Championship and then end up with a triumph in the Orange Bowl.

How's that for positivity?

The coach probably should have referred to the 1934 Buffs, who tied their first two games, then lost one, but won their last six games. Or what about that 1990 team that began with a tie and a loss in the first three games, but won a co-share of the national title by beating Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl?

Or he might have used the Buffaloes' retro uniforms for inspiration.

By the way, those silver-and-gold "legacy" uniforms with the silver helmet featuring buffalo horns were the biggest hit of the day.

The uniform was circa 1937, when the Buffs and the Whizzer of Ahs, Byron White, won eight consecutive games (before losing in the Cotton Bowl), and the helmets were styling from 1956, when the Buffs won eight games, including a victory in the Orange Bowl.

This triumph should have Hawk-harkened Buffs' shutouts of the Cowboys in 1905 (69-0), 1912 (75-0) and 1940 (62-0).

According to Hawkins, the Buffs probably should have put up a bigger number: "We left a lot of points out there."

I'm not criticizing the Golden-Silver'en Buffaloes,

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

but they didn't have that untimely snap on first (and last) down of their second possession. The ball soared over Cody Hawkins' head, and it wouldn't have mattered if he were a 6-foot-6 quarterback.

Wyoming recovered at the Colorado 18.

But — and this is a constructive statement — the Cowboys haven't quite reached their full potential offensively under new coach Dave Christensen.

Let's hope Christensen doesn't feel the heat in the Wyoming Daily Rope newspaper, like "Dump Dave!" The former Missouri offensive coordinator doesn't have quite the same talent in Laramie yet.

Wyo

Submit Your Question



Post sports columnist Woody Paige fields your questions. Look for Woody's Mailbag on Thursdays.

has zero touchdowns from its offense in the past nine quarters. "We thought we had a chance to come in here and win the game. . . . We took a lot of steps forward, but we took a step back,

unfortunately," Christensen said.

Yet, the Cowboys' defense was extraordinary — given that it was on the field for 10 minutes more than the Buffs' defense, that it starts six sophomores and a freshman, that it was worn down repeatedly by Stewart's running, that it had just come off an extremely difficult game against possible national champion Texas.

By the way, the Buffs play in Austin in a couple of weeks, but, first, there's a game in West Virginia. Nothing comes easy for the Buffs.

They do have a one-game winning streak.

They didn't allow a point; they scored a touchdown when receiver Scotty Mc-Knight grabbed a fumble at the Wyoming 2 and went in; Stewart had two touchdowns (and played most of the day because Darrell Scott has a bruised knee); Cody Hawkins didn't throw an interception in this game and was sacked only once, and the defense permitted only one long completion.

"This is a great place, and we all need to hang together and go in the same direction," Dan Hawkins said. "When you're talking about feeling some loyalty, when you're 0-2, and you see that many people here to support you, that's big time."

Overall, a majority of the 50,535 (Wyo brought a solid contingent) was pleased.

Hawkins should have been more pleased than he seemed. (I mentioned in the hallways that he

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

selected this profession. He said it has changed.
Dan, you're not in Boise anymore.)

He should love this positive column, and he can
win 10.

The season is early.

Woody Paige: 303-954-1095 or
wpaige@denverpost.com

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY
OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase.
One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

Simplified defense gets results

Back-to-basics mentality helps Colorado gain confidence to shut out Wyoming.

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/20/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



CU cornerback Jalil Brown sends Wyoming's Zach Bogler backward in the second quarter. The Buffs led 17-0 at the half on the way to their second shutout in the Dan Hawkins' era. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — Colorado coach Dan Hawkins wasn't alone in taking heat from Buffaloes fans after the 0-2 start. It couldn't have been much fun being a defensive player, either.

Colorado had yielded an average of 38.5 points, last among Big 12 Conference teams. Pitching a shutout Saturday against Wyoming felt good, senior linebacker Marcus Burton said. Really good.

"People were saying things, and we kind of had an attitude coming into this game," Burton said after CU's first shutout since blanking Miami (Ohio) in 2007. "We weren't going to let two home games go by us (having previously lost at Folsom Field to Colorado State).

"Basically, it was up to us to not let that happen again."

Basically is right. Going back to basics, Colorado defensive coaches simplified things last week. The result: CU finally prevented the big-play "gashers," as Hawkins had painfully called them.

CU reduced the number of personnel changes that it had made in the first two games and also made fewer alignment adjustments.

"It was very simple," Burton said. "We just went out there and ran and hit. That was our game plan. If one person was there (to make the tackle), it was not enough. We had to swarm to the ball."

Senior Benjamin Burney, who was moved from

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cornerback to safety for this game, said the defense had been playing a bit on its heels during the first two games.

"We were a little hesitant in those games, and we had a lot of personnel coming in and out," Burney said. "This time our horns were out the whole game. We attacked, attacked, attacked. It was playground football, just go make a play."

A Colorado defense that had allowed 624 yards to Toledo, tightened up Saturday by playing loose. Wyoming managed just 230 yards.

"With fewer defensive calls," junior end Marquez Herrod explained, "we were able to focus on the (opponent's) offense, rather than what we were going to do."

At a players' meeting, the defense discussed going out there and having fun, senior cornerback Cha'pelle Brown added. "If you worry about making a mistake, you're going to make a mistake," he said. "You just have to go out there and react."

Wyoming coach Dave Christensen anticipated CU would play man coverage rather than complicated zones.

"We tried to do something to get them out of it on every down . . . (but) you've got to execute," Christensen said.

*Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or
tkensler@denverpost.com*

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu briefs

Scott out with knee bruise; Stewart carries the load

Posted: 09/20/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — Colorado's offense should gain some confidence from moving the ball on the ground Saturday without tailback Darrell Scott.

All week, CU coaches never divulged Scott had suffered a knee bruise during the Toledo game. He is listed day to day. Scott was seen smiling on the sidelines.

"I told Darrell, 'I'm going to take a lot of heat (for this) from the fans,' " coach Dan Hawkins told the media afterward. "He'll be all right."

Scott was coming off his best game, 85 yards on 12 carries at Toledo and setting or tying school records on kickoff returns (eight) and kickoff return yards (204).

Scott's absence afforded more carries to Rodney Stewart. He came through with 127 yards rushing on 32 carries.

"I think when both of those guys are healthy, we

are going to be really good at that position," Hawkins said.

Simas debut.

Not only did CU wideout Markques Simas play in his first college game, the third-year sophomore was in the starting lineup.

Simas, who redshirted in 2007 and was academically ineligible last season, failed to catch a pass and played only sparingly.

"My (sore) knee didn't allow me to do the things I needed to do," Simas said. "But it was great to be out there and have fans cheering and trying to help my team win."

Also playing in his first college game was redshirt-freshman linebacker Jon Major, a former Parade All-American from Ponderosa High.

Commish attends.

Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe, who makes it a point of visiting the dozen conference members during the season, watched the game from a university suite. Beebe wore a gold CU shirt. "It's a nonconference game, so I get to root for a team," Beebe said.

Footnotes.

Colorado redshirt-freshman offensive tackle Bryce Givens did not dress. CU coaches said earlier in the week that the former Mullen star was dealing with "personal issues." . . . CU track

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture



OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

All-America Jenny Barringer, the Honda Track and Field Female Athlete of the Year, was honored between the first and second quarters. . . Colorado true freshman receiver Will Jefferson made his first career reception, for 9 yards in the third quarter.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

Advertisement

Visit our 50,000 square foot showroom of New & Used Office Furniture

OFFICE LIQUIDATORS
Profit From Our Experience
11111 W 6th Ave
Between Kipling & Simms
303-759-3375

SHOWROOM COUPON
\$50 OFF
MARKED PRICE ON ITEMS TOTALING \$300 OR MORE

OfficeLiquidators.com
Save even more by entering promo code 61689 in our online shopping cart

SHOP ONLINE WITH FREE STATEWIDE DELIVERY

You must present this while visiting our showroom at time of purchase. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10-31-07

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

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

Longmont, Colorado
 Tuesday, September 29,
 2009

Publish Date: 9/20/2009

Flying higher

By Justin Williams
 © 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Wyoming did its best Colorado Buffaloes impression Saturday afternoon. The Buffs did their best to take advantage.

Colorado beat up a pretty bad Wyoming team, 24-0, at Folsom Field, earning a surprising shutout on the heels of two terrible defensive efforts and against a coach who had previously looked like Bill Walsh against the Buffaloes.

“We came out wanting to show everybody what we were capable of,” CU linebacker B.J. Beatty said. “This defense, we worked too hard in the offseason to not be good.”

The CU (1-2) offense also helped by putting pressure on Wyoming (1-2), scoring on its opening drive when Scotty McKnight recovered a Demetrius Sumler fumble in the end zone and then taking a 17-0 lead into halftime. Running back Rodney Stewart — finally healthy enough to see his first consistent action this season — sparked an offense that was without an injured Darrell Scott.

Stewart finished with 132 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries.

“Definitely good to get into a rhythm, getting the ball a lot,” he said.

But it was the CU defense that shined brightest Saturday. Through the first two weeks, it had given up exactly 1,000 yards and 77 points, and it was the big plays that hurt the most. Against CSU and Toledo, the Buffs gave up 16 plays of 20 or more yards. Wyoming had three such plays Saturday, and it did bail the Buffs out twice with two missed, sub-40-yard field goals.

Colorado players and coaches credited a simplifying of their defense as a reason why things went so much better. Linebacker Marcus Burton said the team narrowed its defensive playbook from 20-25 plays and three personnel groupings to six plays and one personnel grouping.

“We didn’t think. We ran around making plays,” Burton said. “Guys weren’t worried about making mistakes.”

Senior defensive back Ben Burney moved from cornerback to safety for most of the game. He said the team needed a “corner-like person who can guard the slot” against the Cowboys’ spread offense. Burney said it will be a game-to-game decision on where he’ll play from here on out.

“I thought that was a great deal for our defense,” Buffs defensive coordinator



CU’s Jalil Brown celebrates his second quarter Wyoming fumble recovery with teammate B.J. Beatty on Saturday at Folsom Field. **Lewis Geyer/Times-Call**

COLORADO 24, WYOMING 0

Wyoming

0 0 0 0—0

Colorado

7 10 7 0—24

First Quarter

Col—McKnight 2 run (Goodman kick), 13:30.

Second Quarter

Col—FG Goodman 20, 13:35.

Col—Stewart 2 run (Goodman kick), 11:40.

Ron Collins said of Burney. "I thought he had a great game."

Wyoming's speed and athleticism was a step below what CU saw from Colorado State and Toledo, but Collins said the confidence gained Saturday should go a long way in getting the Buffs to turn the corner. And the fact that CU did it against a Dave Christensen-coached team — the same Dave Christensen who hung 113 points on Colorado in two games as offensive coordinator at Missouri — is a feather in its cap, too.

"We really hit home hard that it's up to us to set the tone," Burney said. "People were telling us: 'The defense is weak; the defense is this; you're giving up all of these points.' They were putting it on us. "So we go, 'All right, we're going to go out there and prove everybody else wrong.' We flew around out there as a family and brothers."

"I'm really happy for our defense," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "They've been taking a lot of heat."

Hawkins has been taking some heat himself, and he addressed the speculation of him being on the hot seat during his post-game press conference. He mostly blamed the media for creating such speculation, and his players said they weren't affected, either.

When asked if he felt a weight had been lifted by getting a win, quarterback Cody Hawkins said: "Not really. There wasn't any negativity in the locker room. We knew what we were capable of."

It's going to take more than a win over Wyoming for the Buffs to regain the optimism that surrounded the team three weeks ago. But getting the monkey off their back by finally finding the win column is the first step, no matter the opponent.

Still, as Dan Hawkins said, "It's only going to get tougher from here on out."

Justin Williams can be reached at jwilliams@times-call.com.

Third Quarter
Col—Stewart 11 run (Goodman kick), 1:17.
A—50,535.
Wyo CU
First downs
1321
Rushes-Yards
35-7645-151
Passing Yards
154175
Comp-Att-Int
15-36-017-31-0
Return Yards
255
Punts-Avg.
1-423-138
Fumbles-Lost
3-14-1
Penalties-yards
8-8610-86
Time of possession
24:5235:08
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Wyoming, Carta-Samuels 9-36, Alexander 6-22, Stewart 7-17, Benjamin 6-6, McCoy 1-5, Caraway 1-1, Bolger 1-(minus 2), Terry 3-(minus 3), Sween 1-(minus 6). Colorado, Stewart 32-127, Sumler 8-37, Lockridge 2-12, McKnight 0-2, C.Hawkins 1-(minus 6), Team 2-(minus 21).
PASSING—Wyoming, Carta-Samuels 11-24-0-125, Sween 3-8-0-27,

Benjamin 1-4-0-2. Colorado,
C.Hawkins 17-31-0-175.

RECEIVING—Wyoming, D.Leonard
6-49, O.Arnold 2-29, Bolger 2-15,
McNeill 2-11, D.Morgan 1-37, Bolling
1-7, Stewart 1-6. Colorado, McKnight
5-77, Geer 4-26, Espinoza 3-18,
Lockridge 1-17, Sumler 1-16,
Jefferson 1-9, J.Behrens 1-7, Stewart
1-5.

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

Longmont, Colorado
Tuesday, September 29,
2009

Publish Date: 9/20/2009

Stewart shines for CU

By Patrick Ridgell and Justin Williams
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Maybe there's a reason why Rodney Stewart is man of few words.

"Rodney doesn't talk much, and when he does, you can't hardly understand it," Colorado right tackle Ryan Miller said.

"He just gives a big old smile and takes off running, and that's awesome to see. You think you see him running through a hole but you don't know, and then you look up, and he's gone. It's wonderful to see that."

Stewart returned to CU's lineup Saturday in its 24-0 defeat of Wyoming and ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries. "Speedy" missed CU's loss at Toledo last weekend and played sparingly in its opener against Colorado State while the hamstring he hurt in August continued to heal.

"I'll be 100 percent by the next game," Stewart said.

It's unclear whether Darrell Scott will be available for that next game, which is Oct. 1 at West Virginia (5:30 p.m., ESPN). Scott did not play Saturday due to a bruised knee that head coach Dan Hawkins said he thinks Scott suffered returning the opening kickoff at Toledo. Scott still managed 12 carries and 85 yards against the Rockets, but was a spectator Saturday.

Scott aggravated the knee injury in pre-game.

"He'll be all right," Hawkins said about Scott. "We thought maybe he could return kickoffs (Saturday), but we thought that wasn't smart; you just risk getting hurt again.

"I told him, 'Well, I'm going to take a lot of heat from the fans again because just when Darrell got hot, we're sitting him down again, and what's going on with the running backs?' And he's laughing. But I still think when both of those guys are healthy, we're going to have a pretty good backfield there."

Miller said he'll say, "Thank you, God," when that day comes.

Running back coach Darian Hagan was not made available on Saturday to the Times-Call.

Hawkins said Stewart does not need to get into a rhythm because he can be "stone cold on the sideline, and you get him the ball and he's liable to go 80; he's that kind of guy." But Stewart said he gets into a rhythm when he receives many carries.

"I never scored two touchdowns in a game in college, so this was one of my better games I've ever had," Stewart said.

MAJOR PLAYER: Redshirt freshman Jon Major saw his first action on defense Saturday, and he finally showed the speed and athleticism that he exhibited before a torn ACL sat him down for the entire 2008 campaign.

He finished with four tackles and a sack.

“First game’s always a big deal,” said Major, who saw limited time on special teams against Toledo. “Jittery at first, but then kind of relaxed — especially with help from Jeff (Smart) and Marcus (Burton) helping me along.”

Major was highly recruited out of Ponderosa High School and was Colorado’s top-ranked recruit in 2007. He has said the injury was behind him, and Saturday’s performance was a good sign that it’s true.

“We all know that he’s a great kid and a really great player,” Hawkins said. “We are fortunate to have him on this team and think his knee is getting better and better. It’s nice to see him get in there and run and hit.”

FAMILIAR FACES: Aric Goodman said he didn’t feel any different playing against his former team Saturday, a team he left after his freshman year so he could join his hometown Buffaloes.

“(The emotions were the) same as any other game,” the junior kicker said. “Just happy we went out there in all three phases, played up to our potential.”

Goodman made his only attempted field goal, a 20-yarder in the second quarter, and he was a perfect 3-for-3 on point-after attempts against Wyoming. Goodman said he was able to talk to a few of his former teammates briefly on the field.

“It’s obviously good to see them,” he said. “Haven’t seen them in a couple years, so it’s good to see them.”

SIMAS’ DEBUT: Markques Simas’ long-awaited collegiate debut was short and uneventful.

The receiver started and played on the first two series, but only sparingly the rest of the day.

Simas said his knee, in which he suffered a sprained MCL late in camp, started bothering him, limiting his availability. He caught no passes.

Simas said he’ll use the coming bye week to “get back in tip-top shape” for West Virginia.

“I’m happy with the win. I’m not going to complain,” he said. “I’m going to do whatever it takes. If that means sitting the bench to let my team go out there and handle it, I’m going to do it.”

INJURY NEWS: CU reported no new injuries Saturday.

Linebacker Shaun Mohler, who missed Toledo with a concussion, returned. Guard Max Tuioti-Mariner (ACL tear) is two-to-three weeks away from returning, and defensive end Nick Kasa (partial MCL tear) has been upgraded to week-to-week.

Quarterback Cody Hawkins looked dizzy when he left the field after fighting for a fumble. He did not miss any plays.

Right tackle Bryce Givens did not dress. No word was given on his status.

EXTRA POINTS: Skyline graduate Gabe Knapton recorded 10 tackles, one for a loss, for Wyoming. ... CU’s Scotty McKnight tied a program record when he caught a pass in his 27th straight game. ... CU’s Will Jefferson recorded his first career reception. ... CU plans to sell the throw-back uniforms — the helmet and jersey that each Buffalo wore Saturday — for \$600. They were given to CU by Nike. ... Attendance was 50,535. ... CU punter Matt DiLallo averaged 47.7 yards per punt.

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

Longmont, Colorado
Tuesday, September 29,
2009

Publish Date: 9/20/2009

Coach finds vindication in victory

By Patrick Ridgell
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — It's hard to tell if Saturday's 24-0 victory reveals whether the Colorado Buffaloes made any real improvement this week, or they just got to play Wyoming. Guess time will tell.

What was clear after the win was that CU coach Dan Hawkins had something on his mind. Get a load of what the coach said when asked about speculation regarding his job:

"The only speculation was from you guys," he told reporters. "There was no speculation from my boss, there was no speculation from our big hitters (donors). That speculation came from you guys."

OK. Was the week following a 58-34 loss at Toledo disconcerting?

"Not at all. I love these guys. I've said this many times before.

"Unfortunately in this (media) business, there's not a lot of you that have children. I don't know why that is. But when you have kids, you love them up. You give them unconditional love. And you hang in there.

"And sometimes they flunk science, and sometimes they strike out and sometimes they drop fly balls and sometimes they miss last-second shots. But when you're a true parent, you're a true teacher, and you hang in there and you keep believing them and keep working on things, and eventually it turns."

As Hawkins walked off Folsom Field Saturday, senior cornerback Cha'pelle Brown, one of the first Buffs who committed to Hawkins when he took over in December 2005, jogged up to his coach and offered congratulations. Hawkins hugged the senior, who played well Saturday, and said, "Way to let it rip."

Things had, indeed, for at least a day, turned for CU.

This scene was in sharp contrast to what happened two weeks ago, when fans bellowed at Hawkins as he walked off the field.

I might have missed them, but I don't think the fans yelling "Resign!" from the stands after Colorado State were wearing media passes. I'm not sure who started the web petition this week advocating Hawkins' dismissal. Guess it could've been reporters, but I doubt it. And according to athletic director Mike Bohn on Tuesday, it was fans, not reporters, who contacted his department this week saying, "Make a change tomorrow."

It's not really a big deal if the coach can't tell the difference between who's speculating, and who's reporting there is speculation, no matter how much it preoccupies him after the season's first win. There's other perspective to apply here.

The Buffs' beleaguered defense shut out Wyoming, which is way better than giving up 54 points to Toledo, ya' dig?

Running back Rodney Stewart went for 127 yards and two touchdowns, easing — temporarily — concerns about

Darrell Scott's absence. Scott didn't play due to a knee bruise, Hawkins said.

The Buffs dominated a team they should dominate.

Did they do it to ease the "heat" — forget from where it comes — on their coach?

"Our sense was, get the heat turned off all of us, you know what I'm saying?" senior defensive back Ben Burney said. "It wasn't just on coach; it was on all of us. We have to play.

"The coaches are basically our surrogate fathers, and we want them to do the best thing, so we have to go out there and perform from them.

"I think the older guys are on an even keel. It was a good win, but we still have to come on, we still have clean up things. It's a long season. We're happy to get that little monkey off our shoulders."

Cha'pelle Brown said the players held a players-only meeting Friday night in which they "sat each other down and said, 'we need to go out there and have fun.'" Judging by the smiles on their faces, and the fervor with which they sung with their classmates in the student section after the final whistle, they did so.

But have they improved?

Here's one opinion: The Buffs are not as bad as the team that CSU beat and that Toledo whipped, and they aren't as good as the one we saw Saturday.

Each week will be a new challenge that'll reveal strengths and deficiencies, starting Oct. 1 at West Virginia. Mainly, each week will reveal what the current coaching staff can do with a program that seems like it's forever young. They did a nice job this week.

And it'll leave us to "speculate" on things like why the Buffs under Hawkins have won only twice on the road, or why there's so much attrition, or why it's taking so long for the Buffs to return to national significance, where they once resided every season.

But not now. I just want to get out of here and go love up my kids.

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



Colorado makes Cowboys pay with conversions

Big-play Buffs

DAVID BUCK - Special to the Star-Tribune | Posted: Sunday, September 20, 2009 12:00 am

BOULDER, Colo. -- On this Saturday, Cody Hawkins actually looked like a Big 12-caliber quarterback.

Often a sidenote to the league's Heisman Trophy candidates, Hawkins made the big plays -- most notably on second- or third-and-long -- when his team needed them the most in Saturday's 24-0 victory over Wyoming.

"We need to stop those," UW linebacker Brian Hendricks said. "We just need to stay back, stay in coverage, and let a receiver slip by. That is something that we need to correct and prevent in the future."

The big-bang plays started early for the Buffs. Colorado's first drive appeared ready to stall, but instead of buckling down, the Pokes bellied up. Hawkins connected with wideout Scotty McKnight for 26 yards.

"They threw that big pass on us and we couldn't stop the run for the first couple of first series," UW defensive end John Fletcher said. "We came out flat."

Wyoming went from possibly forcing a punt to allowing the Buffs into the end zone. Colorado scored its first touchdown on the next play.

Later, near the end of the first quarter, Colorado's offense was called for a personal foul that set up a third and 19.

Once again, the Pokes broke down. Hawkins found McKnight again, this time for 28 yards. After another first down, former Wyoming kicker Aric Goodman made a 20-yard field goal to give the Buffs a 10-0 lead.

Colorado was nowhere near perfect on third down (7-for-16), but the Buffs made enough conversions at crucial times to make the Pokes hang their heads for another week.

Gash plays weren't the Cowboys' only flaw on Saturday. Stopping the run was also a problem. Rodney Stewart rushed 32 times for 132 yards and two touchdowns. He set up his first score with a 13-yard rush through the heart of the Cowboys' defensive line to the Wyoming 2. Stewart's other score came on an 11-yard scamper where he burst past the line and a few weak diving attempts by a pair of Wyoming defenders.

"There were some mental errors. Our players were out of position sometimes," UW coach Dave Christensen said. "We've got a lot of areas on this football team that we have to get better at."

Hendricks, who had 14 tackles against Texas last week, was again a bright spot of the defense, recording a career-high 18 tackles. The mark, however, was no consolation for the sophomore.

"I wish we would have won," Hendricks said.



Offensive woes plague Cowboys

ERIC SCHMOLDT - Star-Tribune staff writer | Posted: Sunday, September 20, 2009 12:00 am

BOULDER, Colo. -- The Wyoming Cowboys couldn't have started the season any better.

They debuted their spread offense with a long touchdown drive on their first possession of the season against Weber State.

Instead of that drive becoming the norm, however, it's become the anomaly.

It's been nearly 10 quarters since the Pokes scored an offensive touchdown, they still haven't scored one against a Division I team and they didn't even find the scoreboard on Saturday, falling 24-0 at Colorado.

"This is the first year we've ever [played spread]," UW freshman quarterback Austyn Carta-Samuels said. "We have to learn quickly ... and we need to make changes accordingly."

UW's offensive ineptitude may have been overlooked during a 41-10 loss to Texas.

It couldn't have been any clearer against the Buffaloes.

UW moved the chains just three times in the first half, controlled the ball for less than 25 minutes and racked up just 230 yards of offense against a defense that was giving up 500 per game.

"You've gotta execute," UW coach Dave Christensen said. "You've got to put plays together, back to back, you've got to get first downs, keep your offense on the field so your defense has a chance to rest and then hopefully we can have a chance to create more turnovers if we go out there fresh."

The Cowboys couldn't have started any worse.

They didn't get a first down in the first quarter and produced just 11 yards of total offense.

"It's hard for me to tell you [what's wrong] just because there's a lot of good things going on and we're just one step away," Carta-Samuels said. "I hate saying that because I've had to say that the last two weeks now and we haven't been able to do it."

The Pokes barely have 500 yards of offense in their last two games combined.

At times Carta-Samuels and starting signal-caller Robert Benjamin had to run for their lives.

At times, they were impatient with their decisions.

When they made the right calls, receivers dropped balls and players incurred costly penalties.

"It's frustrating as an offense when you don't score, especially because the defense is putting us in such great situations to score," UW wide receiver David Leonard said. "We're going to have to come together as a team and an offense and just get it switched around."

The major switch may come at quarterback.

Benjamin started for the third consecutive game but failed to find a rhythm. Carta-Samuels certainly didn't spark a comeback, but made a few big plays while leading with his gritty attitude.

Christensen wouldn't say if there would be a switch on the depth chart, but did hint that he's growing weary with the rotation at quarterback.

"Obviously there's a lot of things we can do to get better," Christensen said. "We've got to decide on a quarterback, we've got to get that issue settled. I'm not interested in switching off the entire year."

"We've got a lot of soul-searching and stuff we've got to do as a staff to really come up with the best plan that's going to give us the best opportunity to move the ball and score points."

LAPSES IN JUDGMENT: The Pokes piled up nearly as many penalty yards on Saturday as they had in their first two games combined.

And almost more baffling than the number were the players whistled for the infractions.

UW was called for eight penalties totaling 86 yards, including four of the 15-yard variety.

Junior safety Chris Prosinski was whistled for pass interference on the Buffaloes' opening drive and seniors Ryan Otterson and Weston Johnson were each called for late hits.

UW also had a personal foul on a punt.

"The problem I saw today was with penalties," UW quarterback Austyn Carta-Samuels said. "That's going to be addressed and coach already addressed it. I think the one thing that we know with Coach Christensen is discipline, discipline, discipline."

EASY ROD: Colorado didn't have sophomore tailback Darrell Scott, who missed the game with an injury.

But the Buffaloes rushing attack, behind Rodney Stewart, didn't miss a beat.

The sophomore carried the ball 32 times for 127 yards and two touchdowns as Colorado piled up more than 150 yards on the ground.

It was the first time a running back has gone for 100 yards against the Pokes this year.

"He's a guy that doesn't need a lot of rhythm," Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said. "He can be stone cold on the sidelines and go in there and get in there and play well. He is so dog-gone powerful."

SEAT'S TAKEN: Hawkins' seat might feel a little colder today.

Under scrutiny after the Buffaloes opened the season 0-2, a shutout should quell the doubters -- for now.

"There was no speculation from my boss," Hawkins said. "There was no speculation from the big hitters. All that speculation came from [the media]. I love these guys and I've said that many times before. When you have kids you love them up and you hang in there. When you're a true parent and a teacher you hang in there and keep believing in them and keep working on things. And eventually it turns around."

FILL-IN FREDDY: UW senior noseguard Fred Givens knew he'd get his chance again.

Demoted from the starting spot heading into this season, Given was back there on Saturday when regular starter Alex Stover couldn't make the trip with a groin injury.

Givens finished with six tackles, including a handful of stops in short-distance situations.

"Fred's doing a nice job for us, going in there and making some plays," Christensen said. "We'll watch the film, but I think he did a pretty solid job for us today."

HIGH NOTES: There weren't many bright spots, but the Pokes had a few.

Freshman wide receiver Chris McNeill pulled in his first two career receptions, going for 11 yards against the Buffaloes.

Sophomore linebacker Brian Hendricks piled up a career-high 18 tackles, giving him double-digit efforts in each of his last two games. He also recovered a fumble on Colorado's lone turnover.

Freshman Shamiel Gary had a career-high 15 tackles, 11 of them solo.

BUMPS AND BRUISES: The only in-game injury reported during post-game involved freshman Ghaali Muhammad.

The linebacker, who recovered UW's blocked punt for a touchdown against Texas, sprained his knee.

Contact sports reporter Eric Schmoldt at eric.schmoldt@trib.com. Or check out his blog at tribtown.trib.com/ESchmoldt/blog.

- [News](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [Sports](#)
 - [Opinion](#)
-
- [Subscribe](#)

Hawkins silences critics, for now

CU picks up first win of 2009

By Alex K.W. Schultz on September 19, 2009

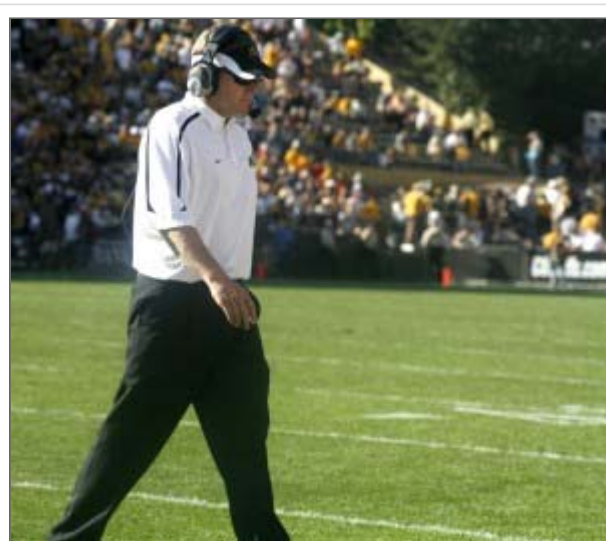
Maybe it was the “third time is a charm” cliché.

Or, maybe it was simply the Colorado Buffaloes’ desire to crawl out of the winless hole.

The Buffs’ offense clicked, their defense stiffened and CU — donning jerseys from the 1930s — grabbed its first win of the season Saturday with a 24-0 victory over the Wyoming Cowboys at Folsom Field before 50,535 fans.

CU head coach Dan Hawkins said he wasn’t distracted by the media speculation this past week about his job security although the Buffs entered the contest 0-2.

“The only speculation was from [the media],” Hawkins said. “There’s been no speculation from my boss, no speculation from our big hitters. That speculation came from [the media]. I love [my players].”



Head Coach Dan Hawkins walks to the sideline after speaking with his players in huddle. (CU Independent/Molly Maher)

Hawkins added he hasn’t had trouble standing behind his players despite the team’s rocky start.

“Unfortunately in [the media], there’s not a lot of you who have children and I don’t know why that is,” Hawkins said. “But when you have kids, you love them up and you give them unconditional love and you hang in there.

“Sometimes they flunk science, sometimes they strike out, sometimes they drop fly balls and sometimes they miss last-second shots. But when you’re a true parent, you’re a true teacher. You hang in there and you keep believing in them and keep working on things, and eventually it turns.”

The story of the game was CU’s defense, which gave up 230 yards and didn’t allow the Cowboys to gain a first down in the first quarter.

The Buffs surrendered a whopping 1,000 yards in their first two games this season.

“We got gashed a couple times the last couple weeks on defense,” Hawkins said. “It wasn’t massive things. I’m proud of [defensive coordinator] Ron Collins and the defensive staff and, really, our guys on defense to hang in there and keep believing and keep working. They did an awesome job.”

The last time the Cowboys were held scoreless was when they lost 24-0 on the road to the New Mexico Lobos on Oct. 4, 2008.

Saturday's shutout wouldn't have happened if Cowboys sophomore kicker Austin McCoy didn't shank a pair of field goals.

Collins said he was proud of the defense's effort but the Buffs still have a "long ways" to go to get better.

"The thing these guys have to understand is we have a lot of good teams coming up," Collins said. "We have not arrived, so we have a long ways to go."

Senior cornerback Cha'pelle Brown recorded seven tackles while sophomore defensive tackle Curtis Cunningham and senior linebacker Jeff Smart each added six.

Brown said the defense tried to simply go out and "have fun."

"You're much looser," Brown said. "If you're uptight and worried about making mistakes, you're going to make mistakes. You have to go out and try to get to the ball and just have fun."

CU sophomore running back Rodney Stewart carried the offense as he rushed for 127 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries. It was his fourth career 100-yard rushing game.

Stewart's 2-yard touchdown rumble capped a four-play, 27-yard drive to give CU a 17-0 lead with 11 minutes, 40 seconds remaining in the second. The sophomore put the final touches on UW with an 11-yard scoring dash late in the third.

"You definitely get into a rhythm when you get the ball a lot," Stewart said. "You just have to think about the little things like holding the ball right so you don't get stripped."

Stewart was also quick to laud the offensive line for opening up the holes, which he darted through.

"They did unbelievable," Stewart said. "I'm proud of every one of them."

CU got rolling quickly with a five-play, 69-yard scoring drive in its first possession of the game. Junior running back Demetrius Sumler carried the ball 15 yards and fumbled it at the Buffs' 2-yard line. Luckily for Sumler, junior wide receiver Scotty McKnight was nearby and scooped up the loose ball before diving into the end zone.

Junior kicker Aric Goodman booted a 20-yard field goal to extend the Buffs' lead to 10-0 with 13:58 to play in the second.

The same energy and effort, Collins said, has to carry over to Oct. 1 when CU travels to Morgantown, W.Va., to take on the West Virginia Mountaineers.

"I think the guys gained a little confidence this week," Collins said, "And they're just going to continue to get better."

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

Share and Enjoy:



[Go mobile](#) | [Favorite Examiners](#) | [Meet the Examiners](#)

Weather for Denver | 84° Few Clouds



Select your city

Search articles from thousands of Examiners

Search

Spending an hour scheduling a
30-minute meeting made me go Google.

[Learn about Apps at Work](#)
[Google apps](#)
[Home](#) [Entertainment](#) [Business](#) [Family & Home](#) [Life](#) [News & Politics](#) [Sports & Recreation](#)
[Denver](#) » [Sports](#) » [Colorado Buffaloes Examiner](#)


CU stomps Wyoming for first win of season.

 September 20, 12:57 AM • [Colorado Buffaloes Examiner](#) • [Chris Jackson](#)
[Comment](#)

[Print](#)

[Email](#)

[RSS](#)

[Subscribe](#)
[Previous](#)
[Next](#)

Step away from those ledges. Stop thinking those horrific thoughts. Put down the triple chocolate cake.

As I write these words, the University of Colorado Buffaloes have won their first game of the season, beating the Wyoming Cowboys, 24-0.

The Golden Buffaloes took the field dawning silver and gold throw back uniforms, a color scheme that seemed to agree with CU as they marched the opening kick off down the field for a touchdown and their first lead of the season. The touchdown wasn't pretty though. Scotty McKnight recovered a CU fumble and ran it two yards for the Buffs first score.

A turnover would spark another CU score in the first half when senior cornerback Benjamin Burney forced a fumble that was recovered junior cornerback Jalil Brown. The Buffaloes mounted a four play, 27 yard drive that ended with a two yard touchdown run by sophomore Rodney Stewart.

Colorado also added a field goal, giving them a 17-0 lead at the end of the first half.

The Buffaloes defense showed up huge in the first half, holding Wyoming to three first downs and 61 yards of total offense.

The only score of the second half came off of a Stewart eleven yard touchdown run. The play capped a thirteen play, 76 yard drive that took 6:45 off of the clock.

Stewart finished the game with 127 yards and two touchdowns. In total, the Buffaloes recorded a total of 151 yards on the ground and the offensive line allowed only one sack for the entire game.

"They did unbelievably," Stewart said of his offensive line after the game, "I'm proud of every one of them."

The win moves the Buffs record to 1-2 as they enter a bye week but Coach Dan Hawkins knows CU has a lot of work in front of them.

"We left a lot of points out there today," Hawkins told the media after the game, "We had a couple penalties and a turn-over and some missed throws. So, I would like to see us get on track a little more and be a little more efficient."



Rodney Stewart celebrates one of his two touchdowns as Colorado beat Wyoming, 24-0.

YOUR AD HERE

Start at Progressive today.

Enter ZIP Code:

[Get Your Free Quote](#)

Recent Articles

College Football: Week 3 Review



Wednesday, September 23, 2009
Sometimes a win isn't as great as it sounds. The good news is Colorado finally got a win. The offense rushed for 151 yards and the much ...

Breaking down Colorado vs. Wyoming.



Saturday, September 19, 2009
To say the University of Colorado Buffaloes are facing a must win situation today might be a bit of an understatement. The Buffaloes (0-2) will be ...

[All Articles »](#)

Things to see and do

Today 30 01 02 03 04



Milwaukee Brewers at Colorado Rockies

29 Sep 2009 - 6 pm
Coors Field

[More sports »](#)


AM Yoga in Chairs

First Unitarian Church of Denver



Public Skate

Dobson Ice Arena

[See all Events »](#)

You are here: [Home](#) / [Sports](#) / [Colleges](#) / [College football](#) / [CU](#) / Colorado pitches shutout in Folsom, 24-0

Colorado pitches shutout in Folsom, 24-0

By [Kyle Clark](#) on September 19, 2009 · [Comment](#) · [Email This](#) · [Share This](#)



Rodney Stewart dives into the end zone for his second touchdown run of the day. (INDT photo)

BOULDER — Colorado football was able to shake off many of the mistakes, criticisms and questions from last week as they dominated Wyoming with a shutout win Saturday. After the 24-0 score became final, the walk for players and coaches along the bleachers to the locker room was completely different from what they experienced two weeks prior. Obscenities, anger and inebriation were replaced with clapping, encouraging words and whistles, especially for the game's special player, Rodney Stewart.

“Speedy” ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns, carrying the ball extensively. It was a career day for Stewart in rushing attempts, beating his previous high by three with 32. Usually a complementary back for Darrell Scott or Demetrius Summler, Stewart took over this game. Scott was held out for his bruised knee, and Summler had a respectable 41 yards on 8 attempts, but it was the elusiveness of No. 5 that gave Wyoming the most fits. There were several plays that should have been losses from which he was able to escape and make positive yardage.

“He’s funny, he doesn’t need rhythm,” mused coach Dan Hawkins. “He’s a guy that can be stone-cold on the sidelines and you give him the ball and he’s liable to go 80. He’s so doggone powerful, you give him a few pops and he breaks tackles. He’s a lot stronger than guys his size ought to be.”



Quarterback Cody Hawkins and the Buffaloes wore special throwback uniforms for legacy day. (INDT photo)

QB Cody Hawkins played well, completing 17 of 31 attempts for 175 yards. He had no touchdowns but also no interceptions. His favorite target again was Scotty McKnight, who picked up 77 yards on five catches. McKnight also fell on a Summler fumble in the end zone, logging a rushing touchdown without a rushing attempt. Receivers Jason Espinoza and Will Jefferson also had catches, with Jefferson getting his first career reception for nine yards. The remaining passing attack came from a solid mix of backs and tight ends. TE Riar Geer, RB Brian Lockridge, Summler, FB Jake Behrens and Stewart combined for 71 yards.

The real shocker in this game was how well the defense played. After Colorado took the opening drive of the game 69 yards in 90 seconds for its first touchdown, the Buffs forced a three-and-out with a great pass breakup by senior LB Marcus Burton. A fumbled snap gave the ball right back to the Cowboys on the Colorado 18, but the defense came up with a big stand in the red zone, forcing a field goal attempt that went wide. After that, Wyoming didn't make it past the Colorado 39-yard line until early in the fourth quarter, when it missed another field goal.

Colorado forced Wyoming to punt six consecutive times in the middle of the game and held the spread attack of coach Dave Christensen to 154 passing yards. Christensen was forced to swap his quarterbacks at the start of the second quarter, choosing Austyn Carta-Samuels over Robert Benjamin. Wyoming continued to struggle, however, not converting a third down until the fourth quarter. By then it was too late, and after the second Cowboys missed field goal, third-string QB Karsten Sween was brought in.

While there were no interceptions from the defense, there was a forced fumble, six pass breakups, four sacks with five quarterback hurries, and seven tackles for loss. What can't be seen on the stat sheet is how the Colorado secondary came in ready to play. Excellent coverage gave the front seven

the time they needed for those four sacks. Only one pass play went for more than 30 yards, closing up those problems with big plays.



After Wyoming muffed the kickoff catch, CB Chapelle Brown pinned the Cowboys at their own 1. (INDT photo)

Asked what “little adjustments” he had to put in for this success, Hawkins replied, “Played less personnel groups, less changes, less calls.” He went on to say how proud he was of Ron Collins and his defensive staff for “hanging in there and keep believing.”

For the first time this year, fans now are happy to see a big ol’ zero. This time it’s on the scoreboard under “visitor.” Hawkins finished his comments with a message directly to the fans:

“I do want to say this, I thought it was awesome for our fans to show up and have over 50,000 in the stands. You know, you’ve got everyone flicking dirt on you (the program), and for those people to show up and be supportive and be enthusiastic and cheer, and hang till the end, I thought that was awesome. We need that, we need to keep doing that. It’s a good place. We all gotta hang together, row in the same direction. You talk about building some loyalty, when you run out there being 0-2 and you see that many people here to support you, that’s big-time.”

Editor’s note: Comments have been turned off on football stories involving CU to meet the university’s requirement for giving media credentials to Web site reporters and photographers.

[Return to Images](#)

Sports

Buffs stampede Cowboys

By **BOB HAMMOND** Boomerang Sports Editor

Published: Saturday, September 19, 2009 9:57 PM MDT

[Print Page](#)

BOULDER, Colo. — It was a ready-made recipe for disaster.

Wyoming was coming off a solid performance against No. 2 Texas, while Colorado was hurting after two sorry performances in losses to in-state rival Colorado State and Toledo.

With a brutal schedule ahead, the Buffaloes had their collective backs to the wall.

Colorado responded accordingly while Wyoming never got its wake-up call as the Buffaloes rolled to a surprisingly easy 24-0 victory over the Cowboys Saturday afternoon at Folsom Field before a crowd of 50,535.

The difference in this one was Colorado's aggressive defense and Wyoming's struggling up-tempo spread offense.

After giving up 77 points and 1,000 yards in total offense (7.81 yards per play) in its first two games, the Colorado "D" completely shut down the Cowboys. Wyoming managed just 230 yards in total offense — 76 rushing and 154 passing — in 71 plays, an average of just 3.2 yards per play.

The shutout was Colorado's first since Sept. 22, 2007, when the Buffs blanked Miami (Ohio), 42-0.

"We got gassed a couple of times the last two weeks on defense but our guys hung in there and kept believing. They did an awesome job," CU fourth-year coach Dan Hawkins said.

Wyoming was shutout for the first time since Oct. 4 of last year when the Cowboys dropped a 24-0 decision to New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Cowboys have now gone 148 minutes and 12 seconds — almost 10 full quarters — without an offensive touchdown. Over that stretch, UW has just three field goals and a defensive touchdown.

"We had a lack of discipline ... too many penalties (8 for 86 yards), personal fouls. I did a poor job of preparing this team," UW first-year coach Dave Christensen said. "I will take the responsibility. The kids are working hard and giving an effort, but it certainly didn't show today."

The tone for this game was set early.

Colorado, which had fallen behind early to both Colorado State (20-3) and Toledo (30-3) in the first half in its two losses, wasn't about to let that happen again.

CU won the coin toss and elected to take the ball instead of deferring to the second half like most teams have done this season.

It paid off as the inspired Buffs took the opening kickoff and drove 69 yards in five plays to get on the scoreboard. The touchdown came on a recovered fumble in the end zone by CU wide receiver Scotty McKnight following a 15-yard up the middle by tailback Demetrius Sumler. That gave CU a 7-0 lead just 1:30 into the game.

The Cowboys then went 3-and-out on its first possession and it never got any better. The first half was an absolute nightmare for the Cowboy offense.

In fact, Wyoming went 3-and-out on five of its first seven possessions and fumbled the ball away after two plays on yet another. The Cowboys didn't get their first first down until the 11:14 mark of the second quarter.

By the halftime break, CU's defensive dominance or UW's offensive ineptness was in full effect. UW

managed just three first downs and had just 61 yards in total offense on 30 plays.

The longest play for UW was a 9-yard pass from freshman quarterback Austyn Carta-Samuels to tight end Orlando Arnold ... this against a CU defense that had given up 16 plays over 20 yards and nine plays over 35 yards in its first two games.

The Buffs went on to add 10 more points in the second quarter on a 20-yard field goal by former UW place-kicker Aric Goodman and a 2-yard run by backup tailback Rodney Stewart.

Stewart's touchdown culminated a 27-yard CU drive, which was set up by a fumble by UW running back Darius Terry. CU's Benjamin Burney forced the fumble and fellow cornerback Jalil Brown fell on it to give the Buffs great field position.

Wyoming's only opportunity to score in the first 30 minutes of play came early in the first quarter when CU center Mike Iltis snapped the ball over quarterback Cody Hawkins' head and Cowboy linebacker Brian Hendricks out-scrambled Hawkins for the ball for a recovery on the CU 18-yard line.

But the Cowboys couldn't gain a yard against the stout CU defense and Austin McCoy's 35-yard field goal attempt was wide to the right.

"We struggled offensively in the first half," Christensen said. "Our defense was playing pretty well, we had two big plays in the first half and we figured it was going to hard on them. We played a well-coached team."

Things didn't get a whole lot better in the second half although the UW offense functioned a little better under the direction of freshman quarterback Austyn Carta-Samuels, but still was able to put any points on the scoreboard.

The Cowboys managed to get down to the Colorado 7-yard line early in the fourth quarter on a 49-yard pass from Carta-Samuels to wide receiver Donate Morgan, but were pushed back by an illegal-procedure penalty. The end result was another field goal miss by McCoy. This time, his 37-yard attempt was wide left.

The only score in the second half came late in the third quarter on an 11-yard run by Stewart. That culminated a 76-yard drive in 13 plays and gave the Buffs a 24-0 lead with only 1:17 left.

"It was nice to get into a little rhythm and get some confidence, but we left a lot of points and opportunities out there," Hawkins said.

Junior quarterback Robert Benjamin started the game for the Cowboys and played the first four possessions before being replaced by freshman Austyn-Carta Samuels. Carta-Samuels went on to play almost the rest of the rest of the game except for the final possession, which went to senior Karsten Sween.

The three UW signal callers combined to complete just 15-of-36 passes for 125 yards. Carta-Samuels was 11-of-24 for 125 yards, Sween 3-of-8 for 27 yards and Benjamin just 1-of-4 for 2 yards.

"I'm not interested in switching off, but nobody has really stepped up," Christensen said of UW's quarterback situation. "We had three dropped balls and we're struggling when our receivers are dropping balls. We'll find a way to get points."

Colorado finished with only 326 yards in total offense — 151 yards rushing and 175 passing.

Stewart led the Buffs with 127 yards on 32 carries to go along with his two touchdowns. Meanwhile, Hawkins completed 17-of-31 passes for 175 yards.

Both Wyoming and Colorado are now 1-2 for the young season.

"All losses are tough. I know our football team's hurt right now. They're down," Christensen said. "We thought we'd come in here and have a chance to win this football game, and we didn't do it.

"I don't think this is the game that is going to show us how good we are. We didn't play well today.

"I know one thing ... we are going to be a better football team. We took a lot of steps forward, but we took a step back (today), unfortunately," he added.

The Cowboys won't have long to lick their wounds. They now return home where they have to get ready for the Mountain West Conference opener against UNLV next Saturday in War Memorial Stadium. That game will kick off at 1p.m.

Meanwhile, Colorado now faces a stretch where it will play both West Virginia and Texas on the road before returning to Folsom Field to play Kansas on Oct. 17.

Bob Hammond's e-mail address is bobh@laramieboomerang.com

Copyright © 2009 - LaramieBoomerang.com - Laramie, Wyoming

[\[x\] Close Window](#)

Published Sep 19, 2009

Published Saturday September 19, 2009

Barfknecht: Hawkins roast on hold

By Lee Barfknecht

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins, front bottom, hoists tailback Rodney Stewart as the Buffs greet fans following a 24-0 victory over Wyoming, a win that came after losses to Colorado State and Toledo.

BOULDER, Colo. — I still wouldn't want Colorado Athletic Director Mike Bohn's job.

Not even after CU's first football victory of the season — 24-0 Saturday over Wyoming — which really proved only this:

For one day at home, the Buffs' bruised program was better than a school's with a first-year head coach and a true freshman quarterback that is picked to finish last in a non-BCS league.

To the credit of CU coach Dan Hawkins, whose pants appeared to be made of polyester and not asbestos, he didn't claim that one win fixes all after two ugly losses.

But Hawkins also didn't entertain any chatter from reporters about his job status.

"There was no speculation from my boss," he said pointedly. "There was no speculation from our big hitters. That speculation came from you guys."

Unfortunately for Hawkins and Bohn, the speculation won't end. Not with what's coming up.

The Buffaloes will be an underdog Oct. 1 at West Virginia; a big underdog Oct. 10 at No. 2 Texas; and an underdog — maybe by double digits — Oct. 17 against No. 22 Kansas.

Lose all three and the home folks see you leave the field 1-5 after the now infamous offseason talk about winning 10 games.

What has to worry Bohn, who hired Hawkins and has stood by his man, is that Big 12 play hasn't been kind to his fourth-year coach.

Hawkins, with a .350 winning percentage overall (14-26), is at .333 in the league (8-16). And as many as five of those wins spark little confidence.

Four came against coaches who were fired for poor performance at the end of those seasons: Iowa State's Dan McCarney in 2006, Baylor's Guy Morriss in 2007, Nebraska's Bill Callahan in 2007 and Kansas State's Ron Prince in 2008.

A fifth, in 2008 against Iowa State, came against a coach (Gene Chizik) who raced out of town after getting a new job at Auburn despite a 10-game losing string.

If Colorado starts another Big 12 slide, Bohn might have to distance himself from Hawkins to save his own neck.

Where do the fans stand on the situation?

In the booster lot adjacent to Folsom Field, Hawkins got support from the parent of a CU engineering student who may walk on in football next spring.

“I’d rather see Hawkins’ standards of behavior and grade achievement,” said Mark Allen of Littleton, Colo., “than have a football factory with a lot of bad actors.”

That’s a sentiment any parent can embrace.

But as an athletic administrator, I’d have to ask why good standards and a winning record couldn’t happen together.

As Hawkins once yelped, “This ain’t intramurals, brother!”

Colorado and its backers must decide if they want to write the checks, build the buildings and hire the coaches to truly compete in a big-boy conference — or just go along for the ride while collecting the \$8 million annual check that comes with Big 12 membership.

One good sign: At a place where fan loyalty is often questioned, the upset of the day was the crowd count of 50,535, only about 3,000 shy of capacity.

“When everybody is flicking dirt on you,” Hawkins said, “those people show up and hang in to the end.”

The fans cheered for the defense. That unit, after giving up 1,000 yards in two games, said a simplified scheme with fewer substitutions and calls led to limiting Wyoming to 230 yards.

Tailback Rodney “Speedy” Stewart also sparked applause. The 5-foot-6, 170-pounder, who has been slowed by a bad hamstring, raced for 127 yards on 32 carries with two touchdowns. Helping clear the way for Stewart was No. 1 fullback Jake Behrens, a senior out of Millard North.

Yet Colorado, after a 139-yard first quarter, finished with just 326. And quarterback Cody Hawkins was a pedestrian 17-of-31 passing for 175 yards.

Cody, the coach’s son, said the players have insulated themselves well from the outside negativity.

“Just because we didn’t perform the way we wanted to,” he said, “there is no reason to slap a panic button and start freaking out. College football is a long season.”

That’s what the Hawkins family has to hope is Bohn’s philosophy when Big 12 play starts and the strong possibility of more losses looms.

Wyoming 0000—0

At Colorado 71070—24

First Quarter

Col—McKnight 2 run (Goodman kick), 13:30.

Second Quarter

Col—FG Goodman 20, 13:35.

Col—Stewart 2 run (Goodman kick), 11:40.

Third Quarter

Col—Stewart 11 run (Goodman kick), 1:17.

A—50,535.

Wyo Col

First downs 13 21

Rushes-yards 35-76 45-151

Passing 154 175

Comp-Att-Int 15-36-0 17-31-0

Return Yards 25 5

Punts-Avg. 9-39.0 6-47.7

Fumbles-Lost 3-1 4-1

Penalties-Yards 8-86 10-86

Time of Possession 24:52 35:08

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Wyoming, Carta-Samuels 9-36, Alexander 6-22, Stewart 7-17, Benjamin 6-6, McCoy 1-5, Caraway 1-1, Bolger 1-(minus 2), Terry 3-(minus 3), Sween 1-(minus 6). Colorado, Stewart 32-127, Sumler 8-37, Lockridge 2-12, McKnight 0-2, C.Hawkins 1-(minus 6), Team 2-(minus 21).

PASSING—Wyoming, Carta-Samuels 11-24-0-125, Sween 3-8-0-27, Benjamin 1-4-0-2. Colorado, C.Hawkins 17-31-0-175.

RECEIVING—Wyoming, D.Leonard 6-49, O.Arnold 2-29, Bolger 2-15, McNeill 2-11, D.Morgan 1-37, Bolling 1-7, Stewart 1-6. Colorado, McKnight 5-77, Geer 4-26, Espinoza 3-18, Lockridge 1-17, Sumler 1-16, Jefferson 1-9, J.Behrens 1-7, Stewart 1-5.

Contact the writer:

444-1024, lee.barfknecht@owh.com

Copyright ©2009 Omaha World-Herald®. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, displayed or redistributed for any purpose without permission from the Omaha World-Herald.