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cu football - briefs

## Scott expected for W. Virginia

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

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BOULDER — Offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said Sunday that sophomore tailback Darrell Scott (bruised knee against Toledo) should be at full speed for the Oct. 1 game at West Virginia. Kiesau also is eager for the return of freshman offensive guard Max Tuioti-Mariner, who underwent ACL surgery on both knees during the past 12 months. He is said to be two to three weeks away from full-speed workouts.

Tuioti-Mariner (6-3, 285) is expected to compete for a starting job after being cleared for full contact.

"When we get everybody healthy, it's going to be a great day," sophomore offensive lineman Ryan Miller said.

### Major introduction.

Redshirt freshman linebacker Jon Major, a 2007 Parade All-American from Ponderosa High in Parker, made his college debut Saturday. Major, coming off ACL knee

surgery that cost him the 2008 season, was unofficially credited with four tackles (three unassisted) and a quarterback hurry.

### Colorado Football

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"The first game for anybody is always a big deal," Major said after the CU victory against Wyoming. "I was jittery at first. But guys helped me relax."

### Bye week.

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This is CU's only bye week. The Buffs return a week from Thursday in an ESPN game at West Virginia.

The trip to Morgantown will mark CU's third non-Saturday game of the season, joining the Sunday opener against Colorado State and the Friday nighter at Toledo. After West Virginia, there are two more nontraditional dates: Thursday, Nov. 19, on the road against Oklahoma State and Friday, Nov. 27, at home against Nebraska.

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colorado football

## Blue-chipper eager to put injury behind him

Defender Nick Kasa tore his MCL in August. He'll see how his knee feels, then weigh redshirting.

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/21/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



Freshman defensive end Nick Kasa can't wait to get back on the field, even during a bye week. (Denver Post file photo)

freshman defensive end Nick Kasa looks forward to starting back to work.

Kasa, sidelined after suffering a torn MCL in his left knee during an Aug. 17 drill, said he will return to practice Tuesday with the rest of the team, which has today off. A 2008 Parade All-American and national top-50 prospect at Legacy High in Broomfield, Kasa said there is a chance he will play this season rather than redshirt. However, no decision has been made, he added.

"I don't think I'm redshirting right now, but I have to see how I'm (practicing)," Kasa said Sunday. "Then, me and my coach (defensive line coach Romeo Bandison) will make a decision. We've talked a little bit about it. Right now, he doesn't want me to redshirt."

BOULDER — While most college football players use a bye week to heal bumps and bruises and perhaps get some extra time off, Colorado

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"My preference is based pretty much on how I perform. If I can play really good, then, yeah, I want to come back. But if I'm not ready to go, then a redshirt might be the best thing for me."

Kasa (6-feet-7 and 260 pounds) said his knee feels about "80 percent." Surgery was not required.

"It's going to feel good to get back," said Kasa, who will wear a protective knee brace.

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## Opinion: Offensive line gives Hawkines a break

Hope still alive in 2009

*By Brent Wilson New on September 21, 2009*

Your doctor found no trace of blood in your alcohol streams. You're boring, moneyless and you have the appeal of a school bus on fire to all women you meet — and that's only part of what your mother said.

I'm guessing you feel pretty down, don't you? You're feeling a little bit sorry for yourself, right?

Please.

You want to hear real problems? Problems that would make a proctology exam look like a vacation?

Try Colorado Buffaloes head football coach Dan Hawkins.

He coached one of the worst-looking Buffs teams in recent memory for the first two weeks of the 2009 season. He coached a team that looked tired, timid and beaten. And that was before warm-ups. They never had a single lead during the first two games of the season, games they were favored by large margins but games they lost by those margins instead.

For crying out loud, they made CU fans anxious for basketball season. Yes, we have a basketball team.

So, with the weight of the world bending their spines, they needed a break that would not cripple their season prematurely before Big 12 Conference play.

And they did.

A 24-0 victory over Wyoming Cowboys in front of 50,535 sighs of relief Saturday gave the Buffs their first win of the season.

The defense was on their game, Dan Hawkins coached with confidence and kicker Aric Goodman even got to sail three points of his own over his ex-team.

All around, a team win—yada yada, blah blah—but let's be honest. The Buffs' win should be contributed fully to the seemingly overnight maturity of the offensive line. It was a trench fight between men and ragdolls, I bullcrap you not.



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

“They did unbelievably,” said sophomore running back Rodney “Speedy” Stewart, who ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns. “I’m proud of every one of them.”

Sure, it was against a run-of-the-mill Wyoming defensive line, but this is the same offensive line that was mowed down by Toledo and Colorado State. In those games, the only running game the Buffs had was junior quarterback Cody Hawkins running backwards for his dear life.

But if you only saw Saturday’s game you’d be convinced I am a liar and a jerk.

The Buffs’ front five were overwhelming for the Cowboys. They gapped holes you could parallel park in and even gave Cody Hawkins’ backside a day off.

Their offense was their defense. They kept Wyoming’s offense on the sideline by winning the time of possession by more than 10 minutes thanks to the run game.

Now that’s doing it all.

It was a plain, boring game with no tricks or traps. It was the type of game any CU fan, player and coach needed.

And for the first time in a while, Cody Hawkins didn’t try to win the game with his arm and Dan Hawkins didn’t try to win it with his mind.

If that doesn’t give you hope, nothing will.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Brent Wilson New at [Brent.new@colorado.edu](mailto:Brent.new@colorado.edu).

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