

# CU Buffs' Darrell Scott seeks redemption

## Running back aims to overcome last year's setbacks

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/02/2009 12:16:34 AM MDT

Darrell Scott wasn't the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy.

That's about what it would have taken for the nation's top high school recruit to live up to all of the hype surrounding his arrival in Boulder. Instead, Scott was outshined by the lightly recruited Rodney Stewart on a 5-7 Colorado team.

A year later, after a disappointing 2008 season interrupted by inexperience and nagging injuries, Scott is quietly looking forward to a headline-grabbing sophomore campaign.

Conditioning?

"I think the whole team is ready. We're conditioned and we're practiced," Scott said. "There won't be any signs of fatigue on the field."

Healthy?

"He's in so much better shape," head coach Dan Hawkins said.

Team player?

"I'm going to give the (offensive) line all the credit in the world if I start getting attention and stuff," Scott said.

Maturity?

"It's a slow process," running backs coach Darian Hagan said. "Coaches, you want everything to get in order real fast. But with a guy like that you just let him grow, let him mature, and the fruits of your labor are going to pay off and you'll be happy." Scott clearly paid the price physically during the offseason, adding some serious muscle to his 215-pound frame and conditioning his body for what he hopes is a 13- or perhaps even 14-game season.

Still, according to his position coach, Scott wasn't spending as much time in the film room this summer as other players dedicated to the mental side of the game.

In fact, the light didn't go on until the Buffs were immersed in fall camp.

"Two weeks ago we had a sit down and a heart to heart," Hagan said. "And since then he has been a whole different person."

Scott rushed for 54 yards and a touchdown in his CU debut, a 38-17 victory over Colorado State, but produced 289 yards and no touchdowns through the final 11 games as he played through knee and ankle injuries.

This season he wants to start strong and never slow down.

"I'm not hoping for anything. I've put in the time and the work, we all have, now it's time to go to work," Scott said.

Scott, of course, isn't the only talented tailback in the stable. He will be sharing time with the other three CU horsemen -- Demetrius Sumler, Rodney Stewart and Brian Lockridge.

But it won't be a surprise to the coaching staff if their prize recruit from a year ago steps back into the spotlight during some big games on the schedule.

"With all the attention he got and then not to have a good year, stats-wise, I think he wants to show that he's worthy of being the No. 1 running back in the country," Hagan said. "He's a guy who, no matter what the challenge is, he's going to perform. Last year he couldn't perform like he wanted to because he was hurt. There were little things keeping him down, but his spirit and his mindset weren't bad. ...

"He persevered, and I kept him even keeled. And he's ready to go now."

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"You kind of feel like Groundhog Day a little bit. Like, 'OK when are we going to get going here?'" Hawkins said.

**Notable**

Monday's practice was the final one in full pads. "It was awesome, we're ready to go," Hawkins said. ... Assistant coaches Eric Kiseau (offensive coordinator), Greg Brown (secondary coach), Bob Foster (outside linebackers), Ashley Ambrose (technical intern, defense), Brad Bedell (technical intern, offense), Paul Creighton (graduate assistant) and Skyler Fulton (graduate assistant) will be upstairs in the booth this season. ... Hawkins radio show on KOA begins tonight at 7 p.m.

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## Hawkins still fighting bureaucracy

Written by [kyle](#) in Tuesday, September 1st 2009 under [Uncategorized](#)  
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I spent a few minutes after one of many practices during the past month talking with coach Dan Hawkins about the system he works within at Colorado and some of the challenges he faces.

When Hawkins first became coach at CU, he used to regularly mention a to-do list he kept and the fight it took to cut through some of the red tape in his way to get a lot of simple things done.

Hawkins' list isn't quite as long these days, but it's still around and he continues to work to try to streamline things. One example of how things continue to be frustrating was the saga surrounding wide receiver Andre Simmons being admitted to school. It took the better part of training camp to get it done, and a big part of that, I'm told was because Simmons had to re-take a class during August.

I thought I would share some of what Hawkins had to say when I asked him whether the bureaucracy has improved in his 31/2 years in Boulder.

"Well you'd always like to have things fairly well streamlined," he said. "You understand there has to be stop-gap measures and all that. So, yeah, we'd all love to have a shorter measure, but that doesn't mean people aren't supportive and aren't trying to do their best. You know, wherever I've been, I think when you're in a state agency, that's kind of the case. When you're at a private school, you kind of just go to the head guy and if he says, yes, it's in. If he says, no, it's out."

Hawkins used to have a Chancellor in Bud Peterson who was very friendly to athletics and wanted to help all of its teams get what they needed to succeed. Before moving on to become President at Georgia Tech earlier this year, Peterson had helped the athletic department and the football program make a lot of progress. Now Hawkins and athletic director Mike Bohn are once again trying to build that trust with new Chancellor Phil DiStefano, who is a long-time supporter of athletics and the former faculty athletics representative.

But DiStefano is also a little bit more conservative in what he is willing to do for the athletic department.

"I think our new administration has been good, but it's kind of that re-tooling," Hawkins said. "That re-getting back on the same page of understanding each other and all that. You know, Phil and those guys have been great. We made tremendous strides in those first two or three years with those guys, and then we get new guys and we kind of have to re-pave that road."

# CU-Boulder closes football game ejection loophole

Removed students will be banned until judicial affairs officials hear case

By **Melanie Asmar**, asmar@coloradodaily.com  
Colorado Daily

Posted: 09/01/2009 07:56:17 PM MDT

## IF YOU GO

**What:** Colorado-Colorado State football game

**When:** 5 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** Folsom Field

**More info:** To purchase tickets, visit [CUBuffs.com](http://CUBuffs.com) or call 800-87-BUFFS.

University of Colorado athletics officials have closed a loophole this year that previously allowed students who'd been ejected from CU football games to return to the next one.

New language in the student season ticket-holder agreement will allow officials to bar ejected students from all games until the Office of Judicial Affairs hears their case -- and decides whether to ban them.

It's not a new policy, said Tom McGann, director of game management and operations. But it's one that's been tough to enforce in recent years because of a change in the way students gain entry to games. In the past, a disclaimer was printed on the back of students' paper tickets. When athletics moved from issuing paper tickets to swiping students' Buff One cards, that disclaimer disappeared.

This year, it's back. Students who click to agree to the terms of purchasing \$110 football season tickets online are also acknowledging the consequences of misbehaving on game day, McGann

said.

Tightening the rules around game-day ejections is just one way CU is gearing up for this year's football season -- and Sunday's big game against rival Colorado State University.

The season opener, which starts at 5 p.m. Sunday, has the potential to inspire some um, raucous celebration.

"You've got several converging circumstances," said CU spokesman Bronson Hilliard. "You've got a holiday weekend. You've got a rival university up the road ... You've got a night-game kick-off. (These) are obviously things we need to plan for and have contingencies for."

CU police Cmdr. Tim McGraw said his department plans to staff Folsom Field at a level consistent with previous big games, though he did not reveal exactly how many officers will be on hand. In general, he said the police don't plan to approach the game any differently than usual.

"Our approach is that we're going to react to what we face," he said.

Historically, many of the people who are ejected from football games are removed for alcohol-related reasons, he said. Last year, the lowest number of ejections at a game was 18, McGraw said. The highest was 105, at the last game of the season. Of those, he said, 96 were related to alcohol.

CU officials will send e-mails to all students this week reminding them to stay safe and to be gracious hosts to their counterparts at CSU, Hilliard said.

"They want to beat us. We want to beat them. But all that stuff is on the field," he said. "So we're going to take seriously any issues of confrontation.

"A little good-natured verbal ribbing is part of the experience, but anything that escalates beyond that, we're going to be looking for."

CU freshman Katie Gratrix is already familiar with the CU-CSU rivalry. A pre-journalism major from Highlands Ranch, Gratrix grew up watching the games on TV with her parents, both CSU alums. But this is the first year she'll be at the actual game, likely donning a CU T-shirt and face paint.

"Boulder is going to be so insane," she said. "It's a good way to start" my time at CU.

It's also a good way to end it, according to senior Zach Lundgren -- "with a bang."

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## CU Stewart turns corner, gets back up to speed

By Chris Dempsey  
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/02/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 09/02/2009 01:20:33 AM MDT



Colorado running back Rodney "Speedy" Stewart says his injured left hamstring is getting better by the day. ( Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post )

BOULDER — It's been nearly three weeks since Colorado running back Rodney "Speedy" Stewart has felt like himself on the field. But Tuesday,

the CU sophomore said he's turned the corner.

Stewart participated in his most extensive practice since injuring his left hamstring Aug. 13 and came out of it all smiles.

"It's getting better, it's definitely getting stronger," Stewart said. "The issue with it last week was it's kind of weak, so they didn't want me practicing. But now I can make my cuts. It might hurt a little bit, but I can finish strong."

At this point, Stewart says he's about 80 percent healthy. By the time Sunday's game against Colorado State rolls around, Stewart says he expects to be about 90 percent.

His health couldn't have come at a better time. The Buffaloes want to emphasize the running game this season, and Stewart will be a big part of that. He led the team in rushing last season with 622 yards despite playing just nine games. He had three games of at least 100 yards.

Stewart then suffered a broken fibula and missed the final three games of the 2008 season.

Stewart said the hamstring might "hurt a little" during the game. "But I can play on it."

Quarterback Cody Hawkins noticed a difference during Tuesday's practice.

"Rodney looked good," Hawkins said. "He's a stud. If we can keep him healthy he's going to be a great player for us."

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"It's funny because everyone calls him Speedy. But I think he's quicker than he is fast, and I don't think you don't lose a lot of that with your hamstring. Now he's being able to get out, cut through the holes and open up a little bit when he gets outside."

## Footnotes.

Asked if the Buffs have decided on a quarterback for Sunday, coach Dan Hawkins said, "We have two." . . .

Tuesday was the last day of practice in full pads for the Buffs. "It was awesome," Hawkins said. "I thought the tempo was great, guys handled it well and it was good." . . . Hawkins, on the status of the team going into Sunday's game: "I think we're peaking at the right time, bodies are coming together and the game plan is coming together and a lot of guys starting to feel like their legs are underneath them. We're right on schedule."

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2009

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## Dependable defender

Effort, smarts earn CU's Cunningham spot as top tackle

*By Justin Williams*

© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Curtis Cunningham impressed the Colorado coaching staff this spring without even stepping on the field.

The sophomore defensive tackle spent the offseason recovering from shoulder surgery, so — in the middle of a heated battle for open D-line positions — he wasn't able to practice or scrimmage with the rest of his teammates.

He needed to find some way to stand out to the coaches.

"He was doing everything like he was practicing that day," Colorado defensive line coach Romeo Bandison said. "He was on time to meetings, studying, asking questions, being involved.

"I really liked that about him, and it really impressed me."

Cunningham is healthy now, and showcasing his ability on the field, but it was his dedication in the spring that laid the foundation for getting named atop the most recent CU depth chart, released Monday, at defensive tackle.

Bandison, and even Cunningham himself, downplayed the significance, even though the true sophomore is listed above fifth-year senior Taj Kaynor at the position.

Cunningham didn't find out until his grandmother e-mailed him a congratulations Monday night.

"I was like, 'For what?,'" he said.

Bandison said the starters won't be truly determined until Thursday, at the earliest, for Sunday's season opener against Colorado State. (5 p.m., FSN). But that doesn't mean Cunningham hasn't deserved the nod.

Bandison said he looks mostly for consistency and reliability when doling out playing time, and he assured that Cunningham will see the field plenty this season.

"He's a good kid. He takes charge and is a good leader for the D-line," Bandison said. "We need guys that are going to show up every day and be reliable, and guys that we don't have to worry about doing the right thing in any situation — on or off the field.

"He's one of those guys."

Listed at 6-foot-1 and 275 pounds, Cunningham isn't the most imposing defensive tackle. But Bandison said he makes up for it mostly with his high football intelligence.

"He knows ball," Bandison said. "He knows the defense and what the offense is going to do. He's really smart."

Bandison also said the Columbine High School product has improved on his pass-rushing ability.

“You like to have a D-tackle that can get into a quarterback’s face,” Bandison said. “We need to do a better job in getting pressure on the quarterback, so we’re trying to find ways to get that done. I think Curtis can help us there.”

Even though Cunningham realizes there’s still a long battle ahead to hold on to that No. 1 spot, he said it put a smile on his face when he did finally hear the news.

“Since George (Hypolite) and Brandon (Nicolas) left, it’s been a competition,” Cunningham said. “Everyone’s been battling for it, and luckily, I came up with it for now.

“I’ve worked hard for it. I’m ready to play, and I’m ready to be the guy.”

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## [CU playing strange schedule with five non-Saturday games](#)

September 2, 2009 8:25 AM

*Posted by ESPN.com's Tim Griffin*

While the rest of the season starts its conference on Saturday or before, Colorado will wait for the chance in the national spotlight a day later.

The Buffaloes' season will start on Sunday with their game against Colorado State in Boulder. It will be one of the three games played on the unconventional date.

The decision, coupled with Colorado's game the following week at Toledo on Friday night, will give the Buffaloes an short five-day gap that will test the team's recovery abilities early in the season.

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said it will affect his team's preparations both as it gets ready for the Rams in the opener and before the trip to Toledo the following week.

"It's easy on the front end because you just bump your week back a day. That's not really a problem," Hawkins said. "But where it becomes a problem is Sunday to Friday."

### • **Tim Griffin**



Tim Griffin joined ESPN.com in Februar

2008. He has covered the Big 12 since its inception, among a variety of beats during a 24-year career at the San Antonio Express-News. Griffin, a Memphis State University graduate, lives in San Antonio with his wife and son.

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The Buffaloes will alter their typical day-after recoveries following the Colorado State game and also switch their routine to get ready for the Rockets as they make the 1,138 mile trip east for the nationally televised game the following week.

"We'll eliminate some of our Saturday package and button up a little bit on our Friday walk through," Hawkins said. "We'll cut back a little bit before and cut back on our recovery time afterwards. We've done it before."

Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn was behind the unusual schedule, providing two of the five games the Buffaloes will play outside their normal Saturday schedule. The Buffaloes also will play Thursday night games Oct. 1 at West Virginia and Nov. 19 at Oklahoma State before finishing the regular season with a Friday afternoon home game Nov. 27 against Nebraska.

The Buffs are already assured of playing at least five nationally televised games before the first snap of the season.

Bohn told the Boulder Camera that Hawkins wasn't enthralled with [parts of his plan](#), but was willing to work with the school because of the benefits for the program.

"We both recognize it's a risk and Dan presented his view, as he always does with great passion, enthusiasm and professionalism," Bohn told the Camera. "But in the end, he understands it's a significant opportunity for exposure and revenue stream for the department and how that helps us."

But it still will provide some tight moments when the Buffaloes are trying to prepare for the Rockets in a short work week after their opener.

"You don't like it," Hawkins said. "But it's like a lot of things in the country you don't like. You just have to deal with it."

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