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The department also was careful to budget conservatively this year to avoid any trouble if sales fell short.

"The general rule is that you've got a very small number of suites to sell in July and August, but it means everything," McGrath said.

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## Pericak slated to start at tackle

Experienced CSU line awaits former BHS standout in first game as Buff

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

Posted: 09/04/2009 12:20:22 AM MDT



Will Pericak might be the biggest surprise of fall camp for the Colorado football team.

A year after moving from tight end to defensive tackle, the product of Boulder High School has earned a starting assignment in the season opener Sunday night against in-state rival Colorado State.

Did we mention it will be Pericak's first college game?

"I feel pretty good," Pericak said. "Coming in here being a tight end and then going to the D-line is a pretty big change, but this past year has been a huge year for me.

"I've gained a ton of weight. I weight about 285 right now and I've gotten tons of practice and I feel pretty confident at D-tackle."

Pericak beat out more experienced teammates at defensive tackle such as fifth-year senior Taj Kaynor and sophomore Eugene Goree. In fact, Pericak appears to have made a late surge. He was listed third at one defensive tackle spot on the most recent depth chart released only earlier this week.

The position switch necessitated a redshirt season in 2008. Pericak needed to gain a significant amount of weight to compete on a physical level and he needed every bit of the past year to learn from teammates and defensive line coach Romeo Bandison.

A year ago as he watched his teammates battle the Rams in Invesco Field, he knew very little about the position he was playing in practice every day.

When he runs on to the field for the first time Sunday, he will be a part of one of the least experienced defensive lines in the nation and he will be facing what has been billed as the most experienced offensive line in major college football. Colorado State features four senior starters on its offensive line and one junior.

Pericak's attitude about facing that kind of experience in his first college action is the same attitude that won him the starting job in the first place. He's going to work hard and give his best and live with the results.

"I've got to make sure I do my job as best as I can and go 100 percent on every play," Pericak said.

While Pericak is slated to start, he won't play the majority of the game the way last season's starters Brandon Nicolas, George Hypolite and Maurice Lucas did. Bandison says he plans to use a rotation of players this season. He could whittle the list down as the season progresses and players begin to prove themselves.

With Pericak earning a starting job, the Buffs will feature two starters from Boulder High School in the defensive front seven. Senior linebacker and tri-captain Jeff Smart played his high school ball for the Panthers as well.

Smart came to CU as a walk-on and gradually earned playing time, becoming one of the team's best defenders over the past two seasons. Pericak hopes to continue to follow in those footsteps.

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## New Colorado coordinator focuses on communication with QBs

[BRIAN GOMEZ](#)

2009-09-02 16:42:07

**BOULDER** • Off the field, Eric Kiesau is quiet and reserved, the type of guy who would rather keep to himself than start a conversation with a stranger. On the gridiron, he's a big chatterbox, intent on talking up a storm, especially with his quarterbacks.

The more his lips move, the more comfortable Colorado quarterbacks Cody Hawkins and Tyler Hansen become with their new offensive coordinator, who will handle play-calling duties for the first time in his career Sunday when the Buffaloes start the season against Colorado State at Folsom Field.

Since Kiesau, a 36-year-old disciple of California coach Jeff Tedford, was promoted from receivers coach and passing game coordinator to succeed Mark Helfrich in April, he has changed his communication style. It's all in the name of meshing with Hawkins, a junior with 23 career starts, and Hansen, a sophomore who played five games last season.

Kiesau now views himself "more as a teacher. I spend a lot of time between plays, talking to the quarterback, talking to the backup quarterbacks. I try to teach them every play. ... I like that personal interaction, being able to look them in the eye and see their faces. When things go good or bad, kind of see the heartbeat of the team."

After a 5-7 season in which he threw 17 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, Hawkins spent the summer with Kiesau "breaking down the little things, watching a lot of film, watching my shoulders, watching my eyes, taking care of my feet, getting the right depth on my drops. That has definitely helped."

Kiesau maintains staying on the same page with Hawkins and Hansen won't be an issue — as long as he continues the conversation.

"The way we communicate in practice will be very similar to the way we'll communicate in a game," he said. "I'm always asking them what they see. ... The communication part is simple. It's football, and you talk the language."

—

Contact the writer at 636-0256

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# Rams could face two quarterbacks on Sunday

**By: Meyers, Stephen**

**Posted: 9/4/09**

After resolving their own quarterback controversy this week, the Rams face a Buffs team with questions surrounding their quarterback position.

CU-Boulder head coach Dan Hawkins said earlier this week he put offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau in charge of deciding the starting quarterback -- a decision that will not be known until the kickoff between the two teams on Sunday at Folsom Field.

Two-year starter Cody Hawkins and sophomore Tyler Hansen are the candidates for the job after entering fall camp in a virtual tie.

Hawkins struggled last year as a sophomore, completing only 57 percent of his passes with a touchdown-to-interception ratio of 17 to 10.

Hansen appeared in five games last season, throwing one touchdown and four interceptions, while rushing for 261 yards.

Both are expected to see playing time at some point this season, possibly as early as Sunday against the Rams.

"They both played last year and I'm sure they'll both play this year. I think their mode of operation was to let both those guys in the game," head coach Steve Fairchild said.

CSU defensive coordinator Larry Kerr said it doesn't matter who CU-Boulder starts at quarterback. The defense will be prepared after dedicating all of fall's camp to the Buffs' offensive scheme.

"Their plan won't change very much. They say Hansen is more mobile, so you might see him running out of the pocket a little bit. Hawkins runs out of the pocket a lot too due to his height," Kerr said.

Hawkins had one of his best games last year against CSU, completing 20 of 29 passes for 214 yards and one touchdown while adding two rushing touchdowns in the Rams' 38-17 loss.

He was the difference in the game last year," Kerr said. "He made great decisions and made some great plays for them."

Hawkins is a cerebral quarterback who won't make mental mistakes. He also grew up in a football family, since the Buffs' head coach is his father.

"The thing about Cody Hawkins is you know he's not going to do anything dumb," senior cornerback Nick Oppenheer said. "You know he's a real smart kid. You can tell he's a coach's kid."

Although Hawkins is the incumbent starter, with 23 starts under his belt in the past two years, Hansen may be poised to take his spot. Standing at 6-foot-2 inches, 205 pounds, Hansen is taller and more athletic than Hawkins, who sits at 5-foot-11 inches, 190 pounds.

"Hawkins is a really good quarterback. To play the other guy (Hansen), if he's better than Hawkins, we have got our work cut out for us," CSU's cornerbacks coach Tim Duffie said.

Though they don't have any tape on Hansen, the Rams know about his athleticism and his tendency to tuck it and run outside the pocket. Last year, against Kansas State, Hansen ran for 86 yards on 19 attempts and finished the season as CU's third leading rusher.

"You have to plan for somebody who's going to run, somebody who's going to get outside the pocket and try and throw the ball," Oppenneer said.

Oppenneer teams up with fellow senior Klint Kubiak and sophomores Elijah-Blu Smith and Gerard Thomas to form a secondary strong on experience. All four started last season for the Rams and could be the key in stopping the Buffs aerial attack Sunday.

"I think we're going to be a strong point of the defense," Kubiak said.

Kubiak and Oppenneer were named defensive team captains by their teammates this week.

Now playing in his second Rocky Mountain Showdown, Oppenneer said he is even more excited than he was last year.

"Last year I was so nervous. I had never played in a big game like that before. This year, to get the opportunity again, it's going to be so much fun, especially at Folsom," he said. "It's such a great place to play and to go in there and hopefully get the victory in their house. I mean how much better could it get than that?"

Football beat writer Stephen Meyers can be reached at [sports@collegian.com](mailto:sports@collegian.com).

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rocky mountain showdown

## Plans for quarterback use another unknown for CU

Posted: 09/04/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — Do not expect to see Colorado quarterbacks Cody Hawkins and Tyler Hansen rotating in and out of the lineup by quarters or series for Sunday's season opener against Colorado State, CU offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said Thursday.

Colorado won't go into the game with a predetermined rotation in mind, Kiesau said. He added it's not even certain both quarterbacks will play in the game.

If the starter is hot, he could stay on the field for the entire game, the coach said.

"We're going to see how the game goes and what (CSU) is throwing at us," Kiesau said. "If we need to use one, we'll use one. If we have to use the other, we'll use the other. If we have to use both, we'll use both."

Kiesau said CU still plans to withhold any announcement about the starting quarterback until game time.

### Cody says he's fine.

An "undisclosed injury" kept Hawkins from taking snaps Saturday in a closed scrimmage, and apparently it's still undisclosed, although Cody said Thursday he is good to go for Sunday's game.

"I can't tell you that," he said when asked Thursday about the injury. "I had something that, I could either rest it for four days and not play in the scrimmage or (take a chance)."

Kiesau said not to read anything into the fact Hansen took all the snaps in the tuneup rehearsal.

"That had nothing to do with where we are in the decision-making process," Kiesau said regarding the selection of starting quarterback. "Tyler had been out sick (for two days), and I wanted to give him some reps."

Hawkins said he has practiced this week with no problems.

### Footnotes.

As of midafternoon Thursday, approximately 1,800 tickets were available for Sunday's game. . . CU will have at least four more scholarships to offer for 2010. Sophomore kicker Jameson Davis has ended his football career because of

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recurring knee problems, and three members of the 2009 recruiting class — quarterback Josh Moten, defensive tackle Edward Nuckols and offensive lineman Shaun Simon — failed to qualify academically and may go the junior college route. . . . Former CU linebacker Sean Tufts is back at CU in pursuit of an MBA and will be a handler this season for Ralphie, the school's live mascot. Tufts played two NFL seasons with Carolina. . . . Larry Zimmer, the longtime voice of CU athletics, will be honored during Sunday's opener as the 2009 recipient of the Chris Schenkel Award for a lifetime commitment to excellence in broadcasting. The Schenkel Award will be presented to Zimmer in December in New York.

*Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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rocky mountain showdown

## CU's Burton also learning fatherhood, life skills

By Jim Armstrong  
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/04/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT



Marcus Burton had an auspicious start to his Colorado career in the 2005 season, then battled through academic and off-the-field issues to become a starter and team captain for the Buffaloes this season. (Cliff Grassmick, The Daily Camera)

BOULDER — Every football player — college, pro or high school — has his game-day ritual. Some escape to headphone heaven. Others meditate, take a long nap or overload on carbs.

Then there's CU inside linebacker Marcus Burton. What does he plan on doing Sunday in the hours before the Buffs get it on with in-state rival CSU late in the afternoon?

"I'm going to change diapers," Burton said. "I don't really have a choice in that matter, you know?"

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A senior middle linebacker trained in the art of rearranging ball carriers' body parts changing diapers? Dick Butkus, where have you gone?

Actually, Burton is happy to do it. Check that. It's more like he's committed to do it, honored to do it. He

## Colorado Football

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wouldn't have been two years ago before his son, Tysen, was born, but he is now. That's because, during those two years, Burton matured into a man.

"It seems that way," Burton said. "And the funny part is, I still have a lot of the journey left. I've got a year left to finally give the people at this school their justice for giving me a scholarship and bringin' me up here."

So, there you have it. Burton isn't just a man. He's a man on a mission. To fully appreciate how much he burns inside, how desperately he wants to be an impact player, not a faceless special-teamer, you have to know where he stood two years ago.

He burst onto the CU scene in 2005, racking up 29 tackles and two interceptions as a freshman, but never turned a corner. And if he did, it certainly wasn't on his way to class. By 2007, he was academically ineligible and his girlfriend, Krislen, was pregnant.

From that daunting obstacle course has emerged a married man — a second son is on the way — and one of CU's three captains, a player the coaching staff believes is one of the keys to the Buffs' season.

"It's all coming together for him, but the thing is, he's the reason it's coming together," CU linebackers coach Brian Cabral said. "He's growing up. He's made mistakes, but at the same time, he's learned from them. To go from where he was to become one of our leaders, that says a lot about him."

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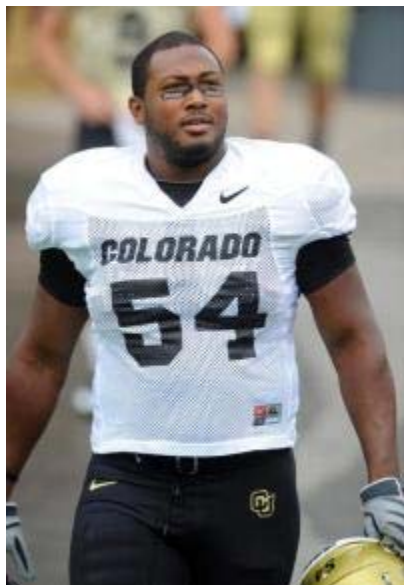
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Marcus Burton (Cliff Grassmick, The Daily Camera)

Said CU defensive coordinator Ron Collins: "The players respect him for what he's done in his personal life. That's why he's a team captain. They've seen what he's been through and how hard he's worked to get where he is. Everybody admires him for that."

The best success stories are the ones in which many of the chapters are about failure. That's the story of Marcus Burton. Now for the part you may not know: He's the first member of his family to walk down these sidewalks, the ones that lead to the next class on campus. And it's often been a lonely trip, hundreds of miles from

his home in the Houston area.

"Being a first-generation college kid made it tough," he said. "It's hard when you don't have someone to talk to when you're struggling, because no one has been through it. My son being born, along with getting married, kind of made me grow up a lot. Mostly, I credit putting faith in the coaches and putting faith in my family for getting me where I needed to be."

These days, Burton is on course to earn a degree in ethnic studies. Not only that, he's finally living up to the potential on the field that he showed in 2005, when, among his other claims to fame, he returned an interception 99 yards for a touchdown vs. Oklahoma State.

He still has some conditioning issues at 6-feet and 265 pounds, but make no doubt, he can run.

"He can be an exceptional player. He's not there yet, but he can get there," Collins said. "He has to focus on getting in better shape and becoming a better player every day. But when you have the physical attributes that Marcus has — a 260-pound kid who can run — it can be a scary thing."

Especially when a player has faced his fears, as Burton has, and come away a better man for it. In the aftermath of his personal transformation, Burton has an empty feeling. And the only way to make it go away is to become the player he was projected to be four years ago.

"You can come up here and never play, and the coaches won't have any expectations of you," he

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said. "But if you have expectations you set for yourself, standards you have as a player and as a student, and you don't live up to them, that hurts. I kind of feel I've let myself down in that regard. But you know what? I've still got a chance to live up to those standards."

Starting Sunday, right after his latest round of diaper duty.

*Jim Armstrong: 303-954-1269 or  
jmarmstrong@denverpost.com*

## Sizing them up

*Colorado senior Marcus Burton checks in at 265 pounds, a figure CU coaches would like to see decrease a little. He is the heaviest linebacker in CU history. Here are the top five:*

Player	Position	Years	Height	Weight
Marcus Burton	ILB	2005-09	6-0	265
Ron Merkerson	OLB	1994-97	6-3	255
Kanavis McGhee	OLB	1987-90	6-4	250
Walter Boye-Doe	OLB	2003-06	6-2	250
Michael Sipili	ILB	2006-09	6-1	250

*Source: CU sports information*

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denver and the west

## Some CSU fans to boycott Rocky Mountain Showdown

A lot of green for a ticket, but little green in stadium

By Colleen O'Connor  
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/04/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 09/04/2009 02:33:53 AM MDT



University of Colorado senior Brigette Braly, shopping at College Corner in Boulder, shows a friend a hat she's going to

buy. This year's showdown with CSU is a home game for CU. ( R.J. Sangosti, The Denver Post )

Some Colorado State University students are boycotting one of the most popular football games in the state — the Rocky Mountain Showdown between CSU and the University of Colorado.

They're angry about the change in venue from Invesco Field at Mile High in Denver to Folsom Field in Boulder, home of their rivals.

They say the tickets cost too much, the seats are bad, and they'd be just a 3,000 Ram-fan minority in a sea of black and gold.

"No one wants to go," said Bryan Gass, a CSU senior who has faithfully attended showdowns at Invesco but will now watch the game on TV with friends.

Amy Eskola, a CSU senior who drove all the way to New Mexico last year to root for her team, will cheer this year before the TV.

"I haven't talked to anyone who is going, and I live in a sorority house with 60 people," said Eskola, who can't afford the cost of a single-game ticket at Folsom Field.

When the game was held at Invesco, CSU students paid \$15 for a ticket.

But prices changed when CU exercised its home-team option to move the 2009 game to Folsom Field. Bringing the series back to Boulder allowed the Buffs to meet their stadium and

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suite contract for six home games.

The move also meant CSU students paid about \$70 for a ticket.

By contrast, CU students who bought the university's season-ticket package got the Showdown included. CU students purchasing a single- game ticket paid \$50 to \$300.

"I want to go, but I just can't," Gass said. "I have a couple friends who paid the outrageous price. But they're going to be literally outnumbered, like 45,000 to 3,000."

Folsom seats about 53,750 people. About 1,800 tickets remained unsold Thursday afternoon.

CSU had the option to take a block of as many as 5,000 seats for its fans but opted to take the 3,000-ticket minimum — which sold out in a week.

"We just wanted to be sure we got those 3,000 tickets sold," said Gary Ozzello, CSU's senior associate athletic director.



Lobsand Sonam washes club-level seats at Folsom Field on Thursday. For Sunday's game, CSU fans will be seated in the visitors section, for which they've paid \$70 a ticket. (RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post)

Ozzello said he will be happier when the game is played in 2010 at Invesco, which seats more than 76,125. "We'll be able to meet everyone's needs — student and otherwise."

Earlier this week, the schools announced the Rocky Mountain Showdown will be played at Invesco Field for the next 10 years — a decision heralded as economically sound for both teams.

But this year, CSU students who did buy tickets — about 800 of them — will be seated in the visitors section, which strikes some as unfair.

The seats "are in the 'away' section," Eskola said. "That's meant for people who come from Texas and their parents. So they're treating us like we live in a different state, but we're just 20 minutes up I-25 from each other."

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Some CSU students say they would try a little harder to come up with \$70 for a ticket if the game were at Invesco Field, because it is neutral territory, evenly divided.

"If you had an aerial view, you'd see all green to one side, and all gold to another," Gass said.

Zak Gilbert, spokesman for CSU's athletic department, feels the students' pain.

"But they also need to realize it's a traditional road game," he said. "We're going into an enemy stadium, and the home team doesn't want you to have any advantage."

Katie Jenkins, a CSU senior, did buy a ticket for the game. She grew up a CU fan — her father coached at CU for a few years — so she always roots for the Buffs, unless they're playing the Rams.

Sitting in enemy territory isn't what bothers her.

"I feel like that's part of a football game, to go to a rival school and have the hostility," she said. "But I'm bummed it's not at Invesco, because many of my friends now can't afford to go."

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September 4, 2009

## Rams vs. Buffs showdown hits home for Geer

BY KELLY LYELL

*KellyLyell@coloradoan.com*

Riar Geer grew up on Colorado's Western Slope and closely followed the football programs at CSU and the University of Colorado, attending camps at both schools while playing at Fruita Monument High School.

He never received an offer from Colorado State University, then coached by Sonny Lubick, and wound up going to CU, then coached by Gary Barnett.

Geer, now a 6-foot-4, 250-pound senior, was a standout athlete at Fruita Monument, playing a unique combination of positions - quarterback, defensive line and punter. He was named, as a high school senior, to the Rocky Mountain News' all-Colorado team - at tight end, a position he rarely played but one that clearly suits his frame and athletic abilities.

Geer sat out the 2005 season as a redshirt at CU as he learned his new position, then led the Buffs in receiving the following year, coach Dan Hawkins' first in Boulder, with 24 catches for 261 yards and three touchdowns.

Geer has been a key cog in the Buffaloes' offense ever since. He has caught 51 passes for 572 yards and seven touchdowns the past three seasons, many catches have come on critical third- and fourth-down plays.

But only one of those catches has come against CSU, for a 12-yard gain late in the first half of the 2006 game in Denver that the Buffs won 14-10. He sat out last season's game against the Rams while serving a two-game suspension for his involvement in an off-campus brawl the previous spring, to which he pled guilty to third-degree assault, a misdemeanor.

"I was kind of happy last year not to see him because I know the things that he can do," said CSU safety Clint Kubiak, who played with Geer in a high school all-star game when both were seniors.

He's back now, fully recovered from the shoulder surgery that kept him out of spring drills and minor knee surgery last August, and he's hoping to have a big impact in this year's season-opening game Sunday evening in Boulder between the Rams and Buffs.

"Being from Colorado, it's one of the biggest football games of the year, so I always watched it growing up and being able to play in the game is a great opportunity for me," Geer said. "I've definitely had setbacks, with injuries and the off-the-field incident, but I'm excited and ready to go for my senior season."

## Additional Facts

> **Next up:** CSU at CU, 5 p.m. Sunday, Folsom Field, Boulder.

> **TV/radio:** FSN/KLZ (AM 560), KCOL (AM 600), KOA (AM 850).

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Longmont, Colorado  
Thursday, September 24,  
2009

Publish Date: 9/4/2009

## Ridgell: Hansen should be leading Colorado offense in 2009

*By Patrick Ridgell*  
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BOULDER — There's something about Tyler Hansen that Cody Hawkins envies. And it's an important something.

Hansen can move better. He's more elusive. He has better improvisational skills. He can turn a lost play into a big one. He's a lot like Fran Tarkenton. For those who don't remember Tarkenton, think Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing, except Hansen has a bigger body and bigger arm.

Sometimes these traits aren't what the offensive coordinator wants from his quarterback. As Colorado's Eric Kiesau said, all that scrambling looks really cool, but all it really does is mask what fell apart.

OK, fine. The Buffs say their offense isn't that different, though we can't say that for certain until Sunday night. But here's the deal: A year after CU fielded an offense that recorded fewer points and yards than any other in the Big 12 — and was the easiest to prepare for — it's time to try something different.

Hansen should start.

On Wednesday, we asked the two quarterbacks jockeying for the job to tell us why he should start and why his counterpart should. Hansen and Hawkins declined to state their own case for fear of sounding "egotistical," as Hawkins put it. When Hawkins stumped for Hansen, he made quite a case.

"Tyler should be the starter because of his ability to make plays when things break down," he said. "He's a guy that brings a fresh look to the program, and planning for a mobile quarterback is something that's hard for opposing defenses. Guys don't like to play for defenses that run around."

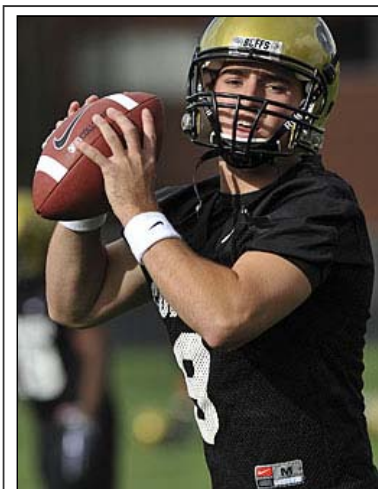
This is a tough choice. Hawkins' 23 starts, his leadership and his toughness are outstanding qualities. The guy suffered a concussion in the first quarter at Texas Tech in 2007, stayed in the game, won it, then couldn't remember it.

Think that didn't send a message to the whole program?

The problems last year weren't due to Hawkins. Injuries mounted, and coaches have admitted their no-huddle scheme did not fit the identity CU wants.

But if Hansen's grasp of the offense is close to Hawkins', he's the clear choice.

Hansen, who's also a coach's son, has now become a sophomore, and he has grown. CU wants to run the ball, and it'll need a running quarterback. He gives the Buffs more athleticism and a dynamic that the best Big 12 offenses have.



Tyler Hansen is vying for the starting quarterback job for the University of Colorado football team. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

Speaking of messages, Hansen sacrificed his redshirt midway through 2009 essentially so CU could win one game, a 14-13 defeat of Kansas State.

Once opponents had tape on a freshman who had spent the year on scout team, his limited playbook knowledge was exposed. Coaches had to figure that'd happen.

Dan Hawkins cites the victory as one of his favorites ever because of the selflessness it required.

Think he might have been referring to Hansen?

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## Williams: Experience of Hawkins should land him the job

*By Justin Williams*  
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Cody Hawkins has inherited more from his dad than that “say a lot about nothing” coach speak.

There’s the leadership — a field general at heart, the Colorado quarterback commands the huddle with authority.

There’s the football intelligence — the kid studies night and day and can spout off routes and defensive reads without blinking.

And there’s the diligence — God help a reporter who requests the quarterback after practice. Nine times out of 10, he’s the last one off the field.

But there are a few other things he picked up from Dan, a former fullback, that aren’t as helpful — and an immobile, 5-foot-11 body probably tops the list. But that doesn’t keep Lil’ Hawk from being the Buffs’ best option under center in 2009.

Tyler Hansen’s mobility and potential are all the rage, leading some to believe the true sophomore is in line for the starting job. But lest we forget, aside from the spark he induced to beat Kansas State last season, Hansen wasn’t all that prolific.

He’s improved, no doubt, and has a much firmer grasp on the playbook in Year Two. But why are we so quick to assume that Cody Hawkins peaked as a third-year sophomore? Does he not have room for improvement, too?

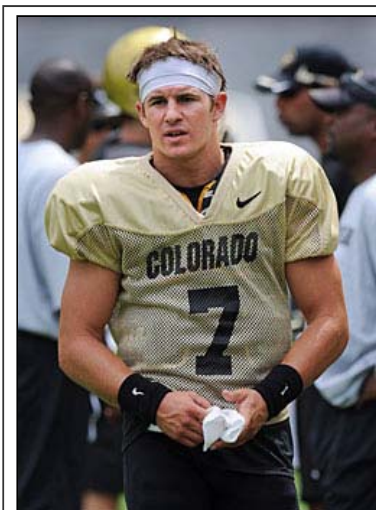
“He definitely, over the offseason, worked on his arm strength,” Hansen said of his counterpart. “So right now, he can make a lot of throws that people don’t think he can make. But he has a really good arm now.”

The Buffs’ dabbling in the spread offense did little to help Cody Hawkins last season, and much of his struggles came from the holes in a banged-up offensive line. The much-improved and deeper O-line should do a much better job in pass protection, making Hawkins’ lack of mobility less of an issue.

He’s easily the more accurate quarterback, and that’s what Colorado needs in the power offense it’s moving toward this season. In 2009, CU is looking for somebody to manage the game — not necessarily someone who’s going to rip off 60-yard bombs and drive down the field in four plays.

Hawkins will be the leader whether he’s the starter or backup, but it’s his two seasons of big-game experience — engineering wins over Oklahoma and Nebraska in 2007 don’t hurt the resumé — that set him apart.

Even Hansen can’t argue that.



Cody Hawkins is hoping to be the starting quarterback for the University of Colorado football team. **Lewis Geyer/Times-Call**

“He knows everything about this offense in and out,” Hansen said. “He knows what audibles to check to against what defenses. He knows what the receivers are doing, he knows what the linemen are doing, he knows what everyone is doing every single play — and that’s what puts him over the edge.”

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