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colorado

CU tailback Scott wants more carries

Tailback frustrated with limited opportunities against CSU

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

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



Colorado tailback Darrell Scott, left, feels frustrated after only one carry against rival Colorado State on Sunday. The sophomore says he was recruited to carry the ball. (Mark Leffingwell, The Daily Camera)

BOULDER — Colorado sophomore tailback Darrell Scott said Tuesday he was disappointed and surprised that he drew only one rushing play during Sunday's loss to Colorado State. Scott said he was healthy. He sounded frustrated.

"I was warm. I was hyped. I was ready," Scott said. "Yeah (I was surprised), but if that's how it goes, that's how it goes."

Scott showed good burst on five kickoff returns, averaging 27.6 yards. Ironically, his only carry was CU's first rushing play — a 1-yard gain. Scott also caught one pass for 14 yards, and was the target of another screen pass that fell incomplete.

Scott and running backs coach Darian Hagan talked things over the next day. Colorado (0-1) plays Friday night at Toledo (0-1).

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"After meetings (Monday) it was like, 'We're going to try to work you in,' " Scott said. "That kind of reassured me on everything. (Getting carries) is what I was recruited for. We'll see on Friday. There's really not much I can say right now."

Hagan said he would be disappointed if Scott did not feel frustrated. When CU fell behind early and had to throw the ball to play catch-up, Hagan thought it best to use the best blocker

among the four tailbacks, junior Demetrius Sumler.

"I've told Darrell that," Hagan said Tuesday. "There were circumstances. At times, you weren't comfortable with (Scott) in pass protection, especially with CSU blitzing like they were. But Darrell has gotten better in that regard."

Junior quarterback Cody Hawkins called Scott "a great player" and said the former high school All-American could get more opportunities Friday. "I think he will have a chance to do some things (Friday)," Hawkins said. "He's way too talented a player to keep off the field."

Not set in stone.

Speaking Tuesday at his weekly media luncheon, CU coach Dan Hawkins said the plan to redshirt sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen "could all go out the window" for reasons other than a serious injury to Cody Hawkins.

"If Cody just ends up not getting it done . . . there are a lot of situations. You've got to play well. You've got to play well at that spot."

"But there is never a set of rules that govern (making a change). That's always a judgment call."

Footnotes.

Coach Hawkins said the Big 12 office agreed with his contention that the tackle that caused the pivotal third-quarter fumble by CU receiver

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Scotty McKnight was indeed a helmet-to-helmet blow and a penalty should have been called on CSU. Cognizant of conference regulations, Hawkins chose his words carefully when asked about the play, trying to avoid a perception that he was criticizing officials. . . . McKnight (mild concussion) and center Mike Iltis (ankle sprain) are expected to play Friday.

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CU's Scott hopes for more

Bufs coaches say plan is to get running back more carries vs. Toledo

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/09/2009 12:12:46 AM MDT

Darrell Scott hates this kind of spotlight.

Who could blame him?

Colorado's sophomore running back has spent the bulk of his time in Boulder answering questions about his health, his knowledge of the playbook and whatever else is perceived to be keeping him off the football field on game days.

He endured a season of it last year when he joined the program as the top prep tailback in the nation in the 2008 recruiting class. He was hoping things would be different this year with more experience, a stronger body and better fitness.

But there he was again Tuesday afternoon at the Dal Ward Center being asked the same old questions after touching the ball only twice in a loss to Colorado State to start the season. Coaches explained his lack of involvement in the offense by saying the team fell behind and had to pass, and fourth-year junior Demetrius Sumler is the man they trust when passing is a must.

Not that they're tipping their hand or anything.

Are you healthy?

"Yeah, I'm healthy," Scott said.

Do you expect to get more carries against Toledo on Friday night?

"Hopefully," he said. "Hopefully."

Were you surprised by the rotation of running backs in the season opener?

"I was, but, I don't know. That's how things go," he said.

On and on it went for several minutes.

Coach Dan Hawkins, offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau and running backs coach Darian Hagan all said Tuesday they plan to get Scott more involved this week when the Buffs play on ESPN at Toledo. In fact, they say the plan all along was for him to be more involved last week, but the score got lopsided quickly in the first half.

CU fans should not expect to see Scott in a featured-back role in which he rarely comes out of the game at this point in his career. Hawkins doesn't believe in that approach at the college level because he says it leads to injuries, and Scott still has room to improve as a pass blocker.

"You need to have a posse because it's very hard at this level of football to get through a season unscathed," Hawkins said.

Hawkins has said in the past he prefers the idea of one back getting 15-20 carries in a game. Another back getting 10-15 touches and a third back getting five to 10. CU has four solid tailbacks in Scott, Sumler, Rodney Stewart and Brian Lockridge, who scored a touchdown in the opener.

It seems like perfect timing this week to get the ground game going with Scott and his three buddies in the backfield. The

Bufs are facing a Toledo defense, which surrendered 315 yards on the ground in its Week 1 loss to Purdue.

Hagan said it's a good thing that Scott is frustrated by his lack of opportunities. The logic being the desire for more will help him.

"He should be a little frustrated," Hagan said "But when you're playing with the clock behind the eight ball, you've got to go away from certain things. You've got to go away from the run. We threw the ball more than we would have to, but like I told him, things like that are going to happen. You can't get upset."

Hagan said Scott is making significant progress as a pass protector which will eventually lead to him being on the field in every situation. Right now, Sumler has an advantage in that area because of his experience in the program.

Hagan said Sumler learned all the running back's responsibilities in the passing game from former Buff Byron Ellis. Now Sumler is helping Scott.

Scott was asked how comfortable he is handling his pass-blocking responsibilities.

"I'm pretty responsible," he said. "Me and coach, we went over that in the offseason and we had two weeks to prepare. So we were all prepared for the pass protection."

When asked if he believes that isn't what is keeping him on the sidelines, Scott said. "I don't know what's the reason, but we'll figure it out."

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Woelk: A little early for doomsday scenarios

Neill Woelk Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/09/2009 12:11:39 AM MDT

Two days later and the e-mails are still rolling in.

"Fire Hawkins."

"Fire Bohn."

"Fire Hawkins AND Bohn."

And, at the end of one of the more venomous diatribes, "Fire Woelk."

(Seriously -- if I had the contract either one of those guys have, I'd be first in line to vote for the last one. Write me that check. Please.)

But the chances of the first two occurring are slim and none. And as for the third -- as long as my publisher continues to lead the weekly college and pro picks in our paper, I think I'm OK. (Besides, I've never run wide on fourth-and-1 and I don't even have a son, let alone one who can play quarterback.)

Not that I'm surprised by the fallout from Colorado's 23-17 loss to Colorado State. I've seen it before. Despite the claims of long-time season ticket holders that Sunday's CU loss was the worst they've seen in decades, the public reaction is nothing new. There are plenty of other candidates for CU's most disappointing loss, and they all aroused the ire of Buff faithful.

Other memorable stinkers?

Try a season-opening 23-7 loss to Colorado State in 1986, Bill McCartney's fifth season. The Buffs lost their first four that year, and had it not been for a huge win over Nebraska, they would have missed a bowl game and Mac would have suffered his fourth losing season in his five years at Colorado.

Either of the losses to Drake (1979 and '80).

The 30-3 season-ending loss to Nebraska in 2005, a game the Buffs entered as two-touchdown favorites. The 19-14 loss to Colorado State in the 2002 season opener, followed two weeks later by a 40-3 drubbing at the hands of USC. The fallout? Gary Barnett's team rebounded to win eight of its last nine regular-season games.

There are plenty more (Montana State or Fresno State, anyone?), but you get the picture.

Every disappointing loss is the worst ever. Wounds are softened by the years, but when one as painful as Sunday's comes around, the freshness magnifies the severity.

Yet, every once in a while, those teams rebound from an early disaster and actually put together a decent season.

Thus, despite Sunday's calamitous season opener for Dan Hawkins' Buffaloes, I'm not jumping on that doomsday bandwagon.

Not yet. Not with 11 games to go.

No doubt there are questions about Hawkins' fourth team, areas most folks didn't think would be an issue just a few days ago. The running game, the defense -- everybody has a favorite problem, and they've made those thoughts very clear on every message board, chat room and talk show across the state.

Neither is it realistic to believe those problems will be healed overnight. While Hawkins insists that many of the errors committed in the opener can be addressed, we're still not sure it's going to be that easy to fix a running game that produced just 29 yards.

But there's still time -- lots of time -- to address some of those problems and see how this season plays out.

History suggests that to pass judgment on an entire year after one game is folly. No doubt, it will be wise to cast a judicious eye on the rest of the season, but there are too many variables on the horizon to slam the door now (never mind that it would be an impossible task).

Folks who have followed CU long enough remember Mac's fifth season -- and they remember the question marks that were reawakened after a terrible performance in the opener against CSU and the ensuing three defeats. McCartney had recruited decently up to that point, but his signature recruiting class -- the one that included such stalwarts as Kanavis McGhee, Alfred Williams, Eric Bieniemy and Mike Pritchard -- came after his fifth season.

This is Hawkins' fourth year.

Does that mean we should be counting on history to repeat itself?

Of course not. But it does mean that jumping to conclusions too early is not always the wisest course. If the powers that be at Missouri and Kansas had pulled the trigger early -- when their fans were clamoring for a change -- Gary Pinkel would not be with the Tigers and Mark Mangino would be somewhere other than KU.

Guaranteed, both schools are happy they stayed the course.

No doubt, Sunday night's performance by the Buffs proved to be far too similar to the last couple of years for folks' taste. There was no sign of progress; rather just more of the same that has befuddled and frustrated fans for too much of the Hawkins era.

Clearly, the pressure on Hawkins to show some improvement has grown exponentially, and the clock is ticking.

By season's end, we'll know far more about CU's program. The people who insist that there's no hope for the Buffs under Hawkins could well prove to be correct.

But prudent folks will at least wait. They'll wait to see if there is some improvement made, see if there is a chance that these young players will mature and provide some stability for the future.

It will, at least, be interesting to watch.

Kiesau regrets fourth-and-1 call

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/09/2009 12:07:43 AM MDT

If he could have one play back from his first outing as offensive coordinator for the Colorado Buffaloes, Eric Kiesau has another call ready for fourth-down-and-1.

The play happened in the middle of the third quarter from the Buffs' 44-yard line. He called a run off tackle, which turned into a try around left end. Colorado State sniffed it out early and tailback Demetrius Sumler was stuffed.

Kiesau said he knew he wanted the play back even before the snap and he should have called something else, but he stuck to his initial choice.

"Live and learn," he said.

It didn't decide the game, but it ended a drive and it was indicative of the kind of night the Buffs offense had the first time out under new management. It was a struggle.

Then again, only wanting one call back from a game that involved 61 offensive plays isn't a bad ratio. While he only wanted one play back, he wasn't pleased with the overall production and effectiveness of his offense.

"Thank god we have this week to get back on track," Kiesau said. "The way the game was played and the way it turned out, I'm not placing the blame on anybody, it's just the situation we were in, but if you run the ball when you're down 17 points, everybody is like, 'What the hell are you doing?' So it's kind of a catch 22."

Coach Dan Hawkins said he thought his new coordinator did a nice job. There were a handful of times in which the Buffs had to move quickly to get the play off before the play clock expired. Hawkins said much of that occurred in the second half during a period in which veteran wide receiver Scotty McKnight was out of the game with a concussion and everything had to slow down a little bit for the benefit of players filling in.

Quarterback Cody Hawkins often ran near the sideline to get the play call from his backup, Tyler Hansen, who wears headphones and gets the play from Kiesau. Having Hawkins come closer to sideline allows Kiesau to give Hansen a reminder about any important details, which can then be quickly relayed to Hawkins on the field.

Kiesau said the team also has the capability to stick to signals only, but he likes having the ability to reinforce a point of emphasis.

Late flag

Hawkins said Big 12 Conference supervisor of officials Walt Anderson confirmed a third-quarter play in which wide receiver Scotty McKnight was hit while catching a ball over the middle should have been a helmet-to-helmet penalty on Colorado State in the season opener.

Hawkins said he sent film to the conference office for review following Sunday's game. He said his staff typically sends in several plays from every game, and doing so this week was not out of the ordinary.

"When it has more to do with some points of emphasis and interpretation, I want to make sure that I talk to Walt so that I go, 'OK, are we instructing our guys correctly. Are you seeing this how we're seeing this or not.' That's it."

The play involving McKnight was pivotal in the 23-17 CSU victory because it ended a CU drive deep in CSU territory as the Buffs appeared to be rallying. CU had score a touchdown on its previous drive and held the momentum until safety Elijah-Blu Smith hit McKnight, jarring the ball loose.

Hawkins said the play was illegal under a new point of emphasis that has already attracted a lot of attention around the

nation after just one week of games. Players are not allowed to lead with their heads and create helmet-to-helmet contact or hit a player in a defenseless position, even if that player is in the act of making a catch.

Colorado State coach Steve Fairchild challenged the initial ruling of a completion and officials overturned the play after reviewing replays, calling it a catch and fumble. It gave the Rams the ball at their 18-yard line.

Feel the pain

Hawkins said he doesn't wear his emotions on his sleeve but he and his players are just as upset about losing to Colorado State and struggling the way they did as anyone.

"We're dying, too," he said. "You want people to care. You want that. That's great. We're dying, too. But you have to be able to flush it.

"How many times has Colorado lost to Colorado State and still rallied for a great season? How many times have they lost early and still rallied for a great season? You know, Oklahoma lost a ball game and their quarterback for awhile. I'm sure they're going to be OK. The great thing about college football is everybody is so emotional and so passionate about it."

Quotable

Dan Hawkins on trying to redshirt sophomore quarterback Tyler Hansen: "That could all go out the window in a variety of ways. That's the thing. That's the way we've approached it with him. That may not happen. Cody could break his arm today, and he'd be in. Or if Cody ends up just not getting it done. So there is a lot of situations there. But we're also trying to be fair to him as much as we can."

Notable

Hawkins said center Mike Iltis, who left the opener with an ankle injury after only six plays, is expected to play against the Rockets. ... Hawkins said he used the postgame punch at the Boise State-Oregon game as a teaching tool with his players in an effort to prepare them to react the right way if caught in a similar situation. ... Several new walk-on players who have been listed on the official roster since fall camp started were allowed to join the team Monday. Former wide receiver Kendrick Celestine was not among them.

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Hawkins: Official says hit on CU's McKnight was helmet to helmet

Review shows Colorado State should have been hit with penalty

By Kyle RIngo, Camera sports writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/08/2009 01:23:23 PM MDT

Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins said Big 12 Conference supervisor of officials Walt Anderson confirmed a third-quarter play in which wide receiver Scotty McKnight was hit while catching a ball over the middle should have been a helmet-to-helmet penalty on Colorado State in the season opener Sunday.

Hawkins said he sent film to the conference office for review following Sunday's game. He said his staff typically sends several plays from every game in and doing so this week was not out of the ordinary.

The play involving McKnight was pivotal in the 23-17 CSU victory because it ended a CU drive deep in CSU territory as the Buffs appeared to be rallying. CU scored a touchdown on its previous drive and held the momentum until safety Elijah-Blu Smith hit McKnight, jarring the ball loose.

McKnight suffered a concussion on the play but was allowed to return to the game later.

Hawkins said the play was illegal under a new controversial rule that has already attracted a lot of attention around the nation after just one week of games. Players are not allowed to lead with their heads and create helmet-to-helmet contact or hit a player in a defenseless position.

Colorado State coach Steve Fairchild challenged the initial ruling of a completion and officials overturned the play after reviewing replays, calling it a catch and fumble. It gave the Rams the ball at their 18-yard line.

Notable

Hawkins met with reporters for an hour this afternoon at his weekly luncheon discussing a wide-range of topics, including the CSU loss and this week's game at Toledo on Friday night. ...Hawkins said center Mike Iltis, who left the opener with an ankle injury, is expected to play against the Rockets.

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Twenty questions with Aric Goodman

CUI sits down with the Buff's kicker

By Cheng Sio on September 9, 2009

Many students will agree the 23-17 loss to Colorado State was as big of a dud as any Colorado Buffaloes fan has seen in a couple of years.

But one bright spot (yes, there were a few) was kicker Aric Goodman. The redshirt junior made a career-long 54-yard field goal in the first half for the Buffs' first points of the season. All three of his kickoff attempts also sailed into the end zone.

CU Independent sports editor Cheng Sio and Goodman got together for 20 questions the day after the big game.

CUI: Your twin sister Ally plays soccer here and you also have a younger set of twin sisters, Maddie and Renee. What is it like to have not just one, but two sets of twins living in the same house?

Aric Goodman: I think the best word would probably be chaos. I mean everybody always has something to do. My parents try to shuffle us around the best they could. It's fun, it's crazy, but everything turned out fine.

CUI: Why did you transfer from the University of Wyoming to Colorado?

AG: I grew up just south of Denver. This is where I've always wanted to go. This is where I've always wanted to be. A small town kind of atmosphere like Laramie, Wyoming just wasn't totally for me.

CUI: Your father, Curtis, was a kicker at the University of Hawaii from 1975-1978. Do you feel like you are keeping the family legacy alive?

AG: Not so much. I mean, I know that's what he did and that's how I got started. I played soccer and it was kind of a natural crossover. For me, it's fun and I enjoy doing it. Obviously, it has brought me a bunch of excitement, a bunch of joy, and a lot of happiness.

CUI: What would you be doing if you weren't playing football?

AG: I'd probably be playing soccer. I played when I was 8 years old. My club team lost the national championship when I was 17. That's definitely what I would be doing if I wasn't playing football.



Place kicker Aric Goodman practices his form while Cha'pelle Brown, 29, and Ryan Deehan, 34, get ready to step into action during a preseason practice August 19, 2009. (CU Independent file/Lauren Walter)

CUI: What position in soccer did you play?

AG: For my club team, I was a defender, and then [on] my high school team, I was a forward.

CUI: What is the hardest thing about being a kicker that the average fan may not know?

AG: I'd probably say doing the same things every time. Like professional baseball players, they kind of go through their routines. I try to do the same thing every time. That's real important for the job we do is to keep a level head, just go through our checklist and go out there and make kicks.

CUI: As a kicker, are you treated just like one of the guys?

AG: Yeah, I have to do all the running and all the lifting, the same as everyone else. Fortunately, everyone around here knows that I do it.

CUI: Which game-winner was a bigger thrill, the 52-yard field goal over San Diego State when you were at Wyoming or the 25-yarder to beat West Virginia last year?

AG (after a long pause): I'd probably say the West Virginia kick just because, you know, it was at home and on ESPN on Thursday night. It's pretty special and on top of it, getting a scholarship afterwards. I'd probably say that one.

CUI: After the West Virginia game, everyone probably loved you and you went from a walk-on to a scholarship player. How was your life after the game?

AG: I was so overwhelmed and whatever, I just went home and kind of went to bed. I really kind of proved to myself that everything I had done and all the hard work I put in came to fruition a little bit.

CUI: After all the hoopla, you missed a school-record eight straight field goals. Would you say your world was turned upside down?

AG: Yeah, it's pretty unbelievable how fast you can go from the top of the mountain to the bottom. Fortunately, I feel like I kind of dedicated myself to getting back to the top.

CUI: Who was by your side last year when you were feeling down?

AG: My twin sister Ally was big, and then my dad played a big role also just because he's been there. We've been kind of close while I was growing up. Everybody just tried to stay positive and keep me going, keep me working.

CUI: What is your goal for this season?

AG: I'd say just to be consistent. I want every kick to look the same; it's just the nature of the job. You miss one here or there, you just got to go out there and not miss the next one. You just can't make the same mistake twice. That's what I'm looking to do.

CUI: After you made a career-long 54-yard field goal in the 23-17 loss to Colorado State, you raised your arms in celebration. Did you know you made the kick before the football split the uprights?

AG: Yeah. It's kind of one of those things almost like when you play golf, you hit a perfect drive without looking at it. I hit the ball solid, kind of looked up and saw that it was straight. I knew it had the distance.

CUI: Did you see the CSU fans and players celebrate on the Buffalo logo at Folsom Field?

AG: We all saw that. Obviously, it's not something that we want to happen and we're going to work hard this week to make sure it doesn't happen again.

CUI: What's the most embarrassing moment you've even encountered as a football player?

AG: I don't know if there's ever one I could pinpoint. I mean, the Texas game last year wasn't good, and a missed extra-point when I was at Wyoming against Virginia wasn't good. I don't think there's one glaring thing. Those two stand out probably.

(Against Texas, Goodman missed all three field goal attempts—all within a span of 14 minutes and 33 seconds. On Sept. 9, 2006, Goodman's missed extra-point attempt to force a second overtime sailed wide right in a 13-12 loss).

CUI: What is it like to enter the field every game behind Ralphie?

AG: Unbelievable. Growing up, I was a CU fan and this is where I've always wanted to play football. Running out in front of 55,000 people behind Ralphie is...words can't even describe how cool of a feeling it is.

CUI: What's better, playing the Rocky Mountain Showdown at Invesco Field at Mile High or at Folsom Field?

AG: I don't know. It's kind of cool to be able to play at Invesco just because growing up, that's where the Denver Broncos played. I've been a huge Broncos fan my whole life. That's kind of the one building that encompasses everything that you want in football.

Then again, going out and playing in college stadiums and on college campuses, I mean that's what makes college football so great—the atmosphere, the stadiums and having home fans and away fans. I think for me, I probably would rather have it at their respective home stadiums.

CUI: Your favorite movie is?

AG: [My favorite movie is] definitely "Rudy". It's the story of an underdog, somebody that never quits. He kept working hard and it finally came to pay off. I feel like it's kind of a theme for what I'm trying to do now. I was kind of down-and-out last year and I just have to work, keep climbing and keep fighting, and hopefully get back on top.

CUI: If you could spend time with any three athletes or celebrity, who would they be and what would you be doing?

AG: I probably want to play golf with Tiger Woods; what he's done and what he's able to accomplish, the mental strength that he has, I think that would be pretty cool to see and be a part of.

Lance Armstrong, I'd definitely like to meet him. What he's had to overcome and persevere through, it's pretty unbelievable.

And then, let's see...the third would probably be Jason Elam. Growing up, obviously as a kicker and a Broncos fan, those two come hand-in-hand. What he's been able to do at Hawaii and what he's able to do still in the [National Football League] with the [Atlanta] Falcons is unbelievable. That's kind of the ultimate thing that kickers strive for is a long, successful career with a bunch of made field goals.

CUI: Aric Goodman, are you a good man?

AG (chuckling): You know, I try to be. I got my problems and whatever just like anybody else, but I don't know. I feel like after last season and what I had to go through, it taught me a bunch of lessons. I feel like you never know what situation is going to affect you down the road and you just got to be the best person you can be in every situation.

Contact CU Independent Sports Editor Cheng Sio at cheng.sio@colorado.edu.

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2009

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Offense seeks fast fix

Buffaloes make adjustments ahead of Toledo

By Patrick Ridgell
© 2009 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — The Colorado Buffaloes went about fixing their offense Tuesday.

It's not a small job.

In their loss Sunday, they ran the ball 29 yards on 21 tries, threw it 40 times, missed blocks, botched routes, dropped passes. In general, they made lots of mistakes.

It was not how new offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau wanted things to go. But the identity he hopes to show Friday at Toledo (7 p.m., ESPN) and the one he's been discussing all summer — to be a smash-mouth run team — remains the plan. They only got away from it Sunday because they had to.

"Thank God we have this week to get back on track," Kiesau said. "It was kind of the way the game was played, the way things played out. I'm not placing blame on anybody — that was just the situation we were in.

"And if you run the ball when you're down 17 points, everybody's going to be like, 'what the hell are you doing?' So it's like a catch-22.

"What happened in the game was we had to play to win the game, and that's what we had to do to win, or try to win. So it had nothing to do with our identity. If that was an even score or closer, you probably would have seen a different brand of football."

That was one main point Kiesau made Tuesday, his first public comments since the 23-17 loss to Colorado State. Another point was this:

"The thing we have to understand is ... we're still very young," Kiesau said. "What has to happen is we have to grow up fast, and that's just the reality of it. Yes we have good players, but they're young."

Head coach Dan Hawkins said Kiesau did "fine" in his first game as coordinator. Kiesau said he only second-guessed one call he made. It was the fourth-and-1 run to Demetrius Sumler that CSU stuffed. He said that right as the play started, he knew he should have called something else.

Kiesau acknowledged plays frequently came from the sideline too late to quarterback Cody Hawkins, costing him the chance to make checks at the line of scrimmage. He said that's a "minor problem" that faster communication can fix.

Dan Hawkins said the absence of Scotty McKnight (concussion) in the second half slowed some calls. It changed personnel groupings, forcing confusion, Dan Hawkins said. McKnight is expected to play Friday, Hawkins said.

Hawkins added that in the game at Toledo, he expects Darrell Scott to see more than the one carry he had Sunday.

Four offensive linemen played extensively Sunday for the first time. Center Mike Iltis (ankle sprain) missed all but six offensive snaps Sunday, but is expected back, a return Kiesau said will be "huge." Hawkins said the offensive line will improve as it plays more.

CU can probably expect Toledo to load the box like CSU did, daring the Buffs to pass. If the Rockets do, Cody Hawkins said it won't be a surprise.

"A lot of teams are going to do that," Cody Hawkins said. "If you look at our roster with the talent we have, we're going to have to be able to run the ball with a lot of guys in the box."

"I thought we had plays that could have been made on Sunday, and we just didn't make them. We'll get those issues fixed up at the various positions and keep moving on."

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Buffs' Scott eyes more action

By Patrick Ridgell
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BOULDER — Colorado tailback Darrell Scott will get more playing time when he's a better pass blocker. That's paraphrasing running back coach Darian Hagan.

Tuesday, Hagan addressed why the touted back had only one carry and one reception in Sunday's loss to Colorado State.

"It's circumstances," Hagan said. "At times we weren't comfortable with him in pass protection, especially when they were blitzing like they were. But he has gotten better in that regard. We just had to go with a whole different deal.

"As coaches, you get comfortable with certain people in certain situations, and we had to pass, and Demetrius Sumler is the guy who isn't going to mess it up."

Sumler logged most of the playing time Sunday when the Buffs tried to overcome a 20-3 halftime deficit. Scott said Tuesday he's comfortable with his pass-blocking responsibilities.

"I'm pretty responsible," Scott said. "Me and coach went over that in the offseason. We had two weeks to prepare. We're all prepared for the pass rush."

Scott said his limited action Sunday surprised him and said Hagan told him following Monday meetings that the plan is for him to get more Friday at Toledo (7 p.m., ESPN).

"That kind of reassured me," Scott said.

He said the more carries he gets, the better.

"It's a rhythm thing," Scott said. "I think anybody would need a couple of carries to get warm. ... We'll see how it goes on Friday."

Scott said he is not injured. Head coach Dan Hawkins said Monday Scott had been "nicked" during camp, enabling Sumler to become better prepared to be the blocking back Sunday when a big deficit forced CU to throw 40 times.

Hawkins said Scott will return kicks again, and answered with a "Yup" when asked if Scott will be more involved in the offense.

Hagan said Scott's pass blocking has improved, and he's "gaining on (Sumler) fast."

Scott should be a little frustrated with his lack of playing time.

"But when you're playing with the clock and you're behind the 8-ball, you have to go away from certain things," Hagan said. "We had to go away from the run. We threw the ball more than I thought we'd have to.

"But like I told him, things like that are going to happen. You can't get upset, which he didn't. He didn't get upset to me. I didn't see anything."

TO BE FAIR: Redshirting quarterback Tyler Hansen is not set in stone, Hawkins said. Starter Cody Hawkins must perform well, or a change will be made.

"You have to play well at the spot," Dan Hawkins said.

Hawkins said retrieving last year's lost redshirt for Hansen is the fairest thing.

"We're trying to be fair to him as much as we can, even though that may not happen again," Hawkins said.

FURTHER REVIEW: Dan Hawkins said he asked Big 12 officials coordinator Walt Anderson to review the third-quarter hit CSU safety Elijah-Blu Smith put on Scotty McKnight. It forced a fumble and gave McKnight a concussion.

Officials are supposed to penalize helmet-to-helmet hits this year, and they did not call Smith's hit, which appeared to be helmet-to-helmet. According to Hawkins, Anderson said it was.

Hawkins said he asks the league to review several calls each week so he and his staff know if they're instructing their players properly. Hawkins said Anderson's response was sufficient.

INJURY UPDATE: Hawkins said he anticipates McKnight and center Mike Iltis (sprained ankle) will play Friday.

Hawkins said Rodney Stewart, whose hamstring injury cost him two weeks of camp, was OK but not "full throttle."

Markques Simas, who's suspended for Friday but also suffering from a leg injury that Cody Hawkins said would have kept him out Sunday, is expected to be OK for Wyoming on Sept. 15.

NO SHAKES: CU and CSU did not exchange pre-game handshakes Sunday, as much of college football did to show sportsmanship.

"That doesn't mean anything," Hawkins said. "To me, in my mind, that's a corny show of something."

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