



Head Coach Jon Embree, Offensive Coordinator Eric Bieniemy and Defensive Coordinator Greg Brown.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



04/08/2011 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

Brooks: Embree Promises Freshmen To Get Good Look

BOULDER - It has been a getting-to-know-you kind of spring in Colorado football. Late summer and early fall promise more of the same.

If returning players have learned anything in 14 spring practices about Coach Jon Embree and Coordinators Eric Bieniemy (offense) and Greg Brown (defense), it is that reinforcements in the form of incoming freshmen will be warmly received.

Early on in spring drills, which conclude with Saturday's Spring Game (6 p.m., Folsom Field, free admission), Embree promised his returning players this: The 19 freshmen who arrive this summer will be given genuine opportunities to position themselves on the depth chart and contribute. If his 2011 signees can make an impact, Embree wants it to be immediate.

A number of injuries at several positions have complicated the new staff's spring evaluation of

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Depth Chart (subject to changes after coaches evaluations post-spring)



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Spring Game Day Notes

returning players. But their absence has offered opportunities for others, which Embree views "as a positive . . . we're looking at some guys who we might not have seen otherwise. And like I said, when these freshmen come in, we're plugging them in. Guys can't say they didn't get their chance. They've had 15 practices, they've had the off-season workouts, they've had all the opportunities to show what they can do. We're plugging (freshmen) in, then we're going to evaluate them and see what they can do."

That's SOP for most college coaches, particularly in the skill positions and various spots on defense. But at CU, it's especially vital for Greg Brown as he sifts through contenders to replace departed cornerbacks Jimmy Smith and Jalil Brown. On offense, Bieniemy wants to eyeball two pairs of incoming running backs and receivers, with the special teams focus by assistant coach J.D. Brookhart on an arriving placement specialist and anyone else who can enhance his kick/punt teams.

Overall, Embree will want to gauge his newcomers' toughness and physicality - traits he says the Buffs developed over the past month. "We're physical," he said. "They way we practice without pads, the way we've started chasing the ball . . . guys getting after each other. It's been a very good spring from that standpoint. I know that they understand how to practice. I know it's been pretty grueling. We've done a lot of hitting. We've been on them; they've been coached very hard and 95 percent of the guys have responded. I'm very happy about that."

In some areas, August camp could provide a daily personnel scramble. But first comes Saturday's conclusion to Embree's first set of spring drills. The scrimmage looms large for some players, he said, because "there's a couple of guys fighting for positions, whether it's No. 2 at a certain spot, or being a starter or just their spot on the team and a chance to go to Hawaii . . . so for some guys (Saturday) is a big day."

A (nearly) post-spring look at the Buffs from Brown's, Bieniemy's and Brookhart's perspectives:

OFFENSE

Bieniemy's unit and Brown's went back-and-forth for most of the practices preceding the Spring Game, interspersing good with not-so-very good days. Not surprisingly, each coordinator pointed to more consistency as an August goal.

Still, neither coach faulted his unit's effort.

"The kids have worked their tails off . . . everybody has bought into what we brought in as a staff," Bieniemy said. "The kids want to do it the right way. When you've got kids who've bought in and want to do it the right way, you've got a chance. Now, is it perfect? No. Are we where we want to be? No. But each and every day we've seen improvement - and that's all you ask for."

Bieniemy said while only "a small percentage" of the new pro-style offense has been installed, broader concepts have been introduced - which is as important as the total package. Senior quarterback Tyler Hansen appears to have grasped the schematic changes and has the inside track to becoming the starter.

"I like the fact that we're teaching concepts to our players and our players are learning that," Bieniemy said. "To me, that means a lot. I spent the past five years with certain guys who couldn't grasp some of the concepts in five years. Some of these kids have grasped the concepts in the past three weeks or so. That's a bonus."

Preseason camp initially will bring a review of those concepts and offensive packages introduced this spring before more of the offense is installed. But the overriding theme is confidence.

"There's some more things we'd like to add to the offense, but we want to make sure we're picking and choosing what we add to make sure it's going to help us to keep building," Bieniemy said. "The bottom line is to have our players develop confidence in their ability to perform at a high level. I think that has been shown . . . we're not there yet, but they are developing some confidence in what we're teaching. That's important.

"If we go into a game with 15 to 25 plays and go out and execute them with great attention to details, we'll feel pretty good about that. But there are some more wrinkles that we want to add. We want to make sure we're utilizing the skill set we have."

And that's where the newbies enter the picture. Every August practice will bring "an evaluation process" for the incoming freshmen, Bieniemy said. "The thing you don't want to do is leave a kid out who may come on and be a big contributor. A lot of freshmen don't play their first year, but you don't want to count any of them out until they've gotten here, settled and had a chance to grow in this offense. It's always a constant evaluation process.

"You always say an offensive lineman is not physically ready to play, but you don't want to count them out either. It's more at a skill position where you say a guy could help you right away. We're going to be smart about that and not close our eyes . . . the bottom line is, we want to play the best players, regardless of where he is in school - whatever gives us the best opportunity to have success."

High on the Buffs' spring to-do list was developing a running game with an edge. Before spring drills started, Embree wanted a handful of fail-safe run plays installed, then executed to perfection. "They're coming . . . oh yeah," Bieniemy said.

His running backs have had their spring moments. Bieniemy wants senior Rodney "Speedy" Stewart to become "a more complete" back, improving his receiving out of the backfield and his blocking. "He's a tremendous football player . . . his numbers, his body of work, have shown that," Bieniemy said. "His challenge is to become a complete player."

Bieniemy's only on-field look at senior Brian Lockridge has been on tape, but he's seen Lockridge in meetings and calls him "a cerebral player . . . it's almost like having an assistant coach in the room. I watched him play on a broken ankle against Georgia. I know what he brings to the table."

Redshirt freshman Tony Jones "is still trying to figure his way around, learning the pass game and protections . . . he's coming along," Bieniemy said, adding that fellow redshirt freshman Cordary Allen and transfer Josh Ford also have shown signs of improvement. "I'm proud of them for that."

As for the development of an overall punishing ground game, Bieniemy laughed and noted, "Yeah . . . one thing I think these guys know is that the old offensive coordinator/running backs coach, he loves to run the ball. These guys know that, and I think there's an attitude that's being developed here.

"But we have to learn how to be consistent here; you just can't run it sometimes. You've got to be able to force your will at all times. That's one thing we're trying to instill into all our players."

That task falls primarily to Bieniemy and O-line Coach Steve Marshall - and the process is familiar to each.

"We've worked together in the past and we've spoken that language," Bieniemy said, adding that Marshall's group and the quarterbacks "have done an outstanding job of picking up the blitz . . . Marshall has been doing this a long time. You can only throw X amount of blitzes at him that he hasn't seen.

"He's done a great job; he's getting those guys to understand and have an awareness of just seeing things. The thing I love about practicing against 'Brownie' is that we're seeing stuff that we might not ever see during the season - but it's good work, great work, for us."

DEFENSE

Brown will emerge from his first spring as CU's defensive coordinator having looked at the puzzle but not all of the pieces.

"They won't be there at all," he said. "We have to look at the (incoming) freshmen. Now, those guys could surprise you, too. They could come in and not be what you thought they'd be . . . but we need to take a long look at them."

"A lot" of those long looks will be taken in the secondary, "but at some other spots, too. But no question in the secondary; we're going to need some reinforcements - especially at corner."

Brown, who spent a season at Arizona as co-defensive coordinator before returning to CU, is familiar with injured (all knees) safeties Anthony Perkins, Parker Orms and Vince Ewing. All three are expected back in August, but Brown doesn't discount giving Orms a look at corner to get his four best players in a No. 1 secondary.

Versatile Travis Sandersfeld could enter the picture at any spot, said Brown: "He's smart as a whip, knows every assignment and we ask him to do a lot. He wears a lot of hats and does a tremendous job; he's just solid and made a lot of plays."

But not enough other players in the secondary have done that. Brown's best-case spring scenario would have been for two of the returning corners to move to the forefront, but it didn't happen. Thus, evaluating the freshmen becomes an August priority.

As for Sandersfeld setting into one spot, Brown said, "That's going to be interesting . . . we get Perkins back, and he's an established safety. Ray Polk is an established guy. Travis has come on like gangbusters; whatever it takes to get our best people on the field. That's part of the reason that we're not afraid to look at Orms as a corner."

The pair of defensive players Brown says made marked spring improvement is junior inside linebacker Doug Rippy and senior defensive tackle Conrad Obi. "Those are the two that jump out big time," Brown said. "Those two guys have come leaps and bounds from where they were when I was here in 2009.

"Obi is a credit to Mike Tuiasosopo (D-line coach) for getting that switch turned on. Rippy is a big, heavy load; when he hits you, that's a big body colliding in there."

Another pair of seniors - Tony Poremba, David Goldberg - took advantage of injuries at outside linebacker/defensive end to assert themselves this spring. "Both came forward and showed us something," Brown said.

Overall, Brown said his players have picked up schematic changes on a defense that will feature multiple looks: "To our guys credit - and we've thrown a lot at 'em - every day they've taken the new install, which has been three or four new things a day, and run with it. And they've not blown assignments at all. That's a big credit to our guys. They've studied the defense and schemes and done what we've asked them to there."

But there's that missing element of making plays . . . "Yeah," Brown said, "we've got to get guys to be playmakers. We've got to hang our hats on something and somebody. There have been some guys who have improved a great deal this spring, but not enough of them."

Preseason camp for the defense will feature more installation of sets that might be used early or late in the 2011 season - or even held for future reference.

"Just because you're putting things in doesn't mean you're using it right away," Brown said. "We've exposed them to a lot just so they'll get used to the idea that we don't sit in one defense all day long. We have to adjust to what the offense does and have some different weapons at our disposal."

"We have to learn that, and they've got to figure out they might run a defense in Week One and not run it again until Week Seven. It just depends on what the offense is doing. That one of the reasons we decided in the spring to give them new stuff each and every day - just learn it and give them an idea of what it feels like during the season when you're learning a new defense for this week or next week."

SPECIAL TEAMS

CU's biggest improvement for 2011 arguably must come in this area, and Embree remembers how much emphasis his former CU coach - Bill McCartney - placed on special teams play.

McCartney called the punt "the most important play in football" and gave hand-written invitations for players to be on the punt team. Embree remembers "because I was the only player on offense to get one. I was happy with that."

When a team is "not the most talented, you need win in all three phases," Embree added. "We need to make teams go a long ways; you can't give up short fields. All that stuff kind of goes hand in hand."

For CU's special teams, spring drills brought an emphasis on "kicking and as much coverage as we could do . . . to me it's more about coverage," Embree said. "We really gave guys all different looks and scenarios. We were trying to get kickers, especially our punter, to understand how he can change the field."

Sophomores Zach Grossnickle (punter) and Justin Castor (placement) received most of the spring work in their areas, but Brookhart wants to evaluate signee Will Oliver (placekicker) and possibly a walk-on or two before settling on a No. 1 punter and kicker.

"Nothing is set," he said. "(Spring practice) was a good chance for us to get a good feel for those guys, put in our system and evaluate special teams . . . there's too much time and too many unknowns (to

name his punter/kicker now)."

Still, he said Castor, whose only field goal attempt last season was blocked, "made big strides the past two weeks." Of Grossnickle, he noted, "We've got a guy who's played, who's been on the stage, so that piece I feel good about. I think he understands what we're trying to do and he'll have a good summer to prepare. He's got a big leg."

Sophomore Ryan Iverson returns as the short/long snapper, while redshirt freshman Justin Gorman handled the bulk of the spring holding duties. Brookhart liked the work of both: "Iverson is really a good snapper and Gorman is one of the best holders I've been around. He's very, very natural."

By "cross-training" in assembling punt coverage and return teams, Brookhart believes he got a spring jump in those two areas. "I flipped my thinking," he said. "We put a two-deep together on punts and cross-trained, putting a two-deep together on returns, which was very beneficial."

As with his other special team spots, No. 1 kick and punt returners will be determined in August.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

High School (19)				
Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Previous School)
ASIATA, Paulay	OL	6-5	295	Honolulu, Hawai'i (St. Louis)
CLARK, Jermane	ATH	6-2	205	Winston-Salem, N.C. (Oak Ridge Military Academy)
CREER, Malcolm	RB	5-11	200	Los Angeles, Calif. (Palisades)
DAIGH, Brady	LB	6-2	235	Littleton, Colo. (Mullen)
DORMAN, Stevie Joe	QB	6-4	210	Somerset, Texas (Somerset)
GREER, Woodson	LB	6-2	225	Carson, Calif. (Juniper Serra)
HALL, Rashad	RB	6-0	200	Lynchburg, Va. (Oak Ridge Military Academy)
HARLOS, Will	DB	6-4	200	Somerset, Texas (Somerset)
HARRINGTON, Sherrard	DB	6-1	175	Washington, D.C. (Howard D. Woodson)
HENDERSON, Greg	DB	5-11	185	Corona, Calif. (Norco)
KELLEY, Alex	C	6-3	295	Oceanside, Calif. (Vista)
McCULLOCH, Tyler	WR	6-4	200	Albuquerque, N.M. (Eldorado)
MUSTOE, Marc	OL	6-7	280	Broomfield, Colo. (Arvada West)
NEMBOT, Stephan	DE	6-8	280	Van Nuys, Calif. (Montclair Prep)
OLIVER, Will	PK	5-11	185	Los Angeles, Calif. (Harvard-Westlake)
PARKER, Juda	DE	6-2	245	Aiea, Hawai'i (St. Louis)
SPRUCE, Nelson	WR	6-2	190	Westlake Village, Calif. (Westlake)
TU'UMALO, K.T.	LB	6-2	200	Honolulu, Hawai'i (Punahou)
WASHINGTON, Kyle	DB	6-1	200	Pasadena, Calif. (Florence, Ariz.)

Injuries may limit Buffs in spring game

CU lists 15 players out, 8 questionable for tonight`s spring game

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 04/08/2011 11:31:33 PM MDT

The Colorado football program will make history today by conducting the first spring game of the Jon Embree coaching era at night at Folsom Field, but fans might not learn much about what their team will look like.

The injury report issued Friday afternoon in advance of the 6 p.m. game showed 15 players already had been ruled out and eight others were questionable.

No wonder Embree`s first answer when asked what he hopes to get out of the game was, "Health."

The report included five defensive linemen, all of whom would be expected to earn regular playing time if the season started today.

It also included potential key contributors next season, such as wide receiver Toney Clemons, running back Brian Lockridge, center Mike Iltis and linebackers Liloa Nobriga and Derrick Webb.

So while fans might not get an accurate gauge of the overall talent level, they should get a feel for the style of play they will see as the program competes in the Pac-12 for the first time this fall.

The injury problem will also prevent CU from splitting the squad in half and playing more of a true game, as was the case last year when quarterbacks Tyler Hansen and Cody Hawkins drafted teams -- with a little influence from coaches at times. The format this year will be more like a typical scrimmage with the first-team offense and defense facing off only part of the time.

At the outset of spring ball in early March, Embree said he wanted to establish new expectations for how to practice and the level of toughness that he has for his players. This week he deemed those missions accomplished.

"We`re physical with the way we practice without pads, with the way that we are starting to chase the ball and grabbing guys and guys having a little bit of an edge," Embree said. "They don`t like guys grabbing and holding on them anymore. Guys are getting after each other. So it`s been a very good spring from that standpoint.

"I know they understand how to practice. You know, it`s been pretty grueling. We`ve done a lot of hitting and we`ve been on them. They`ve been coached very hard and 95 percent of the guys have responded."

CU issued a depth chart for the spring game Friday. It included no major surprises and it likely won`t remain in place for long.

Coaches will further evaluate spring results in the coming days before issuing a depth chart they will carry into fall camp.

Tyler Hansen is listed as the starting quarterback as expected. He has faced little to no push for that job in spring ball from redshirt freshman Nick Hirschman and junior transfer Brent Burnette.

Coaches have given Hirschman credit for a slow progression this spring. Embree characterized Hirschman`s inability to rise up and challenge Hansen as not trusting himself yet.

The one area on the depth chart that might have fans scratching their heads is cornerback, a position that has frustrated coaches this spring.

Heading into the spring game, senior Arthur Jaffee and sophomore Parker Orms are listed as the starters.

Orms hasn't practiced all spring because he is recovering from a torn ACL suffered in the season opener last year. Jaffee is considered more likely to earn playing time as a safety because he lacks the speed to cover Pac-12 wide receivers on his own.

There is further reason to believe that the product on the field tonight won't be an accurate representation of what the Buffs will look like next fall, when they will face one of the toughest schedules in the nation -- playing 13 consecutive games against opponents from BCS conference schools.

Throughout spring practices Embree has hinted that he believes a large number of freshmen in the 2011 recruiting class could compete for playing time.

He said this spring was really about current players proving themselves ahead of the arrival of his first recruiting class, albeit one assembled in less than two months. Embree reinforced that possibility following Thursday's practice.

"When the freshmen come in, we're plugging them in and we're going to evaluate them," Embree said. "These guys have had 15 practices, they've had their offseason workouts, they've had all their opportunity to show what they can do. So we've got to evaluate the young guys coming in and see what they can do so we can get the best guys out there.

"So for some guys, it's a big day."

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Updating 5 spring questions for Buffs

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

Posted: 04/08/2011 11:32:53 PM MDT

When spring practices started last month, we posed five questions that seemed to need answers by the time the Buffs completed their 15 sessions on the field. Here is a look at what transpired.

QB question -- Will someone establish himself as the man to beat for the starting quarterback job?

QB answer -- Tyler Hansen clearly separated himself with consistency and will be the starter when the 2011 season kicks off barring some unforeseen circumstances. CU fans need to hope for a healthy season for Hansen because there is major uncertainty behind him.

Center question -- Who fills the void created by Mike Iltis' injury at center?

Center answer -- Redshirt freshman Daniel Munyer was the most consistent of the underclassmen vying for a spot on the depth chart here, but no one was so good that Iltis would have reason to worry. Once he returns from his second torn ACL, Iltis should be the starter and fellow senior Shawn Daniels is likely to be his backup with Munyer a year away from a major role.

Run game question -- How will the running game develop?

Run game answer -- By all accounts converted linebackers Tyler Ahles and Evan Harrington adapted well to playing fullback. Coach Jon Embree praised the offense for developing a more physical style of play and some toughness. Senior running back Rodney Stewart has looked solid and doesn't appear to be in any danger of losing his starting job. Redshirt freshman Tony Jones also has progressed and seems capable of filling in for Stewart when needed. Brian Lockridge might not be healthy in time for the start of the season and there could be playing time available for a true freshman.

Corner question -- Who fills the void at cornerback left by departed seniors Jimmy Smith and Jalil Brown?

Corner answer -- CU coaches have been disappointed by the lack of consistency here. There have been flashes by just about every player in the mix and there might be a depth chart issued following the spring game with two players at the top, but no one has established himself as a clear-cut starter. This battle will continue into fall camp. Our guess is that the two starting jobs will come down to Jered Bell, Deji Olatoye and Jonathan Hawkins. Parker Orms and Travis Sandersfeld will likely battle for the nickel back spot.

Kicker question -- Can Justin Castor and Zach Grossnickle be depended on at place-kicker and punter or will coaches be looking to freshman Will Oliver in the fall?

Kicker answer -- Castor seems to have built some confidence this spring, but there is reason to believe Oliver could win the job in his first season in college if he proves more consistent in August. It will be an interesting competition. Coaches have been disappointed that Grossnickle hasn't been more consistent. They expect more of him heading into his third year in the program.

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Barnett on Pac-12 move

Speaking of nostalgia, it was great to hear Gary Barnett's voice on the phone the other night. He probably hangs up on most incoming calls from the Colorado media.

Since Barnett played at Missouri and actually had consistent success coaching CU in the Big 12 -- four North Division titles and the epic upset of Texas in the conference championship -- I asked him if he thinks moving to the Pac-12 is the right move for the Buffs.

"I think it's time," Barnett said. "It became such an arms race in the Big 12. It's tough for CU to keep up with that, even if they wanted to. It's probably a better representation of what CU is about being in the Pac-12.

"Every time Colorado played on the road in the Big 12, other than in the state of Texas, we never played in front of a potential recruit. Now every away game they will be playing in front of recruits."

Barnett will be back in Boulder today to coach in the alumni game at Folsom Field opposite Bill McCartney.

As time passes, I hope Barnett will be remembered as a great college football coach and not for all of the sensationalized coverage of his final seasons at CU.

The Buffs can start dreaming about playing in the Rose Bowl some day. Barnett once led Northwestern to Pasadena and CU to within a few BCS formula decimal points of playing for a national title.

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Richardson showing potential for breakout year

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 04/09/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 04/09/2011 01:45:48 AM MDT

BOULDER — When Colorado football coach Jon Embree looked at what he inherited, he saw more holes than on his favorite golf course. The Big 12's worst pass defense, second-worst rushing offense and the third-worst offense and fourth-worst scoring offense.

Of the five seniors leaving, two are NFL-bound cornerbacks, one is an All-American offensive tackle, another is the school's all-time leading receiver and the fifth is the Buffs' top tackler.

Oh, and have you heard about the antiquated Dal Ward Center?

A former tight ends coach in the NFL, Embree knows he can't jump-start this offense without some playmakers. In tonight's spring game, look for sophomore wide receiver Paul Richardson to make plays that give

Embree optimism in what could be a brutal inaugural campaign.

Of Richardson's 34 catches last year, six went for touchdowns and a team-high 15.1 yards per catch. All six of those TDs came in the last six games. Those aren't exactly Ryan Broyles numbers, but for Embree it's a start.

"(Richardson's) fast," Embree said. "He's good with the ball after he catches it. He has very good hands. He's almost to the point where literally anything that's near him, he'll catch."

Colorado is coming off five straight losing seasons and needs someone to replace Scotty McKnight, the school's all-time leading receiver.

With a three-year starter in quarterback Tyler Hansen, Colorado may find that replacement in Richardson or senior Toney Clemons, the Buffs' top returning receiver with 43 and three touchdowns.

McKnight is trying to help. Preparing in California for the NFL draft, he's in weekly contact with Richardson.

"He's kind of like a young mentor, and I really appreciate it," Richardson said.

They're different receivers. McKnight was tagged as a possession receiver and worked out of the slot when Richardson arrived after his release from UCLA after a theft charge.

Richardson is the speedster former coach Dan Hawkins had always wanted. Now Richardson has the hands to match his speed. The Buffs are still talking about the one-handed grab he made in

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traffic in last Saturday's scrimmage.

"I'm really disciplined with my hand-eye coordination," he said. "What I've really worked on is getting in and out of my breaks and learning how to control my speed in my route running."

Richardson showed up for fall camp late after undergoing a rigorous review process. After coming, he ran routes for Hansen in the freezing cold of Folsom Field after winter conditioning.

"Everybody already knew everything," he said. "They threw a lot at me. This year they brought in a totally new offense. The level of coaching you can tell is different. These coaches are awesome."

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Spring is in the air

Colorado ends its spring drills today at Folsom Field with the spring game, which is free and open to the public:

Schedule

4 p.m. CU "garage sale" (Buff gear) in Balch Fieldhouse

4:30 p.m. — Alumni flag football games
(coaches: Bill McCartney and Gary Barnett)

6 p.m. — Spring game

**Postgame — Autograph session with players
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APRIL 9, 2011, 10:27 AM

Things to watch at tonight's CU spring game

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

It's too bad that 15 injured players are out for sure, and eight more are questionable for the Colorado spring game at Folsom Field.

But there will still be plenty to watch.

I'll be interested to see ...

... if young wide receivers Jarrod Darden (soph.) and Keenan Canty (fresh.-RS) can show something.

... if starting sophomore offensive tackles David Bakhtiari and Jack Harris look like building blocks, no pun intended.

... if any of the trio of redshirt-freshman tight ends — Kyle Slavin, Henley Griffon or Harold Mobley — stands out.

... if redshirt-freshman QB Nick Hirschman looks like a capable backup to starter Tyler Hansen, and if JC transfer QB Brent Burnette shows more in the spring game than he did in previous scrimmages.

... if redshirt-freshman tailbacks Tony Jones and Cordary Allen or sophomore transfer Josh Ford stand out.

... if converted LB Evan Harrington looks comfortable at fullback.

... if senior nose tackle Conrad Obi looks as good as everybody says at that position.

... if the light finally has come on for junior middle linebacker Doug Rippy, as coaches have said.

... if redshirt-freshman linebacker Lowell Williams performs tonight like he will warrant playing time in the fall.

... if any of the young cornerbacks plays better than the reports we've received.

... how the kickers and punters perform. That has been a continuing concern.

By the way, those ruled out of the game because of injury or injury/surgery rehab:

TE Matt Allen

TE Matt Bahr

OL Blake Behrens

WR Toney Clemons

DT Curtis Cunningham

OL Ryan Dannewitz

DB Vince Ewing

C Mike Iltis

DL Nick Kasa

TB Brian Lockridge
DB Parker Orms
DB Anthony Perkins
TE DaVaughn Thornton
OL Max Tuioti-Mariner
LB Derrick Webb

Listed by the school as “questionable” to play tonight:

DT Nate Bonsu
OL Shawn Daniels
WR Jason Espinoza
DE Josh Haritgan
CB Jonathan Hawkins
LB Liloa Nobriga
DE Chidera Uzo-Diribe
DE Forrest West

Kickoff for the spring game is 6 p.m.

An alumni flag football game begins at 4:45 p.m. with Bill McCartney and Gary Barnett as coaches.

Also, a “garage sale” of Buff gear at Balch Fieldhouse begins at 4 p.m.

And a autograph session with players will follow the spring game.

There is no admission charge.

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[1] CU adds team format to its summer camp menu: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/04/09/cu-adds-team-format-to-its-summer-camp-menu/16705/?source=ARK_sports

[2] CU players excited about spring game performances: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/04/09/cu-players-excited-about-spring-game-performances/16707/?source=ARK_sports

[3] CU's Knutson: Everybody coming back: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2010/04/24/cus-knutson-everybody-coming-back/?source=ARK_sports