



Coach Dan Hawkins was happy to return to the field Thursday as CU opened fall camp.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



08/05/2010 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

'Paperwork' Prevents Patterson's Day 1 Participation

BOULDER - Colorado opened its 2010 fall camp Thursday afternoon with touted transfer Travon Patterson in a spectator's role.

Coach Dan Hawkins blamed the former Southern California player's absence from CU's 2-plus hour opening session on "paperwork." Hawkins said he was uncertain when Patterson might be cleared to begin practice.

"We're working through a paperwork deal on him, so we're just waiting on other folks to get to all that stuff," Hawkins said.

Asked if the process appeared to be a formality, he answered, "Yeah, yeah . . . it seems like there's always some of that" to deal with at this time of year.

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Patterson, a 5-9, 175-pound senior from Long Beach, Calif., is expected to immediately impact CU's receiving corps, which also should benefit from the presence of Michigan transfer Toney Clemons.

Patterson chose CU over Cincinnati when he decided to transfer from USC, where he made only seven receptions for 33 yards over the past three seasons.

Patterson appears as No. 2 on the Buffs' training camp roster, but he watched CU's practice Thursday in shorts and a T-shirt.

BONSU UP TO SPEED: Defensive tackle Nate Bonsu, who played last season as a true freshman, said he is "full go" after undergoing off-season surgery on his left knee.

"I'm wearing this big old bulky brace, but really it's not that bad. I've gotten used to it," said Bonsu, adding he returned to the team's voluntary summer conditioning drills in the second week of June.

Bonsu, a 6-1, 290-pounder from Allen, Texas, said he is practicing under no restrictions.

EARN YOUR BUFF: CU's gold helmets were naked - no traditional Buffs logos - on Day 1 of fall camp. Their absence was by design.

"You've got to earn your Buff," Hawkins said. "I respect the heck out of this tradition and our guys do, too. So I just want them to earn it."

Hawkins said that initiative "was my deal," as well as the move toward the players going without their names on the backs of their jerseys.

GOODMAN KICKING: Senior Aric Goodman was the first placement specialist called on during field goal drills Thursday. Goodman underwent hip surgery earlier this summer but said his recovery has been "ahead of schedule."

True freshman Justin Castor also received work during the field goal drills, while redshirt freshman Zach Grossnickle handled most of the punting.

GET IT, KEEP IT: In addition to better tackling, the Buffs defense is emphasizing creating more turnovers in this camp. The defense's daily goal: three turnovers a practice, including two interceptions. The offense's daily goal: give up just one turnover per practice.

CU's defense has come up with just nine interceptions in each of the past two seasons. Hawkins wants to see the theft total increase.

For every dropped reception or muffed potential interception in practice, players must spend time after practice catching balls from the "jugs" machine.

BUFF BITS: Junior quarterback Tyler Hansen took most of the snaps with the No. 1 offense, but senior Cody Hawkins also got "reps" with the first unit . . . Redshirt freshman tight end Clark Evans and senior receiver Andre Simmons didn't practice for academic reasons, Hawkins said. The second summer semester ends Friday . . . Redshirt freshman Terdema Ussery called the shot on his move from receiver to safety. Whether it's profitable for him or the defense won't be determined until contact work begins, Hawkins said, adding, "Sometimes (players) feel like that's their calling." . . .

Sophomore defensive end Forrest West, who recently underwent arthroscopic knee surgery, likely won't practice for another couple of weeks, Hawkins said . . . Hawkins called returning to the field "great . . . I love my job, I love coaching these guys, I love mentoring young people. It's the best part of your job."

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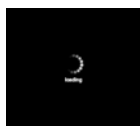


CU's Hagan puts on 'kid gloves'

Bufs running backs coach taking new approach with freshmen

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 08/05/2010 08:03:54 PM MDT



If Darian Hagan has learned anything in his five previous seasons as a college football coach, it is that a coach needs to be flexible in his approach and open-minded in dealing with players.

The hard-edged, old-school, my-way-or-the-highway approach doesn't always get results.

With that in mind, Hagan opened training camp with the Colorado football program Thursday night choosing to take a different approach than he has in the past in coaching four freshmen running backs.

"I'm going to teach them like coach (Gary) Barnett taught me, and that was with kid gloves," Hagan said. "You don't always need to scream and holler when they mess up. You love 'em up, coach 'em up and never assume they know it all. Eventually the light switch will go on and those guys will be ready to perform."

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Some are sure to theorize that Hagan is making the change in response to two of his former players deciding to transfer in the past year. Former CU running back Darrell Scott transferred to South Florida and Demetrius Sumler, who would have

been a fifth-year senior this fall, is now at Central Washington.

Hagan said his change in philosophy came after a conversation with coach Dan Hawkins during his offseason evaluation and a conversation with Barnett, who was Hagan's position coach during his career as a quarterback at CU 20 years ago and the man who gave him his start in college coaching in February 2005.

He said it wasn't related to the two transfers.

"Those two guys left because of competition, I think," Hagan said of Scott and Sumler. "I don't think it had anything to do with me. But as you get older and you coach a little bit more, you realize you can have success in doing it a different way."

Hagan, who went on vacation this summer for the first time in eight years, after a busy year recruiting the four newcomers, said he is excited to start working with his new players. He recruited from coast to coast over the past year to bring the four freshmen to Boulder.

Tony Jones, a 5-foot-7, 180-pounder from Paterson, N.J., is in the mold of CU veteran Rodney Stewart, an elusive player with the ability to make defenders miss. Cordary Allen 6-1, 230), from Phenix City, Ala., and Justin Torres (6-0, 215), of La Mirada, Calif., give the Buffs some much needed size and strength and Trea Jones (5-11, 190) of Wake Forest, N.C., is a player with a lot of tools.

So what will Hagan be looking for as he coaches and evaluates his new running backs this month hoping to find one or two who can help the team right away?

"Consistency," Hagan said. "The guy who is consistent at doing something. What you see on film is what you're coaching. I'm a firm believe in that. It's my job to get those guys ready and I just want to see the consistent play. I want to see steady improvement on a daily basis, and I want to see a competitive edge."

Hagan said there is a possibility one or more of the four freshmen could change positions in the future, but all are running backs now and there are no current plans to try any of them at other positions.

Each of the four freshmen said they hope to play this season but are willing to redshirt if that is what coaches decide is best for them. Trea Jones might be facing the biggest adjustment. He comes from a Wing T offense his high school program used. The Wing T is a run-heavy approach using a lot of misdirection.

"In this offense the plays are a little more complex and I'm probably going to do a lot more pass blocking," Jones said. "So I'm going to have to work on my pass blocking and just trying to be a complete back."

Make no mistake, juniors Brian Lockridge and Stewart are expected to get most of the work this season, particularly early in the year. Redshirt freshman walk-on Quentin Hildreth and senior Corey Nabors also could earn playing time based on their experience and understanding of the offense.

But none of those players is a particularly bruising runner, which creates an opportunity for the freshmen, especially Allen, Torres and Trea Jones because of their size.

"I want to be that tough, power back," Torres said. "I like running into people and I like the physical part of football. I like running the ball that way."

No Buffaloes for Buffs as camp opens

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 08/05/2010 09:37:13 PM MDT

The Colorado football team opened fall camp Thursday evening missing a part of their tradition during a two-hour practice.

Coach Dan Hawkins had all the Buffalo emblems removed from players helmets prior to camp. It is unclear whether players will get them back as a group or on an individual basis, but Hawkins made it clear they won't come easy.

"You got to earn your Buff," Hawkins said. "That's part of it. I respect the heck out of this tradition and our guys do too. I just want them to earn it."

The Buffs played the spring game in April without names on the backs of their jerseys, a move Hawkins said at the time was inspired by the senior class.

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Pac-10 issues sideline CU's Patterson

WR transfer watching for now

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 08/05/2010 11:51:08 PM MDT

Wide receiver Travon Patterson was not able to participate in the first practice of Colorado fall camp on Thursday after his former school, Southern California, and the Pac-10 Conference raised questions about his transfer to CU.

Patterson, a senior, was allowed to leave USC last month after the NCAA put that program on probation for major rules violations. The NCAA supplied a waiver to all USC juniors and seniors allowing them to transfer without having to sit out the customary year.

However, sources said USC and the Pac-10 questioned whether Patterson should be allowed to transfer to CU, which joined the conference in June but won't compete in the league until 2011 or 2012.

The concern over Patterson coming to CU is curious because he is a senior who won't be at CU when the Buffs actually begin competing in the Pac-10. However, the league is apparently concerned over applying its transfer rules consistently to all members regardless of their membership status. Pac-10 rules require student-athletes to sit out one season when transferring within the conference.

CU athletic director Mike Bohn would not discuss the nature of the problem that kept Patterson off the field Thursday or how it originated, but he did confirm Patterson is not eligible to practice yet with the Buffs.

"His eligibility is still not resolved," Bohn said.

Patterson has played in more than 30 games in his career and adds speed to the Colorado receiving corps. He could become a big contributor to the team this fall if he is given the green light to play his final collegiate season in Boulder.

Coach Dan Hawkins didn't seem to be worried. He said Patterson joining the team is a formality when asked about it after practice.

"I don't know," Hawkins said of when Patterson would practice. "We're getting through a paperwork deal on him. So we're just waiting on other folks to get that signed off."

There was some good news standing right beside Patterson during most of practice.

Paul Richardson, a 6-foot-3, 200-pound wide receiver has decided to come to CU and is in the process of being admitted to the school. Richardson initially signed earlier this year with UCLA but that school kicked him out of its program when he was arrested in June and charged with felony theft of a purse.

Richardson visited campus a week ago and was unsure if he would become a Buff. He surprised more than a few fans by showing up Thursday.

Coaches pay the price

Coaches were forced to drop to the ground around the post-practice huddle and do pushups because one of them did not know a player's name when he was asked.

"I always pick on the newest coach and newest player," Hawkins said. "So it's not a very fair advantage."

Notable

Tight end Clark Evans and wide receiver Andre Simmons did not participate in the first day of practice. Hawkins said both

were tending to academic issues. ... Today is the final day of summer school. Hawkins said he did not divide veterans and newcomers in separate practice sessions this year as he has done in the past because players had classes and finals on the first two days of camp. ...[Offensive](#) linemen Ryan Miller and Max Tuioti-Mariner are sporting mohawks at the outset of camp. ... Defensive lineman Forrest West will miss the first two weeks of practice with a left leg injury. Hawkins said he expects the sophomore back later in the month.

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Out of Bounds

Daily Camera sports with Neill Woelk

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Short memories ...

Written by [neill](#) in Friday, August 6th 2010 under [Uncategorized](#)
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It's been interesting to watch the reaction of Buff fans to the Dan Hawkins era over the past four years.

They're not happy, and with good reason. The Buffs have been bad.

But for those of us who have been around a while — and those of us who don't erase history as if it never existed — it's also a little amusing.

Everyone associated with CU football remembers the McCartney era, and with good reason. The man was simply the best football coach in CU history, taking the Buffs to national prominence and winning Colorado's first — and to date only — national title in the sport.

But what many Buff fans don't remember (or choose to conveniently forget) is that McCartney was not popular for most of his first five years.

Mac had three horrible seasons to start his tenure, putting up records of 2-8-1, 4-7 and 1-10. He finally broke through with a winning record in his fourth season (1985), when CU went 7-5, losing to Washington in the Freedom Bowl.

That year is generally considered to be Mac's breakthrough year — but what most folks don't remember is that he proceeded to go 0-4 to start the following season, including a season-opening loss to CSU. Leon Fuller's Rams thumped the Buffs that day, 23-7.

Colorado then lost to Oregon, Ohio State and Arizona — all in squeakers — and the good will that Mac had built with his fourth year was quickly disappearing. The drumbeats that were resounding in 1984 were starting again.

Fact is, if you'd taken a poll of Buff fans after that fourth game, odds are the majority would have said McCartney wasn't going to make it at CU. I remember because I was helping cover the team then. I heard the phone calls, and knew the grief that then-Buff A.D. Bill Marolt was getting.

This was the Marolt, by the way, who caught plenty of flak for giving McCartney a contract extension in the midst of the 1-10 season two years prior. Not a popular decision at the time, and two years later, after an 0-4 start, folks were questioning the choice quite vocally again.

But CU fans who choose only to remember what McCartney did after six long years of building a program won't admit what those first years were like.

Three weeks after the Buffs' fourth loss in 1986, Mac saved the season by beating Nebraska, ending a 19-year losing streak to the Huskers. That win produced one of my favorite moments in CU history: Buff linebacker Barry Remington, standing on the field with a grin that wouldn't quit and pointing to the scoreboard. Remington had turned down offers from some of the nation's great programs to attend Colorado, and in his senior season, he had a major role in what was truly a crossroads moment for the program.

That win over Nebraska was huge because it ultimately gave the Buffs a 6-5 record — just enough to get into a bowl game (where they lost to Baylor in the Bluebonnet Bowl).

That 1986 season also proved to be a turnaround in the recruiting arena for McCartney. His 1987 recruiting class may go down as one of the best ever — anywhere. It included Eric Bieniemy, Jon Boman, Russ Heasley, George Hemingway, Jay Leewenburg, Kanavis McGhee, Mike Pritchard, Joel Steed and Alfred Williams. Every one of those players played significant roles four seasons later in CU's march to a national title.

Nobody is going to suggest that Hawkins is going to match what McCartney pulled off. Fact is, it would take another miracle worker to get the Buffs back to that point. The landscape of college football is simply not the same.

But fans who claim Colorado football has never been this bad?

They don't remember the bad ol' days.

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sports

Kasa hopes to bring rush to CU defensive line

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 08/06/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — With a freshman season that almost felt jinxed behind him, Colorado defensive end Nick Kasa looked to the future and began fall camp Thursday with a bounce in his step. It's a wonder he didn't turn cartwheels.

The former Legacy High School star arrived under the spotlight last fall as the plum of Colorado's 2009 recruiting class — a national top-100 prospect and U.S. Army All-American Game selection who originally committed to the Florida Gators before deciding to stay close to home.

Big things were expected from the 6-foot-6, 275-pounder. But his plan to make an immediate impact was derailed by a preseason MCL tear in his left knee 11 days into fall practices and later by a bout with mononucleosis.

Colorado Football

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Wearing a knee brace, Kasa saw action in just four games, for a total of 47 plays. He recorded two tackles, with one stop for a loss. Not easing the pain was the fact he had played too much to recover the year of eligibility with an injury redshirt.

"Last year was bad luck, terrible luck, and I kind of use what happened to drive me to have a great season this year," Kasa said. "I was out just enough that I couldn't get a redshirt, which is too bad. But I played a lot less than I wanted to."

In 2009, Colorado often used two freshmen and a sophomore on the defensive line and ranked ninth among Big 12 Conference teams in sacks with 27. That total fell well below leaders Nebraska (44), Texas (43) and Texas Tech (41). The return of Kasa should help. Getting to the quarterback and penetrating the line of scrimmage were his specialties and a major reason his impressive list of offers included California, Miami, Nebraska, Notre Dame and Oregon.

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"That guy, he's got the stuff," senior linebacker B.J. Beatty said after Thursday's practice. "I'm just waiting to see it unleashed. I think Nick is ready to show what everybody has anticipated from him. He's busted his butt this summer to get ready."

Kasa



Defensive end Nick Kasa was the state of Colorado's most highly recruited prep player in 2009. (Karl Gehring, The Denver Post)

completed his high school career as Legacy's all-time leader in career sacks (31 1/2) and tackles for a loss (46).

"I want to do everything I can to help improve that (sack total)," Kasa said. "It's definitely a point of emphasis for the whole defensive line this year. We're going to be all getting after it."

We're going to all be helping each other to get more sacks."

Still trying to round into form, Kasa finished spring drills second on the depth chart at right defensive end behind senior Marquez Herrod. Sophomore Forrest West was listed with the first team at left defensive end out of spring drills, but is out for at least a few days with a knee injury. Junior Curtis Cunningham and sophomore Will Pericak man the tackle positions.

"It was really tough last year only being able to watch the guys instead of being out there helping out," Kasa said. "I was trying to pay attention to what everybody was doing. I put it away in my mind so when I came back everybody wouldn't be ahead of me."

Defensive line coach Romeo Bandison said Kasa has the physical tools, but the loss of repetitions last year put him behind.

"Nick is big and he can run," Bandison said after practice. "But playing in just four games last year, he lost a lot of experience. He needs to catch up. I think he will be fine. I feel good about these guys, but they're still young."

Kasa said he added at least 20 pounds during the offseason to all his weight-training numbers. His top bench press is up to 360 pounds.

"I feel really good about everything," Kasa said.

Not the least of which is considering 2009 to be

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cu briefs

CU Buffs DT Bonsu returns strong after injury

Posted: 08/06/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — Colorado's first practice of fall camp Thursday featured a couple of no-shows due to academics, and a potential star's debut was delayed due to paperwork, but one addition made up for them.

Sophomore Nate Bonsu, a possible starter at defensive tackle, declared himself 100 percent after missing all spring drills with a knee injury.

"I'm doing really good," he said.

Bonsu, who played in all 12 games last season and made 15 tackles, tore his medial collateral and lateral meniscus along with developing bone chips. He did it in an offseason conditioning drill.

"It was definitely a big disappointment," he said. "Everybody knows how we ended the year. Everybody out here is ready to prove that we're actually a really, really great team."

He said while on crutches, he improved his upper body lifts, and his recent squats have reached

660 pounds, just down from his personal best of 705.

Buff's get Georgia transfer.

When Colorado hosts Georgia on Oct. 2, it can get an inside scouting report from a new player, Georgia transfer Makiri Pugh. The defensive back left after spring ball under defensive coordinator Todd Grantham, hired away from the Dallas Cowboys to replace the fired Willie Martinez.

Grantham changed the scheme from a 4-3 to a 3-4. Pugh, the backup nickel back a year ago, thought he would get a shot to start this season. After spring ball, he found himself at backup safety.

"I just wanted an opportunity to possibly start," said Pugh, a three-star prospect out of Independence High School in Charlotte, N.C. "Just a fresh start."

Still waiting.

Wide receiver Travon Patterson, a highly touted transfer from Southern California, watched practice in street clothes. His paperwork is in the process of being cleared.

Wide receiver Andre Simmons and tight end Clark Evans still have academic work to finish. Summer school ends today.

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said sophomore

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defensive end Forrest West will need "another couple of weeks" before he returns from a knee injury.

Fourth-and-short.

Redshirt freshman Terdema Ussery switched from wide receiver to safety at his request. He played both positions his junior year at Dallas' St. Mark's School of Texas and just receiver his senior season. . . . The team helmets didn't feature any decals. "You have to earn your Buff," Hawkins said.

John Henderson, The Denver Post

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college football

CU football ticket system hacked by Georgia fans, school says

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 08/05/2010 02:48:51 PM MDT

Updated: 08/05/2010 03:04:12 PM MDT

The University of Colorado ticket office has learned that a majority of football ticket purchases for the Oct. 2 home game against Georgia made with a special promotional code likely were fraudulent.

In an email announcement, the CU ticket office said all Georgia game tickets purchased with the promotional code "1990" will be voided and refunded. The promotional code was intended to be used only by members of Colorado's 1990 national championship team which will be honored at the game as part of its 20-year reunion.

"This promotional code was apparently posted on several websites and circulated outside of our intended group of honorees and used by people not connected to our national championship

team," the ticket office

email said.

[All Things Buffs blog](#)



The Denver Post's college football reporters give analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CU athletics.

"Unfortunately, because we do not know the nature of each individual purchase, but have reason to believe the majority of the purchases with this promo code were fraudulent, we will be voiding and refunding ALL orders made using this promotional code."

According to Will Simpson, CU's director of ticket operations, a total of 123 tickets are affected. They are part of a special section of seats reserved for family members of the 1990 team so they can sit together.

"Most of the (fraudulent) orders seem to have come from (the state of) Georgia," CU spokesman David Plati said. "Either somebody leaked the promotional code or guessed at it.

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We'll probably never know."

The "1990" promotion code has been disconnected. Family members of the 1990 national championship team are instructed to contact the Alumni C-Club (303-492-2200) to get validation. The tickets will be reissued for appropriate purchases.

According to the ticket office email, the general public can only purchase tickets for the Georgia game as part of a "National Championship Pack," either online at CUBuffs.com or by calling 303-492-8337.

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

AUGUST 5, 2010, 4:33 PM

Kasa impressed with CU newbie Harrington

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

I talked with Colorado sophomore defensive end Nick Kasa before practice today and count Kasa among those who expects big things this season from linebacker Evan Harrington, the junior-college transfer.

“He’s really going to help us,” Kasa said. “He can run. He’s going to get playing time.”

Harrington, 6-feet and 225 pounds, earned all-conference J.C. honors last fall for the College of the Canyons in California. He is originally from Bowie, Md., where he was named to the Washington Post’s all-Met team as a high school senior after recording 112 tackles.

Unlike some junior college transfers, Harrington could not enroll in January and thus did not participate in spring drills. It will be interesting to see him in CU’s preseason camp. CU can always use more speed on defense.

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

AUGUST 5, 2010, 12:10 PM

Things to watch as CU football drills begin

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Here are a few things I'll be watching early in Colorado's preseason camp, beginning with today's opening practice at 5:30 p.m.:

Is sophomore defensive tackle Nate Bonsu back to full speed and fully recovered from offseason knee surgery? Bonsu, 6-feet-1 and 290 pounds, played in all 12 games as a true freshman and showed the potential to develop into an all-conference player.

Which of the true-freshmen running backs will emerge? During the summer we have heard of glowing reports about Cordary Allen (6-2, 230, Phoenix City, Ala.), Tony Jones (5-7, 180, Paterson, N.J.), Trea' Jones (5-11, 190, Wake Forest, N.C.) and later arrival J.T. Torres (6-1, 215, La Mirada, Calif.). But how will they perform now that things become more serious?

Does new receiver Travon Patterson, the transfer from Southern Cal, have the hands, moves and moxie to match his blazing speed?

Is sophomore wideout Will Jefferson as improved as everybody says? Every time I asked about summer 7-on-7 drills, Jefferson's name came up. He caught just six passes for a total of 75 yards last fall as a true freshman. But if he has raised his level of play a couple of notches, CU's receiving corps will finally have the depth it needs.

Can any of the place-kickers gain separation? It's going to be an interesting battle among senior Aric Goodman, redshirt freshman Zach Grossnickle, true freshman Justin Castor and junior walk-on Marcus Kirkwood.

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Regardless of depth chart, CU QBs Hansen and Hawkins just want to win

By Brian Howell
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BOULDER — For the past two years, Cody Hawkins has come into fall camp as the top quarterback on the University of Colorado depth chart, with Tyler Hansen as a backup.

This season, Hansen is No. 1 and Hawkins is No. 2. Yet, for both of them, the goal is the same as always.

“We both understand that winning is by far the most important thing for this team, for this program and our guys, so we’re willing to sacrifice whatever it takes to do that,” Hawkins said after the Buffaloes’ first fall practice of the season on Thursday.

Last season, Hawkins broke the school record for career touchdown passes (46). He has started 28 games in the past three seasons. But, after the Buffs started 1-4 in 2009, Hansen was given the job and he started the final seven games. He then came out of spring ball at the top of the depth chart.

“I feel real confident,” he said. “I had a whole summer to gain the leadership of my guys. I feel like I’ve done that.”

Hansen is a junior and in each of the past two seasons, the plan was for him to redshirt and sit out the season. Both years, he had his redshirt pulled so he could play in relief of Hawkins. He said having the top spot going into fall camp is a dramatic difference.

“It’s white and black,” he said. “Going in as the starter mid year, you kind of have maybe half the team on your side, half the team not on your side — guys doubting you. Starting from Day 1, you have the leadership, you have the respect of your teammates. With that, you can just go in there and just get things going right away.”

Of course, the competition for the starting job is not over. With a great camp, Hawkins could win the job.

“Regardless of the situation, I’ve always come into the year the same way,” Hawkins said. “I bust my butt in the offseason and I come into the fall expecting to be the starter. Obviously, to do that I have to come out and produce results. That’s what we’re looking for out of the whole offense.

“We’ve always tried to have open competition every single spring and every single fall. (The depth chart is) just flipped, and I think me and Tyler both do a good job of handling it. We’re both in there watching film, we’re both throwing extra and we both try to do a good job being leaders for the guys.”

Hansen and Hawkins work well together, but Hansen did admit there was some awkwardness last season when he became the starter.

“There was maybe a little bit last year,” he said. “Not anymore. There’s none. I feel like (Hawkins) just wants to win games. We’re tired of losing.”



University of Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins delivers a pass at football practice in Boulder on Thursday. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

After starting 28 games, Hawkins, of course, didn't like moving to the sidelines. Yet, as he approaches his final season, he has brought a positive attitude into camp.

"I didn't come here to throw for a billion yards or throw for X-amount of touchdowns," Hawkins said. "I came here to win football games, and whoever is going to do that and get a ring on our fingers, I'm willing to follow that guy — whether it's me, Tyler, (freshman Nick Hirschman) or some other random dude that shows up to practice and balls out.

"Whether I'm on the field or on the sidelines, I have a lot of assets that this football team needs. I have to make sure that whatever position I'm in that I'm giving everything I have at that given position for the foot-ball team."

Hansen is looking to be a key contributor to the team, as well. And he may have a chance to contribute on the field right from the start.

"I haven't played a preseason non-conference game yet. I haven't played Colorado State," he said. "I'm kind of looking forward to playing a non-Big 12 team to start the season and get my feet wet before I get into the Big 12."

Regardless of which player gets under center this fall — and chances are both of them will be on the field at some point — Buffaloes' leading receiver Scotty McKnight said the team is in good hands.

"I think both of those guys can be successful in their own ways and help us win football games," McKnight said. "We can roll with both guys. I think both of those guys give us a great opportunity to win if we can protect up front. We have the skill players around them to succeed."

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Hawkins wants team to earn the helmet's logo

By Brian Howell
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BOULDER — As the Colorado football team opened fall camp on Thursday, something was missing.

Breaking tradition, the Buffs' helmets didn't include the CU Buffalo logo.

"You have to earn your Buff," head coach Dan Hawkins said. "I respect the heck out of this tradition and our guys do, too. I just want them to earn it."

It may seem like a small addition to camp, but the players recognize the importance of it.

"I think it's good because basically we have to earn something," said guard Max Tuioti-Mariner. "Who would want to go outside on a field without a sticker? It's like going out there naked. We have to earn our way. It's also earning respect, too, from others."

Receiver Scotty McKnight said it's a tribute to the past.

"It's just something to respect all the great players that have been here before," McKnight said. "When you come out here and you lose football games, it doesn't show respect to them. They represented the logo and they represented Buff football so well. We have to come out here and sweat and bleed on the field before we can get that put on our helmet."

There is no secret as to how the players can earn their Buff logo.

"Basically you just have to be a blue-collar athlete," Tuioti-Mariner said. "You have to play your butt off. You have to make an impact during practice, just to get everyone else hyped up."

GETTING STARTED: True freshman running back Trea' Jones competed in his first CU practice.

"It went pretty good," he said. "I'm doing a lot of learning. It's a lot different from the offense I was in, but I'm getting it down."

The three-star recruit from Wake Forest, N.C., is hoping to make an impact for the Buffs this fall.

"I'm going to give it all I can," he said. "If I don't have to (redshirt), I don't want to."

EXTRA POINTS: Senior receiver Travon Patterson, a transfer from Southern Cal, was on hand for Thursday's practice, but did not suit up. He can't practice with the Buffs until some paperwork on his transfer gets completed. Hawkins was not sure when Patterson will be available. ... Redshirt freshman Terdema Ussery has switched to safety after playing receiver last year. Hawkins said the move was Ussery's choice. "We'll see once we get some pads on and see how he can move and hit and tackle," Hawkins said. ... Freshman tight end Clark Evans and senior receiver Andre Simmons both missed practice. Hawkins said they were taking care of academics. ... Injured defensive end Forrest West is "another couple of weeks" from getting on the field, Hawkins said.

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University of Colorado linebacker B.J. Beatty runs through drills at practice in Boulder on Thursday. Head coach Dan Hawkins is having players earn their Buffs helmet decals during camp. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

[ESPN.com: Big 12](#)[\[Print without images\]](#)

Thursday, August 5, 2010

Opening camp: Colorado

By David Ubben
ESPN.com**Schedule:** Practice starts today

What's new: Not the coach. Dan Hawkins will try to turn the Buffaloes in the right direction in Year 5, with four losing seasons and just one bowl game behind him.

Key battle: Quarterback. [Tyler Hansen](#) looked like he had taken full control of the job late last season, but Hawkins opened the competition in the spring and insists he'll do the same this fall. Hansen is the safe bet to start, but Hawkins' comments make it obvious that he's no guarantee to beat out [Cody Hawkins](#).

New on the scene: Receiver [Travon Patterson](#). A 5-foot-9, 175-pound transfer from USC, Patterson caught 10 passes for 96 yards in 33 games at Southern Cal. He should be a factor in the passing game alongside [Scotty McKnight](#).

Breaking out: Receiver [Toney Clemons](#). An obvious choice, perhaps, but a necessary one. Clemons, the preseason Newcomer of the Year, transferred to Colorado from Michigan and made a big impact this spring on his teammates, who made him the first overall pick of the draft for teams before the spring game.

Don't forget about: Colorado's talent on the offensive line. They have two of the best linemen in the conference in guard Ryan Miller and tackle Nate Solder. But the rest of the line around them must jell for the unit to see success after giving up a Big 12-high 43 sacks in 2009, 11 more than any team in the Big 12.

All eyes on: Coach Hawkins. Seated upon perhaps the hottest seat in America, Hawkins has never needed a winning season more. The Buffaloes' difficult nonconference schedule, with games against Georgia and Cal, won't help him do it, but that doesn't change the need.

Quoting: "I asked them yesterday, I said, What's been the biggest difference between last year and this year? It has been -- it's been just a few little things. They're rolling. Their club's on fire, and they're doing a great job. For us, that's been the whole concept. Let's look at this thing from an objective standpoint of what's really affected the wins and losses. Can we clean this up? Can we be responsible for this? So for our team, that's been the whole focus. So it hasn't always been so much a rallying as it has been pointing things out and learning and getting better." -- *Colorado coach Dan Hawkins, on the comparisons between his team and the Texas Rangers*

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