

Rookie Edwin Harrison has CFL bloodlines

BY KRISTEN ODLAND, CALGARY HERALD JULY 30, 2010



Stampeders offensive lineman Edwin Harrison is following in the footsteps of his late grandfather, who played in the CFL in the 1950s.

Photograph by: Ted Rhodes, Calgary Herald

His eyes, Edwin Harrison is told, bear a striking resemblance to his grandfather's.

And, like former Winnipeg Blue Bomber and 1956 Canadian Football League all-star Cal Jones, the 25-year-old Texan has starred on the offensive line throughout his professional career.

But that's about all Harrison, a rookie for the Calgary Stampeders, knows about his grandfather and his CFL bloodlines.

Jones, a former guard and all-American at the University of Iowa, played only one season in the CFL before he was killed in a plane crash, en route to watch his former college team in the Rose Bowl following the 1956 CFL all-star game.

"Other than (the eyes), I'm not too sure (about the similarities)," said Harrison, who stands six-foot-four and weighs 308 pounds. "A lot of it is what my grandmother has told me, and the news clippings and various little articles that she's collected over the years from his time playing in Winnipeg, as well as his time playing at Iowa."

His father and namesake, Edwin Harrison Sr., was only a toddler when Jones was killed. But despite the generation gap, Harrison admits it is special for their family that he is suiting up in the CFL more than 50 years later.

"It means a lot," said the former University of Colorado Buffalo, who was a starter at right guard and right tackle during his senior campaign in 2007. "It's funny the different roads that you take in life and where you end up. I would have never thought I'd be in Calgary.

"When I finished in Colorado, I'd never thought I'd be up here. But you never know where life is going to take you. It's been a pleasant surprise. I'm really enjoying myself, every day and being with the guys on the football field."

After spending a brief stint in the National Football League on the Kansas City Chiefs practice roster, Harrison finds himself an import on the Stampeders' offensive line which lost three starters at the beginning of the year (Jeff Pilon, Dimitri Tsoumpas and Jesse Newman).

Harrison has fallen into a role at right tackle along with right guard Steve Myddelton and left guard Dan Comiskey.

While his mom, Linda, has already been to a game this CFL season and his dad and other family members are planning to watch him play soon, Harrison is unsure whether his grandma, Sandra Lee, will be able to make the trip. Regardless, she is bursting with pride at home in Houston where Harrison's family resides.

"She's actually just really blown away, just like my mother is," Harrison said.

"She is really in awe; she just can't believe that I'm up here after he was up here.

"It's actually pretty amazing."

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Ex-Buff Thorne to play in Germany

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 07/29/2010 11:24:17 PM MDT

Former Colorado basketball player Dwight Thorne has signed a contract to play with BG Karlsruhe in Germany.

"I'm very excited about my opportunity to play basketball in Germany," Thorne said in a CU press release. "This is one step in the direction of helping reach my ultimate goal of playing in the NBA. Most of the contracts internationally are on a year-by-year basis, especially for rookies. As I continue to play professionally the years of the agreement could possibly lengthen."

Thorne, a native of Arlington, Texas, graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in business management with an emphasis in marketing.

The 6-3 Thorne was a four-year letterwinner from 2006-2010, scoring 750 career points and ranking No. 49 on the all-time scoring list. He played in 117 career games, with 48 starts and played 2,468 minutes, ranking No. 17 in school history.

Thorne's best season came during his junior year when he started every game (31) and was second on the team in scoring (12.0 ppg.), steals (35), field goals made (128), and free throws made (70). He also led the team with 45 three-pointers.

BG Karlsruhe is based in Karlsruhe, located in southwestern Germany located near the French-German border. BG Karlsruhe plays in the second basketball Bundesliga-Pro A league.

Training camp starts August 15 with the season beginning play in mid-September.

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

JULY 29, 2010, 10:42 AM

Former CU hoopster Thorne Germany-bound

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Just received a news release from CU that former Buff men's basketball player [Dwight Thorne](#)^[1] has signed to play this upcoming season for a pro team in Germany, BG Karlsruhe.

Good for him. I'll remember Dwight as one of the classiest college athletes that I ever covered.

He was great with the media and even better with teammates and coaches. When freshman sensation [Alec Burks](#)^[2] took away Thorne's starting job and playing time last season, Dwight, a senior, never complained.

I'll also remember Dwight for working hard at becoming a good outside shooter, which he did.

And I'll remember him for being the only member of the self-named "Young Guns" recruiting class to survive the coaching change from [Ricardo Patton](#)^[3] to [Jeff Bzdelik](#)^[4].

Thorne also attended to his studies. He graduated in May with a degree in business management and an emphasis in marketing.

I lived in Germany for a year and had a blast. Hopefully someday we can share some stories.

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Longmont, Colorado
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Ex-Buff to play as pro

Thorne signs with a German squad

By Brian Howell

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Dwight Thorne II, who recently completed his basketball career at the University of Colorado, has signed to play professionally for a team in Germany.

Thorne will play for BG Karlsruhe, located in southwestern Germany.

"I'm very excited about my opportunity to play basketball in Germany," Thorne said in a statement released by the school. "This is one step in the direction of helping reach my ultimate goal of playing in the NBA. Most of the contracts internationally are on a year-by-year basis, especially for rookies. As I continue to play professionally, the years of the agreement could possibly lengthen."

Thorne finished his career this past spring after scoring 750 career points — ranking 49th on the school's all-time list. He played in 117 games, tying for the ninth-most in school history.

Thorne is a 6-foot-3, 185-pound guard.

IMPROVING THE OFFENSE: A year ago, the CU football team was last in the Big 12 in total offense (314.3 yards per game) and 10th in scoring offense (22.2 points per game).

Head coach Dan Hawkins knows that has to change for the Buffs to improve. During Big 12 media day Wednesday in Irving, Texas, he addressed how the Buffs could improve on offense. Four Big 12 teams averaged more than 31 points per game last year, and three others averaged at least 28.4.

"Well, a lot of little things," he said. "I mean, sometimes it can be a catch here, a turnover there, a penalty there. I thought our defense really got better as the (2009) season went on and helped us in that area. And you've got to make a couple of kicks that go into that point total as well.

"It can be a kick. It can be a turnover, but for us it's just garnering a little momentum that way and understanding that the difference is very thin and understanding, preparing that way, practicing that way, as well as playing that way."

LOOKING FOR GOOD THINGS: CU will get receiver Toney Clemons on the field this year.

The 6-foot-2, 210-pound junior sat out last season after transferring from Michigan.

"Toney is one of those guys, very smart, great student, very athletically gifted," Hawkins said Wednesday. "(He's) got a chip on his shoulder. I think that's an important part of the equation, and we expect him to be in the mix for us."

Clemons, who caught 12 passes for 106 yards in 19 games with Michigan, came out of spring ball atop the depth chart at one receiver spot.

Hawkins also mentioned Will Jefferson, Kyle Cefalo and Jarrod Darden as other receivers the program has high hopes for this season.

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Nuggets aide Mosley takes job with Cavaliers

By Benjamin Hochman
The Denver Post

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For all the grooming he does with his players, Nuggets coach George Karl takes as much pride in coaching coaches, notably his young assistants, of which he has a stable.

On Thursday, one of his favorite pupils, Jamahl Mosley, said he's leaving to take a job as an assistant coach with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Mosley said he wouldn't have had the opportunity for advancement without the tutelage of Karl and Tim Grgurich, the Denver assistant who mentors young coaches and players alike.

"With my loyalty to the Nuggets and George and Grg," Mosley said, "I definitely wouldn't have touched this job if I didn't think it was a chance for me to take everything they gave me and see if everything they taught could be used."

[All Things Nuggets blog](#)



Benjamin Hochman and Chris Dempsey post analysis, notes, minutiae on this blog devoted to the Denver Nuggets.

Mosley, 31, played at CU from 1997-2001 and spent the past five seasons with the Nuggets as an assistant and an advance scout. It isn't known whether Denver will replace Mosley with someone outside the organization or promote from within.

Mosley joins Paul Pressey, Chris Jent and Joe Prunty as the main assistants under new Cavs coach Byron Scott.

"It was just very refreshing to be wanted by another team, especially because Byron is very similar to George and lets his young coaches coach," Mosley said. "Byron, his feel and knowledge for the game, is just very big, and the respect that he commands from players, he just has a presence about himself."

*Benjamin Hochman: 303-954-1294 or
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Broncos training camp: Day 2

BY PAT GRAHAM

2010-07-29 22:53:31



ENGLEWOOD — Broncos running back J.J. Arrington hasn't felt this fresh and this fast in quite some time.

With his surgically repaired right knee on the mend, Arrington is flying around the field again.

"It's coming together," Arrington said Thursday after a workout for rookies and players coming off injuries. "It gets better every day."

That knee sidelined Arrington for an entire season, costing him a healthy contract, too.

He signed a four-year, \$10 million deal with Denver before the 2009 season, but was released two months later when he failed a physical

due to that balky right knee.

Watching games from his couch as he recuperated was a difficult proposition.

But he made the most of the down time, paying close attention to the tailbacks around the league. He was hoping to pick up pointers, maybe some move he could incorporate into his own game.

Any particular tailback he studied?

"All the backs are good," Arrington diplomatically said, grinning.

The 27-year-old Arrington signed a deal with Denver in March and will add depth to the Broncos backfield, competing with Knowshon Moreno and Correll Buckhalter for carries.

If Arrington stays healthy, he could to play a prominent role as a third-down specialist, a role similar to the one he had in Arizona when the Cardinals were the NFC champs in 2008.

"It's good to be out here and get some extra work in before camp starts," Arrington said.

The ultimate test, though, will come with contact.

"I think that he's just got to get in there, he's probably got to get tackled, get taken to the ground. He's got to get his legs taken out from him and get up and feel like, 'OK, that wasn't so bad. I can go back and do it again,'" Broncos coach Josh McDaniels said. "I think it's a little bit of a situation where I think the more he's out there, the hopefully more comfortable he'll feel."

FLYING OR FOOTBALL?

Broncos rookie defensive lineman and Air Force lieutenant Ben Garland hasn't grounded his flying career just yet.

Garland earned a slot into a pilot's training program at Laughlin Air Force Base and is still giving that some consideration even as he goes through training camp.

His window of opportunity is quickly shrinking, though. A decision to fly or play football must be made soon.

"Really, really soon," Garland said.

Garland is currently taking a 60-day leave to practice with the Broncos. Should he choose to pursue a career as a pilot, chances are his football career may be derailed. By accepting his pilot's slot, his five-year Air Force commitment could turn into a decade.

Another option may be this: The team can place Garland on the reserve/military list, allowing him to serve his commitment through working down the road at the Academy in the finance department.

Garland has the option of applying for early release after two years of active duty, serving the rest of his time through the reserves.

"We are certainly very respectful of that and the obligation that he has," McDaniels said. "I think the guys are extremely fond of him and proud to be associated with a player who has a greater good in mind. I can't say enough good things about him."

FEELING HIS AGE

Lining up next to the rookies has definitely made Russ Hochstein feel like an old offensive guard.

"I was looking around today and said, 'Man, I'm the oldest guy out here!'" laughed the 32-year-old Hochstein. "You do think about it every once in a while, but it's a state of mind and I feel young. I'm having a blast."

Hochstein tore a knee ligament late last season, but said the knee is progressing well.

"I'm now healed and so I'm happy," said Hochstein, who started eight games at left guard last season, one at tight end and another at right guard.

CLOSE TO HOME

Rookie tight end Riar Geer couldn't have drawn up a better situation than trying to latch on with the Broncos.

After all, he played high school football in Fruita, Colo., and had a standout career down the road at the University of Colorado.

"I mean, I grew up in Colorado," Geer said.

It's just about every Colorado kid's dream, playing for the Broncos someday.

There's not much time to enjoy the ride, however.

"There's a lot of plays. You have to know multiple positions," said Geer, who had 87 catches for 974 yards and 11 touchdowns with the Buffaloes. "If you don't do it right, then you are not going to be on the field. It's just a lot of pressure."

He's tuning out the pressure, though.

"I am just trying to do everything that I possibly can to make sure that I don't get cut," he said. "I'll do whatever the coaches ask me to do. That definitely puts a lot of pressure on me, but I am definitely up to it."

PARTNERSHIP

The Broncos will don a HealthONE patch on their practice jerseys, part of their partnership with the health care provider.

As part of the relationship, the team will also donate \$1 for each fan attending training camp to the Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation.

"The Broncos have been wonderful to work with over the years," said Jeff Dorsey, the CEO of HealthONE. "Their players have donated untold amounts of time to visiting kids in our hospitals, and patients. It lifts them up, it helps them out. You can't say enough about this organization."

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5 things to watch in Green Bay Packers training camp

By Pete Dougherty •
pdougher@greenbaypressgazette.com • July 30,
2010

Five things the Green Bay Packers must do to contend for the Super Bowl

1. Rush the passer better

Last season, the Packers finished a decent No. 12 in the NFL in sacks percentage, in large part because of defensive coordinator Dom Capers' zone-blitz schemes.

But they were gashed by the three best quarterbacks they faced — Brett Favre twice, Ben Roethlisberger and Kurt Warner once each. The only way to slow the elite passers is with pressure, and if you have to blitz all the time, they're usually good enough to make you pay.

So, left outside linebacker Brad Jones has to be a decent rusher opposite Clay Matthews, and the Packers will need some inside rush they didn't show last year.

Maybe second-round pick Mike Neal or even seventh-rounder C.J. Wilson will help, and maybe a healthier B.J. Raji, who had an ankle injury in camp last year, will be better. Maybe Capers will get more out of inside linebackers Nick Barnett and Brandon Chillar as blitzers.

But it has to happen, somehow, some way.

2. Aaron Rodgers must stay on the field

Trite but true. He did his part last year by developing into a true franchise quarterback. Now he has to stay healthy enough to play, as he's done since starting 32 straight games.

That means not getting him sacked 41 times in the first nine games like last season. That's a good way to get your most important player hurt. If Rodgers misses a stretch of games, the playoffs could be in jeopardy, and if he's out for the year, the season's over.

3. Charles Woodson must continue playing at an elite level

That's likely for the reigning NFL defensive player of the year, but not a given considering he turns 34 in October. Woodson has a rare mix of talent and intelligence that makes him an indispensable playmaker.

He stays in good shape, but any drop-off in play could have serious repercussions for the defense.

4. Special teams must improve in every way

Kicker Mason Crosby has to get past the technical problems that plagued him last year; Chris Bryan or Tim Masthay has to be a competent NFL punter; and return man Will Blackmon needs to stay healthy after missing most of last season because of a torn ACL.

Special teams don't have to win a team a lot of games, but it can't lose them either, and against the best opponents, the Packers will need every edge they can get.

5. B.J. Raji must become a player

GM Ted Thompson spent the No. 9 pick overall in 2009 on the defensive lineman because the Packers lacked game-changing players on defense.

Last year, Raji didn't make much of an impact after missing the first two weeks of training camp while

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his contract was negotiated, then sustaining a sprained ankle shortly thereafter that bothered him early in the season.

The Packers' defense needs another playmaker to go with Woodson and Matthews, and Raji might have the best chance of anyone. A disruptive nose tackle can create havoc by dominating the middle of an offense.

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Bob McGinn | On the Packers

Packers by Position: Linebackers



Mark Hoffman

Clay Matthews is a lock for the left outside spot. Brad Jones and Brady Poppinga are expected to compete on the right side.

Packers' linebackers mostly unchanged

Posted: July 30, 2010 | [\(44\) Comments](#)

Green Bay — In May 1996, when Dom Capers was preparing for his second season as coach of the Carolina Panthers, he signed Kevin Greene to a two-year, \$1.75 million contract as an unrestricted free agent to play in his 3-4 defense.

Then 33, Greene would post a National Football League-leading 14 1/2 sacks as the Panthers amassed a league-high 60 sacks and swept all the way to the NFC Championship Game.

Clearly, Capers didn't have to be reminded what impact an aging outside linebacker able to pressure the passer can have in the 3-4.

Should the Packers have added, or should they now add, a player of Greene's ilk to augment their less-than-championship-caliber rush and replace Aaron Kampman?

"Back when I started at Carolina, there were a lot more good ones out there," Capers said. "Nowadays, when the guys hit the market, normally there's some issues with them.

"I'm not saying that (adding impact like Greene) couldn't happen, but you have to know what you're getting. If it's guys toward the downside of their careers, many times those guys still see themselves as they were in their prime and expect to play. Whether it's work ethic, practice habits or how much he'll add, I just think you've got to be smart."

At Miami, Capers coordinated a defense in 2007 with Jason Taylor and Joey Porter. Among active players they rank 1-2 in career sacks, and both were available.

Porter, 33, went to Arizona on March 29 for a three-year deal with \$5.25 million guaranteed. Taylor, 35, went to the Jets on April 21 for what probably will turn into a one-year, \$1.75 million guaranteed contract.

New England's Tully Banta-Cain, 29, was unrestricted for about 24 hours before re-signing for \$13.5 million over three years. A lesser Patriot rusher, Derrick Burgess, re-signed in late May.

Another left outside linebacker in a 3-4, Cleveland's Kamerion Wimbley, was traded to Oakland March 14 for a third-round pick.

Still on the street are Adalius Thomas, 32, who was cut by New England on April 26 (Capers was a Patriots' assistant in 2008), and two 34-year-olds, former Raider Greg Ellis and former Cardinal Chike Okeafor.

Besides those eight players, Ted Thompson also could have gone after Julius Peppers, who left Carolina for Chicago on March 5 for a guaranteed \$42 million.

As it stands now, the Packers will enter camp with the same corps of outside linebackers minus Kampman, who signed with Jacksonville, and the retired Jeremy Thompson. Defensive end Cullen Jenkins could be used standing up as well.

Coming off a stellar rookie season, Clay Matthews should be an honors candidate on the left outside for years to come. Kampman's successor, Brad Jones, and Brady Poppinga will compete on the right outside.

"We've got awful good chemistry right now between Matthews, Jones and Poppinga," Capers said. "Those guys are exactly what you want in terms of being pros and working and practicing hard."

Blessed with one of the NFL's finest (and highest paid) sets of inside linebackers, the Packers are bidding to join the Steelers, Jets and Cowboys as the top linebacker groups among the 15 teams employing the 3-4.

To move up, Green Bay must find other ways to generate heat off the edge besides just Matthews. "With Clay playing the way he played, he's going to get a lot of attention," Capers said.

Capers is hopeful Nick Barnett and Brandon Chillar, who were much more effective blitzers than A.J. Hawk a year ago, and even Desmond Bishop can raise some havoc in fire-zone packages. But when Capers employs just a standard four-man rush, he's got to replace Kampman, whose 25 1/2 pressures in nine games ranked second among linebackers to Matthews' 45 1/2 in 17 games.

The principal hope is Jones, the seventh-round draft choice who started seven games after Kampman blew out his knee. He had 15 pressures despite playing as light as 230 pounds late in the year. In late June, he was up to 242.

"He's gotten a little bigger and stronger," Capers said. "You've got to be careful you don't put on too much (weight) too fast and then you can't move. I think he'll be more ready than he was. He kind of came out of nowhere last year."

Even at 230, Jones wasn't a liability against the strong-side run, and at times he was fast enough to turn the corner. He showed feel in coverage and exuded a certain poise that must have comforted his coaches.

"He was a physical kid last year who just needed a little weight," Greene said. "He's a player. Smart kid. Great leverage. Gets his hands inside. He even dips with his forehead."

Poppinga, who will be 31 in September, tried to bull-rush everybody and was a non-factor (264 snaps, two pressures). In spring, Greene had him ripping and spinning off the corner.

"He's worked really hard on his pass rush because that's his greatest liability," Capers said. "Brady is a pretty good run player. He'll go attack those blocks."

In assessing Matthews in the 3-4, Greene brought up Hall of Famers Lawrence Taylor, Derrick Thomas, Rickey Jackson and Andre Tippett.

"We all had a flaw," he said. "For example, I was a very good pass rusher and a physical-ass run defender, but in coverage I wasn't great."

"Clay does all three phases of the game equally dynamic. He is a dynamic pass rusher. He plays the run hard at the point of attack. And he covers like a Steve Atwater. He's like a big strong safety."

"What I'm trying to tell you is, he is the most complete outside backer I've seen. He's better than his dad; at least he has more ability than his dad. If he stays healthy, he's going to be awesome."

There's certainly room for another legitimate player outside. Unproven Cyril Obiozor and two free agents fill out the depth chart.

The depth chart remains the same inside, with Hawk backed by Bishop at "Buck" (strong side) and Barnett backed by Chillar at "Mack" (weak side). Barnett missed his second consecutive off-season with a knee problem, and Hawk's assertiveness making the calls in his stead impressed Capers.

"I like A.J. a lot as a first- and second-down player," Capers said. "He's smart. He's a pro. We played so much 'sub' last year there were games he didn't get as many reps as he would have liked. But who do you take off? Nick or Chillar? Chillar's strength is coverage."

Hawk is a solid inside stuffer and adequate athlete. But he often was late getting to the sideline, struggled in one-on-one coverage underneath, made few smashing hits and offered little as a blitzer.

"I don't want to bang A.J., but how many 'wow' plays has he made in his career?" an NFC personnel director said. "He's solid against the run, more limited against the pass. There's just no flashes of that fifth pick in an NFL draft."

Chillar, a 40-game starter for St. Louis on the strong side in a 4-3, probably isn't big or physical enough to be an ideal starter at any position in a 3-4. He is athletic and willing.

"He played his best football early in the season," Capers said. "He's got good flexibility in his body, and he can run for a guy his size."

Barnett says his post-operative knee is fine. He was regaining his pre-knee aggressiveness down the stretch.

"Three-four, 4-3, doesn't matter," the NFC scout said. "He plays the game hard and physically. Got good instincts. Fine in that scheme."

Bishop rushed extensively and effectively in exhibition games but went nowhere on 22 rushes in the regular season. His 4.8 speed becomes more of a deficiency when the opposition stiffens.

"He was disappointed last season," Capers said. "But when you've got four good inside linebackers, you're not going to just put him out there just to put him out there if you feel the others are better."

"I do think we'll find more ways to get Bishop on the field this year. He's a quicker guy than he is fast. He had a really good off-season."

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