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## Schedule analysis: Colorado

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We'll be reviewing each Pac-12 team's schedule, and now we move on to the South Division.

Up next: [Colorado](#)

**Breakdown:** five home (four conference games), seven road (five conference games), one neutral field

### Nonconference opponents (with 2010 records)

**Sept. 3** at Hawaii (10-4)  
**Sept. 10** California (5-7)\*  
**Sept. 17** Colorado State (3-9)  
**Sept. 24** at Ohio State (12-1)



\*A previously schedule nonconference game that doesn't count in the conference standings.

### South Division games

**Oct. 29** at Arizona State  
**Nov. 4** USC  
**Nov. 12** Arizona  
**Nov. 19** at UCLA  
**Nov. 25** at Utah

### Crossover games

**Oct. 1** Washington State  
**Oct. 8** at Stanford  
**Oct. 15** at Washington  
**Oct. 22** Oregon

### Conference misses

\*California  
 Oregon State

**Key stretch:** It's not how you start; it's how you finish. The Buffaloes don't play a South Division game until Oct. 29, and then they play all five divisional foes over the final five weeks of the season -- three of which are on the road. While it would be nice for the Jon Embree Era to get off to a fast start, it would be more meaningful for the Buffs to head into the offseason -- bowl season? -- feeling good about the way they finished.

**Trap game:** Colorado's Pac-12 opener is at home against Washington State. I'm sure Buffaloes players and fans are well-aware of the Cougars' struggles of late. On this brutal schedule, it would be easy to pencil in this one as a victory. That might be a mistake: The Cougs figure to be much improved.

**Sure thing:** There are no sure things here. You could volunteer Colorado State for that role -- the Rams were pretty darn terrible in 2010 -- but that's a rivalry game in which the Buffaloes have an uneven history.

**Analysis:** This is one of the toughest schedules in the nation. There are likely five foes that will be ranked in the preseason Top 25. Maybe more. Thirteen consecutive games without a bye (which means no off-week providing extra time for a sprained ankle or "stinger" to heal). Just five home games. A visit to Ohio State, which is still Ohio State despite the offseason turmoil. A Hawaii team that won 10 games in 2010 and features one of the best quarterbacks in the nation ([Bryant](#))

[Moniz](#)). A "10th" Pac-12 game against California, which doesn't count in the conference standings. The lone conference miss is Oregon State, which probably wouldn't be the Buffs' first choice. Finally, with a 13-game schedule, the Buffs have to win seven to qualify for a bowl game. That, suffice it to say, won't be easy. Colorado could be much better in 2011 than it was in 2010 but not produce a record that reflects that.

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