

CU Buffs' Cody Hawkins named Big 12 Player of the Week

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

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Five days after his father was officially fired as head football coach at Colorado, senior quarterback Cody Hawkins produced one of the best games of his career in leading the Buffs to a win over Iowa State.

The Big 12 Conference honored Hawkins today by naming him offensive Player of the Week after completing 16 of 24 passes for 266 yards and three touchdowns. He did not throw an interception. He posted a career-best one-game passer rating of 201.02.

Hawkins also became just the second player in CU history to throw for more than 7,000 yards in a career. He needs just 331 yards to match the CU career passing record held by Joel Klatt.

The Buffs play host to Kansas State this weekend in the final home game of the season, the final home game of Hawkins' career and the final Big 12 Conference game ever played in Boulder.

Kansas State coach Bill Snyder said he was impressed with Hawkins' resiliency against the Cyclones considering the events of the week leading up to the game.

"You couldn't say enough positive things about him, and I think he's been that way all along," Snyder said. "Just based on what I know about him and having spent time with his father and visited about him, I think he's a class young guy."



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cu football

CU's Hawkins tabbed as Big 12 offensive player of the week

By **Tom Kensler**
The Denver Post

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A week after his father was fired as head coach, Colorado senior quarterback Cody Hawkins was named Big 12 offensive player of the week by a panel of media members that cover the conference.

Hawkins threw for 266 yards and three touchdowns in last weekend's 34-14 victory over Iowa State. He was not intercepted or sacked in the game and posted a career-best passer rating of 201.02.

Hawkins accounted for 11 first downs against the Cyclones, including one on a quarterback sneak.

"He went through a lot more than anybody would ever know," interim coach Brian Cabral said on

the Big 12 coaches teleconference. "No one can appreciate the adversity, the emotions he went through. And how he handled that was just unbelievable.

"I couldn't be prouder. I couldn't be happier for his family. That was befitting."

This was Hawkins' first career Big 12 player of the week award. He enters Saturday's home game against Kansas State with 7,044 career passing yards, second all-time behind Joel Klatt's 7,375. Hawkins already holds school records for pass attempts (1,163) and touchdown passes (55), and is 24 completions shy of surpassing Klatt in that category.

"You couldn't say enough positive things about Cody," said Kansas State coach Bill Snyder, whose team will play Saturday in Boulder. "I think he's been that way all along, based on what I know about him. He's a class young guy. It says all the right things. I'm sure he's torn emotionally. It's a tribute to his poise and his capacity to manage adversity and do it in a way that it does not disrupt his performance or his leadership with his football team."

Oklahoma State linebacker Orie Lemon and Texas A&M defensive end Von Miller shared honors as Big 12 defensive player of the week. Texas A&M returner Coryell Judie was named the league's special teams player of the week.

*Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or
tkensler@denverpost.com*

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CU's ground game ignites

By Brian Howell
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BOULDER — In his first game as interim head coach, Brian Cabral kept his stamp off of the University of Colorado offense.

"I don't know a thing about offense," the long-time defensive coach said. "The stamp is Eric Kiesau's stamp for the last three games of the season."

Before head coach Dan Hawkins was fired last Tuesday, the Buffaloes' play-calling was a mix of what Hawkins wanted and what Kiesau, the offensive coordinator, wanted.

With Kiesau in full control, there were some differences to how the Buffs played offense in their 34-14 win over Iowa State on Saturday.

"A little bit of a difference," receiver Scotty McKnight said. "We were a little conservative at times."

That was particularly true on first down. The Buffs ran the ball on 24 of 29 first-down plays (82.8 percent), a major change from their season average of 55.9 percent running plays on first down.

"In our mind, in order for us to win this game it was to keep their offense off the field," CU running backs coach Darian Hagan said. "We had to run the ball and I told Speedy (Rodney Stewart) to put those guys on his back and you've got to carry the team, and that's what he did,"

Stewart finished with a career-high 36 rushing attempts.

"That's what we had to do to win the game, and that's what I did," Stewart said.

It wasn't just first down on which the Buffs stayed conservative. On 23 second-down snaps, they had 14 runs and nine passes. For the first time in a while, the Buffs relied heavily on their ground game against Iowa State.

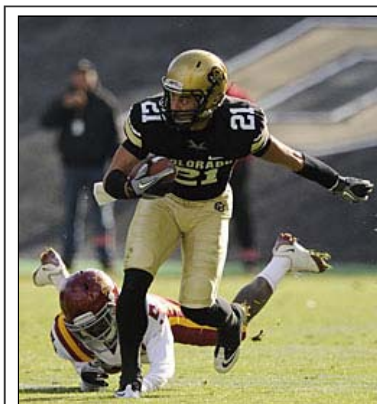
Overall, Kiesau called 45 runs on the Buffs' 69 snaps (65 percent).

That was a dramatic shift from how CU had operated in its first five Big 12 games, when the Buffs called passing plays on 60 percent of their snaps.

"Whatever that (stamp) is, right now I like it," Cabral said.

So did McKnight. The Buffs established the run early, kept the ground game going all afternoon and threw it when they needed to throw it.

"We mixed up the run, the pass a little bit more," McKnight said. "(Kiesau) did a great job. We really toned it down. If we were being aggressive, I think we could have scored again and put 40 on the board. But, he did a great job. I went



Colorado's Scotty McKnight breaks away from Iowa State's Jeremy Reeves on Saturday at Folsom Field. **Matt McClain/AP**

up to him and told him I was proud of him.”

Time will tell if it was a coincidence or not, but the play-calling seemed to a dramatic shift from when Hawkins was in charge.

Another difference was that Kiesau avoided handoffs to wide receivers. Saturday's game was just the second time this season that a receiver didn't have a rushing attempt. That's probably a good thing. The Buffs have 37 yards on 18 wide receiver runs (a 2.1 average). One of those resulted in a Toney Clemons fumble that Kansas picked up and returned for a touchdown in CU's meltdown loss on Nov. 6.

EXTRA POINTS: CU had 10 penalties on Saturday, matching its season high against Colorado State in the opener. ... CU hosts Kansas State on Saturday. The Buffs have a 44-20-1 lead in the series, including 27-5 in Boulder. K-State is 8-5 against the Buffs since 1997.

Brian Howell can be reached at bhowell@times-call.com. Read his Buffs blog at www.timescall.com/blogs/howell.

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Monday, November 15, 2010

Buffaloes find a new feeling under Cabral

By David Ubben

It had been a full year and six days since Colorado had last celebrated a Big 12 win, but in the Buffaloes' first game under interim coach Brian Cabral, they bagged one.

For one day, it didn't matter that Colorado lost 10 of its past 11 games in conference under former coach Dan Hawkins, who watched the game from a balcony at the stadium.

"There's so many emotions going on in this game. My job is helping them focus on what they were capable of being and capable of doing. I thought there was great energy," Cabral said. "I thought that there was something that was there Saturday that they haven't felt for a long time."

He wasn't just talking about victory, either. [Cody Hawkins](#) played one of the best games of his career and was rewarded with the Big 12's Offensive Player of the Week award on Monday for his 266-yard, three-touchdown effort. The defense also held Iowa State to minus-six yards rushing and scored a touchdown.

"[After the game], I just said when you play together, the way you did, that's the result," Cabral said. "Every phase of the game contributed to the win and that's all I was trying to get out of them."

Cabral knew what the team was capable of, rallying them around the phrase "One heartbeat," but he had to wait for his team to show him what he wanted to see.

"I was very eager to see how they would handle [the change]," Cabral said.

"Throughout the week, they showed great signs of handling it well. We practiced well and I thought they had been into what I was been saying to them, but I wasn't really sure. I wanted to see how they actually did and how they did it on Saturday. Based on how they played, the way they came together, they handled the coaching change great."

Colorado is still in bowl contention at 4-6, but has to beat Kansas State in the home finale on Saturday and go to Nebraska and knock off the Huskers in the season finale. Winning either isn't possible without carrying that feeling and play through the rest of the season.

"I first explained to them all, this is a three-game season. We've got to be able to build and improve on what we just did. That's a tall challenge," Cabral said.

And how to keep the good vibes rolling?

"That's the million-dollar question," he said.



After beating Iowa State, Cody Hawkins and Colorado can still qualify for a bowl game.

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Brian Cabral putting stamp on CU Buffs

Interim football coach restoring traditions, making his own

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

True freshman defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe walked out of the Dal Ward Center on Sunday evening carrying a small ball of red clothing and a red hat. The items won't be welcomed back for the rest of the season and might have made their final appearance in the building.

Offensive lineman Bryce Givens was scolded earlier in the day for a thin red stripe on his shorts. Linebacker B.J. Beatty had a similar line on his hat and received the same treatment from coaches.

"I didn't do it on purpose," Beatty said. "It was cold outside."

Nebraska week hasn't even arrived yet in Boulder but the Cornhuskers' primary color once again is banned from the premises as interim coach Brian Cabral continues to makeover the Buffs and put his stamp on the program, to the extent he can, in the final three weeks of the season.

Cabral, who hopes to be hired as head coach on a permanent basis, continued to shake things up by adding a few wrinkles to the Sunday routine the team had become accustomed to over the past five years under former coach Dan Hawkins, who was fired last week.

Red clothing had been taboo around the Dal Ward Center for years before Hawkins was hired in December of 2005, but the rule against it inside Buff headquarters was gradually relaxed in recent years. Cabral told players a full ban is back in effect now that he has taken over leadership of the team.

"He said if he sees anybody with red he is going to confiscate their clothing immediately," Givens said. "Hopefully nobody is wearing like red boxers or anything."

Cabral chose to tweak the pregame routine and bring back a few old traditions prior to a victory over Iowa State at Folsom Field on Saturday. The Buffs skipped the Buffalo Roundup, started under Hawkins, with players and coaches being dropped off before the game in front of Libby Hall and walking through a tunnel of fans, cheerleaders and band members to the stadium entering through Folsom Field plaza by the bronze buffalo. The Buffalo Heartbeat made its return. The entire team gathers in the Dal Ward auditorium in the moments before the game and claps and pounds on walls and chairs creating what sounds like a heartbeat from the outside. The team seemed to respond well to Cabral's vision with its first win in six weeks, breaking a five-game losing streak.

"It's new life around here," said Jashon Sykes, a former linebacker in the program and current coordinator of player relations. "You probably can't sense it, but guys are excited, which they were always positive and always prideful about playing, but it's just something different."

"When you're losing, it's the same old speeches, the same old no change, and you lose hope, not necessarily fight, but you lose hope and you lose confidence. Well, now there's a new message, there's a new face, there's a new philosophy. So now there is energy and it's hope and belief again."

The team met to go over the Iowa State win Sunday afternoon before moving on to preparations for the final home game of the season this week against Kansas State. It will be senior day in Folsom Field and the final Big 12 Conference game ever played in Boulder.

Another new wrinkle Sunday was Cabral asking offensive and defensive coordinators Eric Kiesau and Ron Collins to talk to the team about critical plays in the game, noting what went right and what went wrong. Running backs coach Darian Hagan said the program used to do the same thing under former coach Bill McCartney.

Under Hawkins, coaches selected players of the game at different positions, but only after wins. Cabral added several

twists to that Sunday by selecting more than one player at some positions for accolades and deeming them "Warriors of the game."

Defensive back and special teams points leader Arthur Jaffee said the changes were well received.

"He's just trying to bring back tradition from the 1990 team and stuff that coach Mac did I guess," Jaffee said.

Many former players were angered in recent years to learn a sign with significant meaning and history in the program had been removed from the Dal Ward auditorium. It read, "The pride and tradition of the Colorado Buffaloes will not be entrusted to the timid or the weak."

To some former players it was the Colorado equivalent to someone removing the "Play like a champion today" sign at Notre Dame.

Sykes said it was initially covered by a video screen and he would sometimes go into the room and roll up the screen to reveal the sign only to walk in a few hours later and have the screen rolled down again. He said the sign being removed altogether bothered him because current players wouldn't share in the same tradition he did. He expects the sign will probably make a comeback in short order.

"When I first got here freshman year (1998), I ran into Alfred Williams and those guys just told me about the pride and tradition of being a linebacker here and the pride and tradition of Colorado football," Sykes said. "That means something to the former guys."

"A lot of that stuff gets wiped away and guys like Scotty McKnight and Nate Solder and some of these young guys, Paul Richardson, they know nothing about it, which is sad because this place does have a lot great tradition. There was a lot of great guys who played football here."

"They come around for the most part, but marks have been set here and it's unfortunate these guys don't know there's a tradition behind it."

Cabral might only be the coach at CU for the next two or three weeks, but he appears determined to change that.

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college football

CU Buffs eyeing ... The Wildcats

bowls (1993-03) during his first KSU stint, is 12-10 in two years since his return.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

Posted: 11/15/2010 01:00:00 AM MST

For the record: Kansas State (6-4, 3-4 Big 12) comes off a 38-28 loss at Missouri and has won only one of its last four games, but that was an impressive victory — 39-14 over visiting Texas on Nov. 6. With six victories, the Wildcats are bowl-eligible.

Who's hot: Sophomore quarterback Colin Klein. He ran for 127 yards against Texas and for 141 yards on 18 carries Saturday at Missouri. Klein and senior Carson Coffman rotate at QB.

Who's not: The Wildcats' rushing defense. It ranks last among Big 12 teams, yielding 220 yards per game. Missouri netted 232 yards on 38 carries against Kansas State.

Key stat: Kansas State lost three fumbles against Missouri. The Tigers turned two of those giveaways into 10 points, and the other, a mishandled snap, ended a first-half Kansas State drive at the opponent's 1-yard line.

FYI: Supporters of the Bill McCartney-for-CU-coach movement point to the successful return of 71-year-old Bill Snyder to Kansas State. Snyder, who led the Wildcats to 11 consecutive

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