

Folsom Field's Biggest Big 12 games

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Colorado football fans have a lot to look forward to, including the naming of a new head coach and the move to the Pac-12.

The Buffs will welcome future conference rivals Washington State, Oregon, USC and Arizona to Boulder next fall. But first, interim head coach Brian Cabral and the 2010 CU team close out the home chapter of the program's Big 12 story on Saturday against Kansas State.

Here is the Camera's look back at the top 12 Big 12 games played at Folsom Field.

1. Nov. 23, 2001 -- Colorado 62, Nebraska 36.

All you have to do is say "62-36" and die-hard CU fans can recall where they were on this date when the Buffs stunned the college football world by absolutely thrashing No. 2 and previously unbeaten Nebraska.

Chris Brown parted the red sea for six touchdowns as the Buffs ended a nine-game skid against the Cornhuskers en route to the program's first and only Big 12 championship (a 39-37 upset of Texas eight days later).

2. Sept. 29, 2007 -- Colorado 27, Oklahoma 24.

At the time it felt like Dan Hawkins' watershed moment at CU. It ended up being one of the former head coach's only shining moments during a painful 19-39 run over five seasons.

After trailing the No. 3 Sooners 24-7 in the third quarter the Buffs scored the final 20 points, capped with Kevin Eberhart's 45-yard field goal, to pull off the remarkable comeback.

3. Oct. 5, 2002 -- Colorado 35, Kansas State 31.

Unlikely hero Robert Hodge, who started for an ailing Craig Ochs (concussion), threw for 289 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Buffs to the upset of the No. 13 Wildcats. The win propelled CU to its second consecutive North Division title.

Brown (167 yards, two touchdowns) and K-State's Darren Sproles (121 yards, three touchdowns) put on a show in a matchup of future NFL tailbacks.

4. Nov. 23, 2007 -- Colorado 65, Nebraska 51.

Blackshirts? Not on this day as the rivals combined for 116 points, 1,128 yards and 54 first downs.

Hawkins' Buffs were able to turn a 35-24 deficit into a 58-35 lead over Bill Callahan's Huskers. CU rushed for 277 yards in the game.

5. Oct. 9, 1999 -- Colorado 46, Missouri 39.

The Buffs escaped with a dramatic victory over the Tigers in the first overtime game ever played at Folsom Field.

CU finished Gary Barnett's first season with a 7-5 record, including a 62-28 victory over Boston College in the [Insight.com](http://www.insight.com) Bowl.

6. Nov. 16, 1996 -- Colorado 12, Kansas State 0.

The No. 6 Buffs posted a shutout over the No. 9 Wildcats in a battle of top-10 North Division rivals.

The victory put CU in position to win the inaugural Big 12 championship, but after a 17-12 loss at Nebraska in the next game, Rick Neuheisel's team settled for the Holiday Bowl.

7. Oct. 11, 2003 -- Colorado 50, Kansas 47.

The Buffs survived a wild offensive thriller in overtime, rallying from deficits of 7-0, 35-24, 38-30 and 44-38 in a wide-open game that featured a combined 1,184 yards of offense (598 by CU).

Brian Calhoun ran a game-winning touchdown in after KU had kicked a field goal on its overtime possession.

8. Oct. 17, 2009 -- Colorado 34, Kansas 30.

CU cornerback Cha'pelle Brown, 5-7, broke up a Todd Reesing pass in the end zone on the final play of the game as the Buffs upset the defending Orange Bowl champions and 15th-ranked Jayhawks.

Rodney Stewart rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns during CU's only victory over Kansas in the final five Big 12 meetings between the teams. We won't mention what happened against the Jayhawks this season.

9. Oct. 16, 2004 -- Colorado 19, Iowa State 14.

Mason Crosby gave field goal kickers a good name during his brilliant CU career. On this afternoon the future Green Bay Packer booted four field goals -- including a 60-yarder and a 54-yarder -- to lift the Buffs to a special (teams) victory over the Cyclones.

10. Oct. 14, 2006 -- Colorado 30, Texas Tech 6.

After starting the Hawkins era 0-6, including an opening day home loss to Montana State, the offensively-challenged Buffs rose up and dominated Mike Leach's high-scoring Red Raiders. CU quarterback Bernard Jackson was carried off Folsom Field by the student body after rushing for a touchdown and passing for two others.

11. Oct. 26, 1996 -- Colorado 28, Texas 24.

The Buffs welcomed the Longhorns to Boulder for the first time as Big 12 foes and pulled out a victory en route to a 10-2 season under Neuheisel.

12. Nov. 13, 2010 -- Colorado 34, Iowa State 14.

This game has to make the list because it represented a new beginning for the program and was a great testament to the character of Cody Hawkins and the Cabral-led coaching staff. Following the firing of Dan Hawkins, the Buffs played inspired football as Cody threw for 266 yards and three touchdowns and the defense sacks the Cyclone quarterbacks eight times.

An emotional Cabral picked up his first victory as a head coach after serving the program for over two decades as a loyal assistant.

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Time for Buffs to get physical

By Brian Howell
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BOULDER — As the University of Colorado football team prepares to face Kansas State on Saturday, it knows one thing: The Buffs better be ready to hit.

“One thing about Kansas State is they’re so physical and they’ve always been physical,” CU receiver Scotty McKnight said. “Even back to before coach (Bill) Snyder came back (in 2009), they were a very physical team, hit you in the mouth.”

CU (4-6, 1-5 in the Big 12) controlled the line of scrimmage in a 34-14 rout of Iowa State last Saturday. Controlling the line will be more important — and tougher — against Kansas State (6-4, 3-4).



Colorado's Michael Sipili, left, and Josh Hartigan, right, sack Iowa State quarterback Austen Arnaud on Saturday in Boulder. The Buffs face Kansas State this weekend.
Matt McClain/AP

“I think Kansas State is twice as physical as Iowa State,” CU interim head coach Brian Cabral said. “That’s Snyder’s trademark.”

Cabral said the Buffs lost the physical battle in a 20-6 loss to the Wildcats last year.

“I’ve got visions of that offense knocking our defensive linemen out of their gaps,” he said. “I’ve got visions of our players, our linebackers and our safeties, not fitting in gaps and them gashing us. This game is going to be won up front.”

“If Colorado’s going to have a chance, we’re going to have to control the line of scrimmage.”

Kansas State ranks 21st in the country in rushing offense (199.80 yards per game). Against the run, however, the Wildcats rank 119th out of 120 teams, allowing 220 yards per game.

Despite K-State’s struggles against the run, though, the Buffs know they have to be ready to take it to the Wildcat defense.

“I remember Kansas State every year being one of the more physical games,” CU left tackle Nate Solder said. “I expect nothing less this year.”

PREPARING FOR K-STATE QBS: Kansas State presents CU’s defense with a unique challenge because the Wildcats have been rotating between two quarterbacks — Carson Coffman and Collin Klein.

Coffman is the better passer of the two (1,485 yards passing, 108 rushing), while Klein is the better runner (363 rush yards, 98 pass yards).

Klein, who is from Loveland, didn’t play much early in the year, but the Wildcats started him at QB in a win over Texas two weeks ago. He ran for 127 yards in that game and then added 141 yards rushing in a loss to Missouri last week.

“He’s a guy you have to be concerned about when he’s in there because he can be a game-breaker on any given play,” CU interim coach Brian Cabral said. “We’re going to see his best. He’s going to be looking to make a statement. Colorado overlooked him and his brother, as well.”

The Buffs have to prepare for both quarterbacks, though, which makes this week tough.

“You have to prepare half your time to one quarterback and half to the other because you don’t know who is going to be inside there and what to expect,” CU cornerback Jalil Brown said. “It’s a little tougher on our part, but we just have to dial in a little more this week because we have so much more to prepare for.”

SPEEDY’S WORKLOAD: Rodney “Speedy” Stewart had a career-high 36 rushing attempts in last week’s win against Iowa State.

The 5-foot-6, 175-pounder was exhausted at the end of the game. But, CU offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau said the Buffs would do it again if needed.

“That’s the gamble you’ve got to take,” Kiesau said. “We’ve got to win, we’re at the end of the season. We’re going to do whatever we have to do to win the game. In that game, hey, he ran it a ton, it was working and we won. This week, if we’re running a ton and it’s working, we’re going to do it. If Speedy’s got to carry it 56 times, I’ll let him carry it 56 times.”

EXTRA POINTS: Saturday’s game will feature two of the nation’s top running backs. Stewart ranks 17th with 103.5 yards per game, while KSU’s Daniel Thomas ranks ninth with 116.8 yards per game. ... KSU’s William Powell ranks first nationally with 34.57 yards per kick return. He has returned one for a touchdown. ... CU beat Iowa State by 20 points last week. Since 2002, the Buffs are 6-11 the week after a 20-point win.

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Gregorian: Colorado QB still playing for his dad

BY VAHE GREGORIAN • vgregorian@post-dispatch.com, 314-340-8199 www.STLtoday.com |

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On the day Colorado fired his father last week, CU senior quarterback Cody Hawkins somehow seemed buoyant.

After joking at a news conference that he was going to immediately announce he was leaving the program "just to see what (the media) would do," he invoked the words of interim coach Brian Cabral, about having a "black and gold heart" to match CU's colors.

"I believe I have one of those," he said.

Shortly before kickoff against Iowa State on Saturday at Folsom Field, though, the weight of the ordeal slammed the younger Hawkins.

"I thought I was doing fine, then right before I came out on the field it hit me a little bit, and it was tough," he told reporters afterward, adding that over headphones he told offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau, "I'm about to lose it right here."

It would have been hard to blame him if he had, especially since his presence at Colorado had come to be entwined with the struggles of his father — whose five seasons were marked by a 19-39 record and indecisiveness about and inconsistency from his quarterbacks.

While his son holds the school record for career touchdown passes with 55, he also entered the Iowa State game with 39 career interceptions and barely completed 50 percent of his passes (121 of 239) last season.

Instead of crumpling, though, Cody Hawkins enjoyed a moment that was at once vindication and cruel twist.

He threw for 266 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions to end Colorado's five-game losing streak, notch its first Big 12 win of the season and earn Big 12 offensive player of the week honors.

After each CU score, Hawkins signaled to his father, Dan, watching from within the stadium.

"I tried to let him know I was thinking about him," he said after the game.

With one remarkable memory to sustain him now, Hawkins and the Buffs are striving for more.

On Saturday against Kansas State, Hawkins will play his last home game, perhaps with his father escorting him out for the Senior Day ceremony, perhaps not out of concern over fan response.

Beat the Wildcats (6-4 overall, 3-4 Big 12), and the Buffs (4-6, 1-5) will be one game away from bowl eligibility as they play at ninth-ranked Nebraska (9-1, 5-1) on Nov. 26 in the last regular-season Big 12 game for each before they depart for different conferences next season.

Far-fetched as that scenario might be, it would be a fitting end to a topsy-turvy year in the Big 12 and a particularly tumultuous one for Hawkins.

"I think everyone can kind of sense or feel what he's going through, but no one can appreciate the adversity, the emotions," Cabral said during the Big 12 media teleconference Monday, adding, "How he handled that was just unbelievable."

Polls favor Newton

Even as more smoke billows by the hour over the recruitment of Auburn quarterback Cam Newton, the absence thus far of a direct link to improprieties on the part of Auburn has kept the matter from engulfing his Heisman Trophy prospects.

In two weekly polls of Heisman voters, by Scripps-Howard News Service and stiffarmtrophy.com, Newton remains the favorite, directly trailed in each by Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore and Oregon running back LaMichael James.

The SHNS poll is made up of 10 voters, including the Post-Dispatch, and stiffarmtrophy.com this week tabulated 59 votes.

Each is a fraction of the ballots due early next month: 870 media members have a say, as well as 55 Heisman winners and a fan vote through Nissan North America.

BCS talks back

Sports Illustrated last week dedicated a cover story to a 16-team college football playoff, co-written by "Death to the BCS" co-author Dan Wetzel, whose book asserts that greed fuels the current system.

Snippets from an e-mail response by BCS executive director Bill Hancock:

If "the phantom playoff scene becomes reality, college football's unique regular season would be diminished," wrote Hancock, who noted the article didn't quote student-athletes and suggested it was because an ESPN The Magazine poll in August found that 77 percent would rather participate in three bowl trips than one playoff shot.

Among countering quotes from four bowl directors were the words of Chick-fil-A president and CEO Gary Stokan, who said, "The bowls would be out of business in your scenario, as the playoff game experience would be for a team to fly in to a home field, play the game and fly out that day or night."

Wherever one sits on the matter, a solution isn't simple and unintended consequences loom — most notably the concept of "bracket creep," a Hancock-ism for the expanded playoff that people would clamor for even in the plus-one scenario that some consider a solution.

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Tuition series: Athletic department mostly self-sufficient

Many students not bothered by supporting athletics

By Ellie Bean on November 19, 2010

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In the wake of Dan Hawkins' recent firing and a reported \$2 million being spent to buy out his contract, many CU students are wondering, how much does the athletic department cost students?

All CU students pay an athletic fee of \$28.50 per semester which "supports quality intercollegiate athletics programs and reduces student ticket prices," according to the bursar's [website](#). The only students exempted from paying this fee are students enrolled in three or less credit hours.

Some students, such as Chelsea Meyer, a 19-year-old sophomore business management major, said that they feel the athletic fee is too much.

"I wouldn't mind supporting the athletic department, but \$57 is a little much to be paying [every year]," said Meyer, who didn't know about the fee. "I already buy season tickets for both the basketball and football team."

According to the CU [website](#), in 2007 CU had 29,709 degree-seeking students; if they all paid the athletic fee, CU would have generated almost \$1.7 million that year.

CU Athletic Director Mike Bohn said that these fees, which were mandated by the regents in 1980 and were not voted upon by students, are common among universities.

"It is common for institutions to have an athletic fee in place," Bohn said. "It helps offset the cost of ticket prices for students."

At CSU, only full-time students pay the athletic fee, but it is \$103.85 per semester.

Bohn said that the athletic department provides a crucial element of campus life.



The CU Athletics department is mostly self-funded. Seen here is the Dal Ward Athletics Center and Folsom Stadium at sunset during the 2009 Rocky Mountain Showdown. (CU Independent/ Danielle Alberti)

"It provides a sense of pride and a rallying point for our community," Bohn said. "It also provides entertainment, that sense of pride, it really fuels all of the key initiatives of the university. It enhances the residential campus experience."

Amy Faliano, a 21-year-old senior MCD biology major, said that she doesn't mind paying to support athletics at CU.

"Athletics was one of my draws to come to a big university like CU, so I don't mind paying a fee to support them and help our school stay well-rounded," Faliano said. "I understand the amount of work that goes into recruiting athletes and how important that is to our success."

Bohn said that although the student fees may seem like a lot of money for the athletic department, no tuition money goes toward athletics and that the department is mostly self-sufficient.

"We are an auxiliary," Bohn said. "We generate our revenue from ticket sales, donations, TV deals. None of it comes from tuition."

Bohn also said that the fee does not increase and that the last time the fee was adjusted, the amount that students pay actually went down. The student fee does not go to one specific aspect of the athletic department, he said, but rather supports it all.

"It goes to support the entire enterprise," he said. "It's used for facility upkeep, funds our operational expenses associated with travel. It helps us meet all of our costs: equipment, training, upkeep ... that are all essential for our program."

Morgan Healy, a 22-year-old senior anthropology major, said she hadn't heard of the fee, but doesn't mind paying it.

"I suppose I feel OK with that as long as part of my tuition money also goes to other things like the art department," Healy said.

Ryan Stock, a 21-year-old senior political science major, said that he knew of the fee but didn't know the specific amount.

"I knew a portion of my money was going to the athletic department," Stock said. "I'm pretty much fine with it. It's part of the experience of the university is going to the sporting events and supporting the student athletes is an important thing 'cause it brings so much money into the school."

Contact CU Independent Breaking News Editor Ellie Bean at Beanee@colorado.edu.

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Cabral lifts Buffs hopes

KSU comes to Folsom for Senior Day

By Michael Krumholtz on November 19, 2010

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Brian Cabral still remembers his last game in pads at Folsom Field, a place he calls home.

That senior-day for then-linebacker Cabral, who still ranks among the top 20 for tackles in school history, was a win against then Big Eight rival Kansas State.

More than two decades later, as interim head coach for his beloved alma-mater, he will lead another group of CU seniors onto Folsom for their last game. Saturday's home game against the Kansas State Wildcats marks the end of the collegiate careers of Cody Hawkins, Scotty McKnight and Nate Solder, among others.

"The fact is that this is the last time those seniors will compete out there on Folsom Field," Cabral said. "I know how that feels; I know what that means. That's a feeling that you'll never forget."

Cabral's 22 years on the Buffs' coaching staff ranks as the longest tenure in CU history for any sport. The Hawaii native has been around long enough to know what to expect from a Bill Snyder-coached team. He even alludes to Snyder as the Bill McCartney of Kansas State football.

"We're going to have Kansas State's and Bill Snyder's full force, and I don't know if there's any other Big 12 coach that has seen Coach Snyder develop that program the way I have," Cabral said. "I've seen it. I've experienced it. So I know full well that we're going to have our hands full."

A win or a loss is the difference between a bowl game and an extended winter break for these seniors. They will need to win out in order to reach the postseason, something they have not accomplished since they were freshmen.

Meanwhile in Manhattan, at 6-4, all of Kansas State's losses have come in conference play. They rely on the run, led by senior Doak Walker candidate Daniel Thomas. With a two-quarterback system, they have run 200 more times than they have thrown.



Interim head coach Brian Cabral and Scotty McKnight hug after McKnight scored a touchdown in the 3rd quarter versus Iowa State on Saturday Nov. 13. This Saturday

On defense, they are one of the worst teams nationally against the run. The 220 rushing yards allowed is last in the Big 12 by a wide margin. That statistic alone should have Buffs offensive linemen and tailbacks giddy, but tackle Nate Solder says otherwise.

"I remember Kansas State every year being one of the more physical games," Solder said.

High praise coming from a man that is 6 ft. 9 in. and well over 300 pounds.

In last year's 20-6 loss in Manhattan, KS the offense gave up four sacks and two turnovers.

Former coach Dan Hawkins was 1-3 against the Wildcats during his tenure. Hawkins will again be in attendance for Saturday's game, as he will escort son Cody across the field for senior day farewells.

According to the players, the difference between the Hawkins-coached team and the current Cabral-coached one is already apparent.

Freshman receiver Paul Richardson, who has made a huge impact in his last four games, says that Cabral's energy has the team feeling brand new.

"When he was given the job, he said 'this is a new team,'" Richardson said. "It felt different; we feel new, we're starting to play more together. Everything we do, we do together."

Even Solder, who projects to be a top NFL Draft pick in April, echoes those feelings.

"The thing about Cabral that's just kind of rejuvenated me in this time is his passion for the Buffs, his knowledge of the histories and traditions of the Buffs," Solder said.

Solder went on to lobby for Mike Bohn to consider Cabral as the full-time head coach next season.

"Would I want him to be the head coach?" he said. "Yeah, I would because I think he would do a great job."

Cabral has said in the past that he would want to be the head coach if the program gave him the offer. The coach said that there is no time to think about vague futures. He said he is too busy worrying about his seniors and keeping their dreams of a bowl alive.

"My full focus is this team, this group of seniors and this game," Cabral said. "What that does for my future? I have no idea. I'm thinking about these guys right now, these seniors right now, and this game right now."

Speaking of changing times ahead, it is worth remembering that this will be the last Big 12 game played on the grounds of Folsom Field. The Buffs, who will make the move to the Pac 10 conference in 2011, hope to leave the conference they helped establish with two more wins.

On Saturday Folsom Field will host the end of many eras (both long and brief) when Kansas State comes to play. Cabral says he is ready.

"I just remember how awesome it was to be a Buffalo," he said. "That's [Folsom Field] my home. That has been my home. I guess it still is. When you grow up in a program, you fight battles out there, and you win some and lose some, you cry and you laugh, you get hurt, and there are just so many emotions and feelings that happen on that field."

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