



Junior Arthur Jaffee lost his helmet, but not his grip on a Texas Tech punt returner.  
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



11/04/2010 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

## Brooks: With Or Without His Hat, Jaffee Is A Force

**BOULDER** - The play and his reaction were unplanned but neither was a jaw-dropping surprise; it is how most of Arthur Jaffee's football career at Colorado has unfolded. He did what he does: react, adjust on the fly and find an advantage.

It was that way two weeks ago when Texas Tech visited Folsom Field and Jaffee lined up on the punt coverage team. He's on every CU special team except the field goal units. Helmets aren't optional in special teams work, but on this punt Jaffee and his headgear parted ways shortly after he left the line of scrimmage.

No helmet, no problem . . .

Jaffee weaved his way downfield, fought off a blocker or two and was in on the tackle. The assist earned him a special teams point, but you'd think a bareheaded assist might be worth at least a point and a half, maybe even two, right?

"That's just the way he is," special teams coach Kent Riddle said. "I've been very fortunate to have some good special teams guys, but he's very good - right at or near the top of the list."

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Jaffee didn't come to CU to be a special teams phenom, but now that he's here and there, he's fine with it. He's on the field regularly, busting it and working his way up the Buffaloes' career special teams points chart.

"It's been a lot of fun; it's something I look forward to every game, every play," he said. "Every time special teams go on the field, in my mind I think it's up to me to make the play. At the same time, I feel like a lot of the team - whichever special teams it is - tends to have that mentality also. It's competitive in a sense within the group and against the other team. It's just a lot of fun."

It's also been rewarding for the Buffs. Jaffee, an invited walk-on in 2007 from Fairview High School, is CU's current special teams point leader (27) and should surpass his 2009 points total (28) Saturday afternoon at Kansas (noon MDT, no TV).

Plus, his 55 career special teams points puts him in seventh place among CU's career leaders - but make that No. 7 with a bullet. With at least four games this fall and the 2011 season remaining in his college career, he'll undoubtedly work his way up that chart. (Ryan Sutter, playing from 1994-97 is No. 1 with 123; Darren Fisk, playing from 1995-97, is No. 2 with 86.)

As his special teams work evolves, so has Jaffee's vision of where it might lead. His childhood dream of playing in the NFL is very close to becoming job-specific.

"I always kind of had the NFL as my big dream growing up . . . then people always told me, 'Don't count on it,'" he said. "Obviously, my degree is much more important. But I'm starting to think I could have chance as a special teams player. It's definitely a goal of mine, and if that doesn't work the world isn't over."

Plan B (or maybe it's 1B) would be to use his degree in environmental studies to "do something either along the lines of sustainability or alternative energy . . . 'going green' is a huge wave lately. I figured there's going to be a large job market opening up in that sector. That sparked an interest."

When he was younger, Jaffee traveled with his family to Europe and Africa, then spent time doing volunteer work in Kenya building desks for schools where students previously sat three to a desk and took notes in the dirt, using their fingers as writing implements. He and his group furnished pencils and paper, as well as supplying volleyballs and soccer balls.

"It was all pretty crazy," he said, noting the impact was personal and environmental. "I got to see a lot of cool places on the earth and I would like to keep those around for future generations."

Jaffee came to CU with aspirations of being a tailback, the position he played well enough in high school to be named the Boulder County Player-of-the-Year by the *Boulder Daily Camera* as a senior. He stayed on offense, doing mostly scout team duty, until the spring of his sophomore season (2009) brought a switch to cornerback.

He's been on defense since - and, of course, on special teams.

"I've settled in (on special teams) but I wouldn't necessarily say I'm content with where I am on the team," Jaffee said. "I'm always striving to get to that higher level and maintain a position. Coming in, it was on offense, now it's on defense. That's ultimately the goal, but until then, it's kind of where I make my living and I want to do the best I can."

With CU's secondary and linebacker corps hit hard by injuries, the past four weeks have seen Jaffee practicing at four positions.

"Yeah, it's been pretty interesting with all the injuries," he said. "I've been switched from safety to nickel, back to safety, then to outside linebacker or the 'big' nickel position . . . I think I'm starting to find myself starting settling down to nickel right now, which is a lot of fun."

Jaffee practiced at nickel back with the second unit prior to last week's game at Oklahoma but didn't play on defense. However, he believes he could see defensive duty this weekend at KU. "I'm definitely going to prepare as if that's the case . . . my preparation is having that mindset," he said.

At 5-foot-11, 210 pounds, Jaffee has enough size and strength to hold up physically while playing on the majority of CU's special teams. Riddle calls him "a gifted athlete, one of fastest players on team. He's big enough to withstand the banging around, physical enough to run through people, and he's tough."

Jaffee doesn't score special teams points by returning kickoffs, but he's pretty good at that, too. He's averaged 20.7 yards on six kickoff returns - the third-best mark on the team among players with at least six returns. His longest of the season was 43 yards against Baylor, positioning the Buffs for their final touchdown drive. After that score, as a member of CU's kickoff coverage team, he zeroed in on the Bears' returner and downed him at the 20-yard line.

A good special teams player, said Jaffee, is fast, tough and physical. Attention to detail is important, but "it's not necessarily about looking at the big picture, like it is on offense or defense," he said. "It's about focusing on a couple of specific details, getting them done and doing it again the next time."

A guy can go about it with or without a helmet - but preferably with.

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SHOW MENU



# Hansen faces ups, downs of injury

## QB hopes to be ready if Buffs go to bowl game

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

Posted: 11/03/2010 11:46:55 PM MDT

If he had it to do over again, Tyler Hansen might do some things differently during the first three years of his college football career at Colorado. And he might not. Hindsight is easy after all. Making decisions in the moment is a little more complicated.

He jumped at the chance to play as both a freshman and sophomore in midseason and that experience was the biggest factor in earning the starting job this fall. But after suffering a ruptured spleen two weeks ago against Texas Tech, Hansen is out for the rest of the regular season.

He is confronted with the facts that he will go into his senior season next fall with no guarantee of being the starter -- the possibility of having to learn a whole new system and build relationships with a different coaching staff and knowing that his choice not to redshirt might have cost him more playing time in his career.

He has played partial seasons in three consecutive years, never seeing action in more than seven games in any one of them. He has played in 20 games overall and has started 16, which amounts to one full season and 25 percent of another.

"It's disappointing," Hansen said. "That's not the way you want your college career to end up, but it's something you just got to deal with. ... It's frustrating and I've kind of been twisting and turning with my emotions a little bit but you've just got to deal with it and you've got to stay positive, and everything happens for a reason."

Hansen said team doctors and athletic trainers diagnosed a possible spleen injury just after halftime of the Texas Tech game. He returned to the field to warm up hoping to go back in for the third quarter, but he was having trouble breathing and he felt pain in his left shoulder. That was an indication to doctors of a spleen issue.

Hansen laid in his hospital bed for several days concerned about his future not just in football but in the rest of life. If he would have had to have his spleen removed, it would have meant changing his lifestyle and having to be more cautious with many decisions he always has taken for granted.

"You've got to take a lot more precautions the way you live your life and you're immune system is totally cleaned out and weak," Hansen said. "To have the spleen, to keep it in your body is really healthy and I'm really happy I can live my life with my spleen now."

Hansen says he feels good nearly two weeks after suffering the injury. He still feels a twinge of pain from time to time and he continues to take medication to help him recover. He is prohibited from any strenuous activity.

The day he was released from the hospital he went to see his teammates on the practice fields. Several of them forgot for a moment the serious nature of his injury when saying hello a little too firmly. He laughs it off now.

"I was like, 'Ow, I just got out the hospital. Be easy on me,'" he said.

He continues to attend meetings and study film just as if he was preparing to play in this week's game. He knows the game plan and will be on the sideline the rest of the season helping signal plays into Cody Hawkins and rallying his teammates in any way he can.

"I'll be pretty much like another coach, another set of eyes and ears out there," Hansen said.

Hansen said he was taking the most optimistic approach hoping he might recover soon enough to play in the regular season finale at Nebraska.

He learned Wednesday that won't be possible, but he still has a chance to play in a bowl game in late December if his teammates can pull together three wins and the Buffs earn a bowl invitation, which is no sure thing even with six wins.

Hansen said he would probably have to practice for at least a week to be mentally and physically ready to play in a bowl game after so much time off, but he really wants the opportunity.

"That's my goal right now is to get healthy for a bowl game," he said. "I would have to feel confident that if I did take a hit, I would be OK."

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**All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post**

NOVEMBER 4, 2010, 2:02 PM

# CU defense struggling without Perkins directing traffic

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

BOULDER – Colorado’s defense has yielded its three highest yardages totals of the season during the past three weeks, allowing 635 yards to Oklahoma, 543 to Baylor and 430 to Texas Tech.

It’s not a coincidence, senior cornerback Jimmy Smith said, that that stretch coincides with the absence of junior safety Anthony Perkins, who was lost for the season with a torn ACL the previous game, against Missouri.

“We miss him a tremendous amount,” Smith said of Perkins. “He’s such a leader back there. He knows what he’s doing.

“Similar to what Ryan Walters was for us a few years ago, (Perkins) knows everything that’s going on. He’s like a computer out there. He directed a lot of the defense. We definitely miss him back there.”

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Posted on Thu, Nov. 04, 2010

## KU-Colorado football preview

•**When/where:** 1 p.m. Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Lawrence

•**TV/radio:** No TV; KCSP (610 AM)

•**Series:** Colorado leads 42-24-3

•**The line:** Colorado by 8 1/2

### What's at stake

The Jayhawks and Buffaloes will meet for the last time as conference brethren with Colorado leaving for the Pac-12 Conference next season. Both teams are looking for their first Big 12 victory, and the Jayhawks would like to help in shutting out the Buffaloes in their last year in the conference.

### Cheers if ...

The Jayhawks pressure Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins, who has proven throughout his career that he will make a big mistake if he's forced to make quick decisions. KU's pass rush has improved during the past few weeks, as the move of sophomore Toben Opurum from linebacker to defensive end appears to have paid immediate dividends.

### Jeers if ...

The Jayhawks have another bad quarter. KU has been unable to stop opponents' momentum once they get rolling, and it happened once again last week against Iowa State. The Cyclones put up 21 points in the third quarter after trailing KU 9-7 at halftime.

### Three things about Colorado

1. Colorado running back Rodney Stewart has rushed for 737 yards and five touchdowns this season.
2. The Buffaloes were 3-1 after beating Georgia 29-27 but have lost four straight games in the conference.
3. Cody Hawkins is starting at quarterback because Tyler Hansen has a ruptured spleen and is out for the season.

### Key matchup

**Colorado's cornerbacks vs. Kansas' wide receivers:** The Buffaloes will play a lot of tight man coverage with cornerbacks Jalil Brown and Jimmy Smith, who are the strength of their defense. To score touchdowns, the Jayhawks are going to have to hit some big plays with receivers Johnathan Wilson and Daymond Patterson.

### J. Brady McCollough's pick: Kansas 27-21

There may not be a lot of evidence to suggest a KU victory is on the way, but here's one thing to remember: The Jayhawks are playing for a coaching staff that will be around next season, while the Buffaloes are likely playing for a lame-duck coach in Dan Hawkins.

### KANSAS (2-6, 0-4 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result/time
Sept. 4	North Dakota State	L, 6-3
Sept. 11	Georgia Tech	W, 28-25
Sept. 17	at Southern Miss.	L, 31-16
Sept. 25	New Mexico State	W, 42-16
Oct. 2	at Baylor	L, 55-7
Oct. 14	Kansas State	L, 59-7
Oct. 23	Texas A&M	L, 45-10
Oct. 30	at Iowa State	L, 28-16

Saturday Colorado 1 p.m.  
 Nov. 13 at Nebraska 6 p.m.  
 Nov. 20 Oklahoma State TBA  
 Nov. 27 vs. Missouri\* 11:30 a.m.

\*at Arrowhead Stadium

### **COLORADO (3-5, 0-4 Big 12)**

Date	Opponent	Result/time
Sept. 4	vs. Colorado State*	W, 24-3
Sept. 11	at California	L, 52-7
Sept. 18	Hawaii	W, 31-13
Oct. 2	Georgia	W, 29-27
Oct. 9	at Missouri	L, 26-0
Oct. 16	Baylor	L, 31-25
Oct. 23	Texas Tech	L, 27-24
Oct. 30	at Oklahoma	L, 43-10
Saturday	at Kansas	1 p.m.
Nov. 13	Iowa State	12:30 p.m.
Nov. 20	Kansas State	TBA
Nov. 26	at Nebraska	1:30 p.m.

\*at Invesco Field, Denver

### **KANSAS OFFENSE**

P	No.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
WR	15	Daymond Patterson	5-9	173	Jr.
TE	86	Tim Biere	6-4	260	Jr.
LT	72	Tanner Hawkinson	6-6	293	So.
LG	59	Sal Capra	6-2	295	Sr.
C	77	Jeremiah Hatch	6-3	332	Jr.
RG	67	Duane Zlatnik	6-4	326	So.
RT	76	Brad Thorson	6-5	310	Sr.
WR	24	Bradley McDougald	6-1	195	So.
WR	81	Johnathan Wilson	6-2	190	Sr.
QB	8	Quinn Mechem	6-2	207	Jr.
RB	22	Angus Quigley	6-1	231	Sr.
K	14	Jacob Branstetter	5-9	170	Sr.

### **KANSAS DEFENSE**

P	No.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
DE	35	Toben Oporum	6-1	240	So.
DT	97	Richard Johnson	6-3	283	Jr.
DT	92	Patrick Dorsey	6-0	273	Jr.
DE	91	Jake Laptad	6-4	260	Sr.
LB	49	Drew Dudley	6-2	241	Sr.
LB	45	Justin Springer	6-3	237	Sr.
LB	52	Steven Johnson	6-1	237	Jr.
CB	19	Isiah Barfield	5-11	185	Jr.
FS	16	Chris Harris	5-10	190	Sr.
SS	1	Lubbock Smith	6-0	206	So.
CB	5	Greg Brown	5-11	185	So.
P	18	Alonso Rojas	6-3	228	Sr.



**COLORADO OFFENSE**

<b>P</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Yr.</b>
WR	17	Toney Clemons	6-2	210	Jr.
TE	34	Ryan Deehan	6-5	245	Jr.
LT	78	Nate Solder	6-9	315	Sr.
LG	63	Ethan Adkins	6-4	315	Jr.
C	64	Mike Iltis	6-3	290	Jr.
RG	73	Ryan Miller	6-8	310	Jr.
RT	59	David Bakhtiari	6-4	290	Fr.
WR	2	Travon Patterson	5-9	175	Sr.
WR	21	Scotty McKnight	5-11	185	Sr.
QB	7	Cody Hawkins	5-11	190	Sr.
RB	5	Rodney Stewart	5-6	175	Jr.
K	40	Justin Castor	6-3	190	Fr.

**COLORADO DEFENSE**

<b>P</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Yr.</b>
DE	55	Josh Hartigan	6-1	225	Jr.
DT	50	Curtis Cunningham	6-1	280	Jr.
DT	83	Will Pericak	6-4	280	Jr.
DE	90	Marquez Herrod	6-2	280	Sr.
LB	56	Derrick Webb	6-0	220	Fr.
LB	10	Michael Sipili	6-1	245	Sr.
LB	59	B.J. Beatty	6-2	235	Sr.
CB	23	Jalil Brown	6-1	205	Sr.
SS	41	Terrel Smith	5-8	180	Fr.
FS	26	Ray Polk	6-1	210	So.
CB	3	Jimmy Smith	6-2	205	Sr.
P	15	Zach Grossnickle	6-2	190	Fr.

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Longmont, Colorado  
Wednesday, April 13, 2011

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## Kansas not to be taken lightly

*By Brian Howell*  
© 2010 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — During the past three weeks, the University of Colorado football team has faced three of the top 35 scoring offenses in the country.

The Buffaloes (3-5, 0-4 in the Big 12) were outscored by each of those teams.

On Saturday, the Buffs face the 112th-ranked scoring offense. Much easier task, right?

“No, not at all,” CU defensive coordinator Ron Collins said.

No question, Kansas (2-6, 0-4) doesn’t have the firepower and statistical results of CU’s past three opponents (Baylor, Texas Tech and Oklahoma), but the Buffs aren’t viewing this as a break.

“The minute you start thinking like that, you’re going to get beat,” Collins said.

Kansas is the only team in the Big 12 that has scored fewer points than Colorado. The Jayhawks have just 40 points in four conference games. Five times already, the Jayhawks have been held to 10 points or less.

As far as the Buffs are concerned, however, they are in no position to take the Jayhawks lightly.

“I don’t think it’s easier, because the momentum is not on our side right now,” cornerback Jalil Brown said. “Both teams, we’re both kind of in the same boat.”

CU and Kansas are the only Big 12 teams that have yet to win a conference game. And, both teams are looking at this as a chance to finally get that conference win.

For Colorado’s defense, that means shutting down the Kansas offense.

So far, that hasn’t been a problem for anyone in the Big 12. The Buffs want to make sure they, too, have that same success.

“Every week is dangerous,” CU safety Ray Polk said. “It’s college football. Every team has a chance always.

“They’ve got some athletes; they’ve got a good tailback; they’ve got some good receivers.”

### EXTRA POINTS

CU’s Nov. 13 home game against Iowa State at Colorado will kick off at 11:30 a.m. It will be televised nationally by Fox College Sports. ... Kansas ranks 116th in red-zone efficiency. CU ranks 101st. ... The KU defense has produced just five turnovers — the lowest total in the country.



Kansas has struggled, but running back James Sims (435 yards) has had some success on the ground and receiver Daymond Patterson (44 catches for 338 yards) is a weapon through the air.

The Buffs do not, however, know whom the Jayhawks will have under center on Saturday.

Todd Reesing had started 38 straight games at quarterback for the Jayhawks from 2007-2009, but he has graduated. In eight games this year, Kansas has had three different starters.

Last week, true freshman Quinn Mecham made his first start because both Kale Pick and Jordan Webb were injured.

All three are practicing this week. If Webb is healthy, he'll likely start. He has started six games this year.

"We don't know exactly who the quarterback is going to be, but we've got to be prepared for whatever — running quarterback or a passing quarterback," Polk said.

The identity of the quarterback is not as important as CU's ability to stop the Kansas scheme, however.

"You look at their offense more; that's what we're worried about," Brown said. "I think we'll be ready for whoever they choose to throw under center."

For the Buffs, the focus will be on re-establishing themselves on defense.

During the first part of this season, the defense was viewed as the team's strength. During the past three games, however, the Buffs have given up 1,608 yards and 101 points.

That's why they aren't taking Kansas for granted.

"Last week, they ran the ball pretty effectively against Iowa State, so we've got to stop the run," Collins said. "That's got to be our No. 1 deal. And, then the other thing is, we cannot give up big plays like what we've been giving up the last couple of weeks. We've got to eliminate that.

"If we can get that done, we've got a shot."

Brian Howell can be reached at [bhowell@times-call.com](mailto:bhowell@times-call.com). Read his Buffs blog at [www.timescall.com/blogs/howell](http://www.timescall.com/blogs/howell).

## Football

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010

# Streak of suffering: KU football mindful of conference losing skid with CU next

By Matt Tait



**Photo by Nick Krug**

Kansas University receiver Johnathan Wilson, left, is turned on his head by Colorado cornerback Jalil Brown in this Oct. 17, 2009, file photo in Boulder, Colo. The Jayhawks lost the game, the first of an 11-game conference losing streak that stands today. Kansas will try to end the streak on Saturday against Colorado in Lawrence.

After rattling off five victories in a row to open the 2009 season, the Kansas University football team suffered its first hiccup in Game No. 6 at Colorado.

When it comes to Big 12 play, the Jayhawks have been holding their breath ever since.

As the Jayhawks (2-6 overall and 0-4 in Big 12 play) welcome Colorado (3-5, 0-4) to town for a 1 p.m. kickoff Saturday, at least part of the focus will be on snapping the program's 11-game conference losing skid.

Senior offensive lineman Brad Thorson said after practice Wednesday that revenge would play only a small part in KU's efforts this week. Ending the streak is the idea. And it doesn't really matter who they're playing when they snap it.

"Yes, exactly," Thorson said. "You get into these situations and every game becomes its own issue. I think we're confident in the fact that we're gonna go out there and it's just gonna be a battle all day. And it'd be great to end this. We're gonna say that every week."

Thorson was not alone in thinking back to last year's loss to Colorado this week.

"Of course I've thought about it," senior running back Angus Quigley said. "I was like, 'Man, we were 5-0 when we went in (there), and they beat us. It's been pretty much a rough go in the conference since then.'"

Like Quigley, senior defensive lineman Jake Laptad said the memories — good and bad — of last year's game were not relevant this weekend.

"We're not looking at it as they beat us last year," Laptad said. "We're looking at it as this is this year and we gotta go out there and get a win for this year's team."

The only thing that is relevant is that the Jayhawks believe they can win this weekend. While KU is hoping to break its 11-game Big 12 losing streak, Colorado is treating Saturday's game against the struggling Jayhawks as a prime opportunity to snap its own 15-game road losing streak, which includes 11 straight road losses in conference play.

"It's a big opportunity, and I'm sure they're thinking the same thing," Quigley said. "They're coming in here, and they've watched film, and we haven't looked so good ourselves. It's just one of the things where they're going to come out to play, and we have to come out to play, too, because they're going to be hungry for a win the same way we are."

### **Still no starter at QB**

Kansas University football coach Turner Gill said after Wednesday's practice that the Jayhawks still had not identified their starting quarterback for Saturday's game and that the team may not know the answer until as late as Friday.

Gill's options include junior Quinn Mecham, who started last week against Iowa State and was named KU's offensive player of the week; red-shirt freshman Jordan Webb, the team's No. 1 quarterback when healthy; and sophomore Kale Pick, the Week 1 starter turned second-stringer, who missed last week with a concussion.

Gill said all three had practiced on and off throughout the week.

"We're still evaluating," Gill said. "We'll probably make a decision here Thursday or Friday. All three guys are in the mix."

Though many Jayhawks believe they would benefit from knowing who their quarterback will be, none of them seemed worried about the delay.

"We always work with them in practice, and we get a feel for all of them by the end of the week," wide receiver Erick McGriff said.

Added senior running back Angus Quigley: "It doesn't matter now, because they've all started."

### **Thorson takes year in stride**

After playing all 12 games of the 2009 season as an offensive guard — eight at left guard and four at right — KU senior Brad Thorson has spent most of 2010 on the outside, starting all eight games at right tackle.

In addition to playing a new position, Thorson spent the early part of the season recovering from a foot injury that forced him to miss the final few weeks of preseason practice.

Despite the uphill climb, Thorson has not made any excuses and said he has enjoyed each challenge.

"It hasn't been easy," he said. "But football is about adversity and responding to it. I didn't play healthy last year so it's not something I'm not accustomed to. If this game's taught me anything it's that there's no time to cry because the next play is coming."

Though he seems to be a more natural fit at guard, Thorson said adjusting to the new position has made for some memorable moments.

"It's been fun playing tackle," he said. "Because I've got to see a lot of great (defensive) ends. If I can be proud of one thing about my senior season it's that I'm playing against the best that the Big 12's got to offer."

Thorson said he owed his positive attitude to his ability to live for the moment.

"When I look back, I don't want to have regrets about my season," he said. "So I'm not gonna look at anything I'm doing with, 'I wish I was here,' 'I wish this had changed.' Nothing we can do.

"Among the negatives that are going on, and they're easy to cover, easy to talk about, inside the building we like to look at what's going well, what are we doing right. We acknowledge the negatives. We acknowledge that we're thin on the offensive line, that guys may not be playing their natural position. But that's college football; you figure those things out and you go with it."

Thorson, 6-foot-5, 310 pounds, said he'd take the same approach even if the coaches asked him to line up in KU's backfield.

"That'd be interesting," he said. "I've always thought it would be fun to run the ball, but some of the hits those guys take, when they're, like, head down and going through the line, some of that stuff I don't know if I could handle. But coach (Reggie) Mitchell could get me ready to run the ball. Just give me a week."

### **Last hurrah with Colorado**

Saturday's game against Colorado will mark the final game between the Jayhawks and Buffs as members of the Big 12 Conference.

Colorado announced this summer that it would leave the Big 12 next season to join the Pac-10. Colorado will be joined by Nebraska — which is headed for the Big Ten — in departing the Big 12 next season.

Since Nebraska is the next game on the Jayhawks' schedule — KU and NU will hook up Nov. 13 in Lincoln, Neb. — the Jayhawks will face the conference's two turncoats in back-to-back weeks.

Despite the matchup with the Huskers looming, Thorson said KU's emphasis this week was on upending Colorado, not looking ahead to Nebraska.

"You can't," Thorson said. "Not where we are right now. We gotta (focus) with everything we've got on Colorado. We need to start with one win this week and carry it over. We're gonna try and do as many positive things in a row as we can."

Colorado leads the all-time series between the Buffs and Jayhawks, 42-24-3. That mark includes a 24-9 record in Boulder, Colo., a 17-15-3 clip in Lawrence and a 1-0 record in Denver.





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## Colorado out to snap 15-game road skid

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) - The Colorado Buffaloes, who haven't won a road game since 2007, find themselves in a very unfamiliar position: they're more than a touchdown favorite Saturday at Kansas.

The Buffs' 15-game road losing streak is the main culprit in coach Dan Hawkins' 19-38 record since bolting Boise State in 2006, and the primary reason he's on one of the hottest seats in college football.

If the Buffaloes (3-5, 0-4 Big 12) beat Kansas (2-6, 0-4) they'll keep alive their chances of playing in a bowl game in their farewell Big 12 season.

Lose and Hawkins is one step closer to getting pushed out.

"It's sickening to me because I know we can beat these teams," senior cornerback Jimmy Smith said. "If you bring some of the teams we play on the road in here, we'd beat them badly. But then we go on the road and it's like we can't tie our shoes together for some reason.

"I don't know why it's like that. The leadership ... it could be a number of things, but ... I hate it. I hate the fact that we can't go on the road and win a game."

The Buffs haven't won outside of Colorado since a 31-26 win at Texas Tech on Oct. 27, 2007.

Senior wide receiver Scotty McKnight said it's not like the Buffs are looking at this weekend with a sense of relief.

"We don't really think of them as being easy. I think the last three years we're 1-2 against them. We can't really come in lightly against anyone especially considering our recent losing streak that we're on," he said.

"We don't take them lightly, they may look at us that way but that's not the way this team is built. We have to go out there and play like ... we're playing in the Super Bowl."

A bowl, any bowl, is what Smith is shooting for.

"It might not be on other peoples' minds, but it's on my mind," he said. "I definitely want to win out and go to a bowl game."

Of course, the Jayhawks surely see the Buffs as their best chance to finally win a league game, too.

"They are going to come out with confidence that they can beat us because we've only got three wins and they've only have two," Smith said. "So, I think they're going to come out with that type of confidence. I think it's going to be more of a dogfight than anything."

The Buffs had high hopes after jumping out to a 3-1 start but they haven't won in a month, and their four-game losing streak includes disheartening losses at home to Baylor and Texas Tech.

They have two more home games left, against Iowa State and Kansas State, before closing out their season, their Big 12 run and possibly Hawkins' tenure with a visit to No. 9 Nebraska.

If they don't win Saturday, their road losing streak could follow them to the Pac-12.

"I think for us the biggest thing is just going out and getting a win. I don't care if it's on the road or at home," said quarterback Cody Hawkins, the coach's son.

After losing at powerful Oklahoma last week, the Buffs have to guard against human nature telling them the Jayhawks aren't going to be nearly as formidable, the younger Hawkins said.

"That's one thing about the Big 12 that you do play so many big dogs you have to be careful not to breathe a sigh of relief when you see that those top notch guys aren't on your schedule anymore," he said.

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