



Rodney Stewart dives in for a second quarter touchdown
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



10/16/2010 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

Brooks: Bears' Griffin All That – And So Much More

BOULDER - The Colorado Buffaloes thought they were prepared for Robert Griffin III, but on Saturday night at Folsom Field the Baylor quarterback might have performed beyond anything CU expected.

The nimble, accurate Griffin ran and passed the Bears to a 31-25 victory, dealing the Buffs their second consecutive Big 12 Conference loss (0-2) and reeling them back to .500 (3-3) at the halfway point of coach Dan Hawkins' critical fifth season.

Chasing its first postseason appearance since 1994, Baylor improved to 5-2 (2-1 Big 12) and now is a win away from postseason eligibility. CU needs three, and those must come from a remaining schedule that includes Texas Tech, Iowa State and Kansas State at home and Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska on the road.

"You just have to keep playing . . . that's part of your goal," Hawkins said. "No matter what the deal is you just have to keep playing."

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Hawkins said he was proud of his team, adding the loss "wasn't from a lack of effort or trying or heart or soul. They made more plays than we did, and sometimes that happens."

But it was Griffin, the Big 12 Conference's total offense leader with a 329-yard average, who made play after play after play against the Buffs. He accounted for 371 yards, a passing touchdown and a two-point conversion run.

"He's an athlete . . . he's everything you hear about," CU linebacker B.J. Beatty said.

Added fellow 'backer Mike Sipili: "He's got legs . . . he's a sprinter."

Griffin said some of his teammates "were joking that I looked like the vintage Griff out there. I do what I can; coach was calling them, so I had to run them. The offensive line did a great job of making holes, and all I had to do was pick one and go."

Griffin ran 15 times for 137 yards and completed 22 of 27 passes for 234. On three of his team's scoring drives, he converted three key third downs with runs, and he had three runs of 20 yards or longer - including a 36-yarder in Baylor's march to its final field goal and put CU in need of a touchdown and extra point to win.

After CU quarterback Tyler Hansen and receiver Scotty McKnight teamed for a 7-yard touchdown pass to draw the Buffs to 28-25 with 5:14 to play, Griffin pushed the Bears 59 yards to position Aaron Jones for a 38-yard field goal - his third three-pointer of the night - to send Baylor ahead by six points.

With no timeouts and 1:54 remaining, Hansen took CU from its 29 to the Baylor 19, where on the game's final play his pass for Toney Clemons was batted down in the end zone. CU's final drive consisted of 10 plays, four of them from the Baylor 42 or closer. But only Hansen's last pass for Clemons was thrown into the end zone.

Of the play calling in the final series, Hawkins said his offense was looking at short- to mid-sized gains if Baylor's defense allowed it.

". . . what happens in those situations is that everyone thinks 'throw it downfield, throw it downfield,'" Hawkins said. "Really, you're looking for 10-yard chucks so if they are going to give you the throw underneath and you're able to catch it and run it out of bounds and get your 10 yards, then you're pretty good - which we were able to do a little there."

At the Bears 32-yard line with 13 seconds left, Hansen hit tight end Ryan Deehan for 12 yards to the 19 - leaving five seconds and only time for end zone shot to Clemons. Hansen said Clemons told him, "'Hey, give me a chance, I'm going to go get it' . . . I had a feeling and a confidence in him that he would go up and make that play. He almost did."

CU's defense surrendered a season-high 543 total yards, including a season-high 309 on the ground. In addition to Griffin's 137, tailback Jay Finley gained 143 on 14 carries and scored TDs on runs of 17 and 14 yards.

The Griffin-Finley duo bludgeoned the Buffs.

"I didn't expect they could run like that on us," defensive end Marquez Herrod said. "(Griffin) was very effective with the zone-read . . . he takes guys off their assignments."

10/17/2010



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The Buffs and Bears traded turnovers to open the game, with Baylor safety Bryan Landor intercepting a Hansen pass to kill a promising 10-play CU drive at the Bears 39-yard line.

But two plays after that pick, Finley had the ball stripped Sipili, allowing nickel back Pat Mahnke to recover.

CU led 15-10 at halftime, getting a pair of touchdown runs (18, 6 yards) from Rodney "Speedy" Stewart (30 carries, 125 yards, two TDs) but failing on a two-point conversion pass after the first score and a two-point run after the second.

Junior Marcus Kirkwood was supposed to make his placekicking debut and was on the field after CU's first score. But the Buffs lined up in their "Shoestring" formation, with Kirkwood on the left side of the formation, and holder/backup quarterback Cody Hawkins signaled for the two-point try rather than pulling the offense back into a kicking formation.

Hawkins' pass fell incomplete and the Buffs settled for a 6-0 lead that lasted until Griffin and tight end Jerod Monk teamed for a 9-yard scoring pass with 5:32 left before intermission. Jones, whose 24-yard field goal attempt clanked off the right upright earlier in the second quarter, kicked the PAT and Baylor led 7-6.

CU retaliated with Stewart's 6-yard dive at the left pylon, capping an eight-play, 65-yard drive to push the Buffs ahead 12-7.

Griffin's first pass on the next series was tipped by defensive tackle Will Pericak and intercepted by Sipili at the Baylor 24. But CU went into reverse with a Hansen sack that lost eight yards, and on fourth-and-14 at the 28, Aric Goodman - not Kirkwood - attempted and made a 45-yard field goal.

Dan Hawkins said the plan was to use Goodman "if we had to take a long shot. I think he hit a 57-yarder in warm-ups and sometimes you go by feel."

Said Goodman, who now is three-for-six in field goal attempts this season: "They told me before the game to be ready and that 'long kicks are going to be you.' It was just in the cards today. I got an opportunity and made the most of it."

Goodman's first field goal (he hit a 25-yarder in the fourth quarter) put the Buffs up 15-7, but Jones hit a 50-yard field on the final play of the half to cut the Bears' deficit to 15-10. And on their first possession of the second half, he added a 25-yarder to pull Baylor to within 15-13.

CU appeared to poised to respond, but Will Jefferson - debuting at tailback after switching from receiver - fumbled into the end zone after a 23-yard gain. Baylor's Antonio Johnson recovered, CU's threat was snuffed and the game's momentum shifted.

"I was thinking he was going to score, he was really close," Hansen said. "I think it was a case of a guy wanting to score so bad and giving that extra effort and the ball comes out. It's just unfortunate and that's really just the difference in the game."

Just under 11/2 minutes later, Finley concluded a five-play, 80-yard drive with a 23-yard run up the middle and Griffin skirted left end for the two-point conversion run. Baylor led 21-15, returning the pressure to CU's offense - or defense - to retaliate in what was becoming a back-and-forth night.

The Buffs' defense responded. Cornerback Jalil Brown recovered a Griffin fumble - it was a long lateral - at the Baylor 21. But after gaining a first-and-goal at the 10, CU's offense went flat. After three running plays gained two yards, Goodman kicked his second field goal and trimmed Baylor's lead to 21-18.

The Bears, though, had been rejuvenated and had no intention of slowing down. They cruised 80 yards in just over 3 minutes and increased their advantage to 28-18 on a 14-yard run by Finley and Jones' PAT.

CU answered with a drive to the Baylor 7, where on third-and-goal Hansen hit Scotty McKnight with a 7-yard TD pass. Goodman's PAT pulled the Buffs to 28-25 with 5:14 to play, leaving the outcome resting with the CU defense to slow Griffin.

As was the case for most of the night, the Buffs couldn't do it. The athletic Griffin pushed Baylor to the CU 21, where on fourth-and-17 Jones hit his final field goal (38 yards) to make it 31-25.

Hansen and his offense had 1:54 to cover 71 yards for the tying touchdown and winning extra point. As was slowing down Griffin, it was too much to ask.

BUFF BITS: Saturday night's attendance was 48,953 . . . Freshman Jered Bell started at safety in place of junior Anthony Perkins, who suffered a torn ACL at Missouri and is out for the season. Bell is the first true freshman to start for the Buffs this season . . . Jefferson gained 10 yards on his first college carry . . . McKnight (five catches, 38 yards, one TD) extended his streak of having at least one reception to 42 consecutive regular-season games . . . Stewart surpassed 2,000 career rushing yards (2,044) . . . Sipili's second-quarter interception was the first of his career . . . CU's secondary received another hit when corner Jimmy Smith left the game with a concussion, further depleting the nickel packages the Buffs hoped to use. Smith is day-to-day, as is defensive end Josh Hartigan (ankle) . . . Baylor hasn't been to a bowl since 1994 - two years before play began in the Big 12 - and hasn't won more than five games overall (5-6, 2005) and three in conference play (3-5, 2006) in any season during this decade . . . Baylor hosts Kansas State next Saturday for homecoming. The game marks the Bears final game against Big 12 North opponents. They are 4-67 against South Division opponents . . . CU returns to Folsom Field next Saturday (1:30 p.m., no television) to face its second consecutive Big 12 South Division opponent, Texas Tech.

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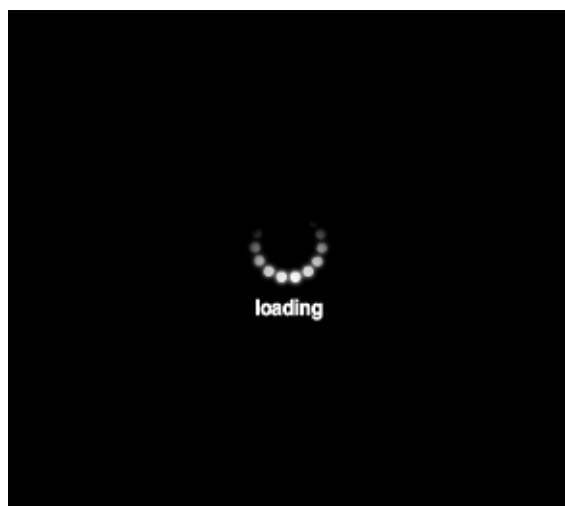
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Colorado rally falls short on final play against Baylor

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/16/2010 08:28:16 PM MDT



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Players and coaches in the Colorado football program spent their offseason preparing for close games like Saturday's entertaining and exasperating tilt with the Baylor Bears.

Believing his team dropped more than a few games in 2009 because of just a few mistakes each week, coach Dan Hawkins sent his team text messages and talked to players often in the winter, spring and summer months about getting two or three plays better each game.

All of those efforts couldn't prevent them from coming up one play short again Saturday against a talented Baylor team with an elusive and electric playmaker at quarterback. Sophomore Robert Griffin led the Bears to a 31-25 victory at Folsom Field with 371 yards of total offense.

"I certainly didn't like the score, but I was proud of their effort," Hawkins said. "You have to give Baylor a lot of credit. They made plays and certainly one more play than we did."

Led by Griffin, the Bears rolled up 309 yards rushing against a Colorado defense that came into the game ranked 20th nationally against the run. Griffin ran 15 times for 137 yards, but tailback Jay Finley led the Bears with 14 carries for 147 yards and two touchdowns.

The Baylor offense amassed 543 total yards and averaged 8.8 yards per play and coach Art Briles said it still fell short of its best. Baylor did not punt, becoming the first Colorado opponent not to do so since Nebraska, Oct. 22, 1983.

"They did a great job scheming us," CU linebacker Jon Major said, giving credit to Baylor's coaches. "We had trouble finding answers, but the most important thing is that we kept battling and we didn't fold."

Despite all of Baylor's production, the Buffs could have won the game. They struggled in the redzone once again, scoring touchdowns on three of six redzone possessions.

Colorado took possession with 1 minute, 54 seconds showing and drove to the Baylor 19, setting up a potential game-tying play into the endzone with 5 seconds remaining. CU quarterback Tyler Hansen threw the ball up to wide receiver Toney Clemons in the back corner of the south end zone, but Baylor cornerback Chance Casey made sure Clemons couldn't corral the winning catch.

"There was a couple plays that killed us," Hansen said. "The fumble, just a couple plays. That game is winnable, and that last play it comes down to one play. So that's tough, but we used our playmakers a lot tonight and I think we've just got to keep doing that."

The fumble Hansen referred to came in the third quarter on a 23-yard run by Will Jefferson, who fumbled at the 1-yard line. Baylor recovered in the end zone for a touchback.

Baylor moved to within one game of bowl eligibility with a rare road win in Big 12 Conference play. The Bears have won three road games in conference play since joining the Big 12 in 1996 and two have come in Boulder against Hawkins' Buffs (one in 2006 and Saturday's victory).

"It sets us up on a different playing field and we need to take advantage of where we're at," Briles said. "It wasn't a gift. We had to fight hard and earn every bit of it. I'm very proud of the resiliency our players showed in the game."

Colorado moved the ball well but couldn't match Baylor's firepower and penchant for big plays. The Buffs finished with 399 total yards, including 192 rushing yards. Rodney Stewart was the workhorse once again, running 30 times for 125 yards and two scores. It was his 11th career 100-yard rushing game and he eclipsed the 2,000-yard mark in the losing effort.

The Buffs fell to 3-3 and 0-2 in conference play at the midway point of the season. While fans might be in panic mode and ready to fire the coaching staff, players continue to believe they can finish strong.

"I don't want to say we're desperate," Clemons said. "We definitely need wins and we need more than just one win. We need multiple wins. This team still has goals and there are goals out there for us to conquer."

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CU special teams moves vs. Baylor raise eyebrows

Hawkins surprises with conversions, Goodman

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/17/2010 12:05:09 AM MDT

Points taken.

After Baylor's 31-25 victory over Colorado on Saturday night at Folsom Field, Dan Hawkins said the decision to go for two 2-point conversions, which failed after a pair of early touchdowns, was moot.

Backup quarterback/holder Cody Hawkins misfired a pass intended for Ryan Deehan after the first score, which prompted the crowd to boo as the Buffs trotted off the field with a 6-0 lead. CU had fooled Georgia on a similar play two weeks earlier in the third quarter if a 29-27 victory.

But why go for two after the first score of the game in the first quarter?

"That is just the same thing that we did against Georgia. You get it and you're feeling good," Dan Hawkins explained. "And as it ended up it was kind of negligible anyway, so then we had to go for two in a sense the second time."

Starting quarterback Tyler Hansen was stopped short on 2-point conversion attempt No. 2, which made CU's lead 12-7 after Rodney Stewart's touchdown with 1:40 remaining in the first half.

The way the scoreboard added up later in the evening, Scotty McKnight's 7-yard touchdown catch with 5:14 remaining in the game cut the Buffs' deficit to 28-24. In hindsight, if CU had kicked the two extra points in the first half, the home team could have been within 28-26 and gone for a 2-point conversion to tie the score.

Instead, Aric Goodman kicked the PAT to make the score 28-25.

"It's easy to say that early on, but as you go you match whether you're going for two or they're going for two, depending on what the score is," Dan Hawkins said. "You never know how that ends up in the end."

Baylor did convert a 2-point conversion after a touchdown in the third quarter to take a 21-15 lead. The visitors probably would have kicked an extra point for a three-point lead if the Buffs had 17 points.

"I was OK with it," Hansen said of attempting the 2-point conversions. "Being aggressive, wanting to score points and get after it. It didn't go our way but if it did we're saying, 'Hey, that's a great call.'"

Ironically, the Buffs took the two extra points off the table on a night when Goodman, the much-maligned place-kicker, actually lived up to his "Money" nickname.

Dan Hawkins said earlier in the week that walk-on Marcus Kirkwood would get the first opportunity to kick an extra point or field goal against the Bears. But after an interception by Michael Sipili put CU in position for some more points, Goodman's number was called and the senior made a 45-yard field goal to make the score 15-7 with 57 seconds left in the first half.

Goodman had been 2-for-14 from the 40-to-49 yard range previously in his CU career.

"They told me before the game to just be ready and that long kicks are going to be you," Goodman said. "It was just in the cards today. I got an opportunity and made the most of it."

The coaches benched Goodman after a missed field goal at Missouri and threw Justin Castor to the Tigers, who blocked his first collegiate field goal try during a 26-0 romp over the Buffs.

It appears Goodman, who also made a 25-yard field goal and a PAT after CU's last touchdown against Baylor, is back in

the saddle again.

"You never know," Goodman said when asked if he thought he would be handling the place-kicking duties next Saturday against Texas Tech. "It's about the next kick. And if the next opportunity is mine, I have to go out there and make it. I have to put in the work this week to make sure that happens."

During preparation for Baylor, Goodman stood to the side as Kirkwood got most of the reps in practice.

"If we really felt like we had to take a long shot then Goodman would be the guy," Dan Hawkins said on the decision to go with Goodman. "Just because I think he hit a 57-yarder in warm ups and sometimes it's one of those things you go by feel."

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CU defense doesn't have answer for Baylor's Griffin

Bears QB throws for 234 yards, rushes for 137

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/17/2010 12:02:55 AM MDT

There is one more reason the Buffs are thrilled to be moving to the Pac-12.

They never have to try to tackle Robert Griffin III again.

Baylor's dynamic dual-threat quarterback threw for 234 yards and rushed for 137 yards to lead the Bears to a 31-25 victory over Colorado on Saturday night at Folsom Field.

Had CU stayed in the Big 12 through 2011 the team would have had to face Griffin and Co. in Waco, Texas, next season.

"He's an athlete. He does everything you expect and everything you hear about," Buffs linebacker B.J. Beatty said. "Now I know why they start him, now I know why they recruited him, he's a great football player."

The CU defense was solid in the first quarter as Baylor's streak of scoring in 12 consecutive quarters ended. Griffin finally broke free on a 24-yard run with just under eight minutes to go in the first half. His 20-yard run up the middle led to his 9-yard touchdown pass to Jerod Monk that gave the Bears a 7-6 lead.

"They just stuck to their game plan and eventually it broke through," Beatty said. "It was just little things on defense, little gap responsibilities that hurt us."

Griffin had a tipped pass intercepted by linebacker Michael Sipili late in the second quarter to set up a 45-yard field goal by Aric Goodman that gave CU a 15-7 lead with 57 seconds left.

On the next possession, Griffin atoned for the mistake with a 17-yard completion to Lanear Sampson that gave Aaron Jones a chance to attempt a 50-yard field goal on the final play of the half, which he made to cut the visitors' deficit to 15-10.

"He was a good quarterback, just like every other quarterback that we play," Sipili said. "Every team we play the quarterback is going to be good. But Griffin has legs, he's a sprinter."

In the third quarter, Will Jefferson appeared to be en route to the end zone before losing a fumble and giving Baylor possession on the touchback. Jay Finley gashed the Buffs for 26 yards on the next snap. Griffin added a 23-yard run. And moments later Finley scored on a 17-yard touchdown run, and Griffin ran the 2-point conversion in.

Five plays, 80 yards and the Bears suddenly had all of the momentum and a 21-15 advantage.

"They did a great job scheming us," Buffs linebacker Jon Major said. "We had trouble finding answers."

Baylor was clinging to a 21-18 lead after Goodman's second field goal in the fourth quarter, but the Buffs allowed the Bears to convert a third-and-9 and a third-and-3 during a nine-play, 80 yard drive capped with a 14-yard touchdown run by Finley to make the score 28-18 with 9:54 remaining.

Finley finished with 147 yards rushing on 14 carries (10.2 per). Baylor racked up 313 yards rushing as a team on 35 attempts (8.8 per).

"They can throw everything at you because you don't know what's coming," Beatty said. "Their offense did a really good job running the ball. Defensively, we have to do a better job and figure out what happened and learn from this film and next week dial it up."

Griffin completed 22 of 27 passes and was not brought down behind the line of scrimmage, which snapped CU's 25-game streak of producing at least one sack.

"He's a tough guy too because he got beat up a little bit and hung in there," CU head coach Dan Hawkins said of Griffin.

Baylor did not punt in the game, the first time an opponent has accomplished that feat against the Buffs since Nebraska on Oct. 22, 1983.

"Some of the guys were joking that I looked like vintage Griff out there," said Griffin, who missed most of last season with a serious knee injury. "I do what I can. Coach was calling them so I had to run them."

Adding injury to insult: The Buffs lost starting defensive lineman Josh Hartigan (ankle) and cornerback Jimmy Smith (concussion) during the game.

"Having our starters injured is hard on us as a defense, but the next player has to step up," Sipili said. "It doesn't matter if you're a young player or a freshman, you have to step up and play right away. It's time to grow up."

Jared Bell, a true freshman, led CU with eight tackles in his first start as Anthony Perkins' replacement at strong safety. Jonathan Hawkins filled in for Smith.

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Bell steps in to lead Buffs in tackles

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/17/2010 12:03:49 AM MDT

True freshman Jered Bell enjoyed the first extensive playing time on defense of his career Saturday for the Colorado football team, but leading the team in tackles on a day the Buffs gave up more than 500 yards of offense and 300 yards on the ground probably won't be something he tells the grandkids about.

Bell was called upon to start at strong safety after Anthony Perkins suffered a season-ending injury a week ago at Missouri. Perkins was the team's leading tackler so it seems Bell fit right in. He finished with eight total tackles.

While Bell and redshirt freshman Deji Olatoye played well in their first real action on defense, Perkins' leadership and understanding of the defense was missed. Safety is akin to the quarterback of the CU defense and is responsible for communicating with the cornerbacks and linebackers.

"It's rough when you have a lot of new faces out there on the field because you have a lot of time and you jell together," cornerback Jalil Brown said.

Career day for Deehan

Tight end Ryan Deehan, who is good friends and roommates with quarterback Tyler Hansen, continues to perform well for the Buffs. He recorded career highs in receptions (seven) and receiving yards (70) on Saturday.

Deehan has unexpectedly become the Buffs' third leading receiver. He was a key part of the Buffs' final drive when they moved into position to try and tie the game on the final play. Four of his seven catches came on the drive.

Speedy to 2,000

Tailback Rodney Stewart's 11th career 100-yard rushing day pushed him over the 2,000-yard mark on Saturday.

Stewart passed four former Buffs on the school's career rushing yards list, including his position coach, Darian Hagan. Stewart is now the Buffs' 16th all-time leading rusher with 2,044 yards at the halfway point of his junior season.

Third-down success

The CU offense continues its strong performance this season on third downs, converting nine of 15 chances on Saturday. The Buffs came into the game converting 48 percent of third downs and rank among the top-25 offenses in the nation in that area.

Notable

Wide receiver Scotty McKnight extended his streak of consecutive games with at least one catch to 42 regular season games and 43 games overall. He leads the nation in that category. ... Michael Sipili's interception in the second quarter was the first of his career.

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Oct 16, 2010 11:00 pm US/Mountain

Bufs Winless In Big 12 Play After Loss To Baylor

PAT GRAHAM - AP Sports Writer

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — The [Baylor Bears](#) are actually thinking about a bowl and it's only October.

They took a big step closer to ending a 16-year drought, moving within a game of bowl eligibility.

Jay Finley rushed for a career-high 143 yards and Chance Casey batted down a last-second pass in the end zone, helping Baylor to a 31-25 win over Colorado on Saturday in the final meeting between the two schools as members of the Big 12.

The Bears (5-2, 2-1) haven't been to the postseason since the Alamo Bowl in 1994.

And yes, that's definitely weighing on their minds.

"It puts a smile on your face, but we have to bunker down, make sure we stay consistent with our preparation," said quarterback Robert Griffin, whose team is 5-2 for the first time since 1995.

This win was far from easy.

Baylor needed to fend off a late charge by the Buffaloes (3-3, 0-2), who had the ball on the 19-yard line with 5 seconds remaining, only to have Casey knock away a pass intended for Toney Clemons.

"I was having a lot of games flash through my head right there at the end," Baylor coach [Art](#) Briles said. "When I saw the back judge give the safe signal, I thought, 'Boy, good.'"

"It wasn't a gift. We had to fight hard and earn every bit of it."

Griffin has been the focal point of Baylor's attack this season, having a hand in a majority of the team's offensive scores. That's why teams scheme and plot to bottle him up.

"They've got to respect him, especially with his speed," Finley explained. "But pick your poison with us. Today, they got beat both ways."

Finley gave the Buffaloes fits, scoring twice, and Griffin was his [typical](#) hard-to-defend self, high-stepping his way to a season-high 137 yards rushing and throwing for another 234. He entered the game fourth in the nation in total offense, averaging 329 yards a game.

The tandem helped the Bears finish with a season-high 309 yards rushing.

"I just didn't expect them to run like that on us," defensive lineman Marquez Herrod said.

Rodney Stewart had a big day for the Buffaloes, gaining 125 yards and scoring twice. Quarterback Tyler Hansen bounced back from being benched late in last weekend's 26-0 loss at Missouri. He finished with 207 yards passing and one touchdown, a 7-yard strike to Scotty McKnight with 5:14 remaining to draw the Buffaloes to within 28-25.

But the Bears responded with a drive that resulted in a 38-yard field goal by Aaron Jones, his third of the night.

Baylor hardly played a perfect game, turning the ball over three times and committing nine penalties for 71 yards. That's typically not the recipe for a win.

"We didn't really play that clean across the board," Briles said. "But we were hot enough offensively."

The speedy Stewart showed off his elusiveness in the first half, darting right and then cutting back left for an 18-yard score in the first quarter. He later made a Baylor defender miss near the goal line and dove for the pylon for a 6-yard TD.

After Stewart's first touchdown, coach Dan Hawkins gambled and attempted a 2-point conversion. He sent out his son and backup quarterback Cody, whose pass was low and incomplete.

Any regrets?

"No," Dan Hawkins said. "We did it against Georgia and it worked."

Colorado went for 2 points again in the second quarter, only to have Hansen tackled short of the end zone.

Hansen defended his coach's decisions to go for 2 points early in the contest.

"I was OK with it," he said. "It didn't go our way. But if it did we're saying, 'Hey, that's a great call.' That's kind of a tough deal, but I liked it. I like to be aggressive."

At 3-3, the Buffs realize their margin for error just got slimmer for making it to a bowl.

"I think these guys are pretty resilient," Dan Hawkins said. "We talked about how the schedule matches up. We talked about this at the start of the season, how there is no easy day and how every day is going to be a grind."

"So if we win by two or lose by two you better redial and be ready to go." Although the Bears need just one more win to become bowl eligible, the road ahead won't be easy. They host Kansas State next weekend and end the season with home games against Texas A&M and Oklahoma. In between are road games at Texas and Oklahoma State.

Asked how big this win over Colorado was for the program, Briles said, "They're all big."

"But it kinds of sets us apart a little bit," he said. "Really, for getting victory No. 5, we haven't done that the last couple of years. We need to take full advantage of where we're at."



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colorado football

Baylor keeps Colorado winless in the Big 12, beats Buffs 31-25 in Boulder

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/16/2010 05:14:28 PM MDT



Robert Griffin III picked up big yards on a second quarter keeper up the middle. (Karl Gehring, The Denver Post)

BOULDER — A team whose margin for error this season is as thin as a pink slip, Colorado had too many slips Saturday night against one of the most dynamic players in college football.

It's no real disgrace to give up 371 yards of total offense to quarterback Robert Griffin. It's no real disgrace to lose 31-25 to a surging Baylor program that's one win from its first bowl game in 16 years.

What is more disturbing to the Buffaloes is a home loss they can't afford. With only two wins outside the state on coach Dan Hawkins' five-year resume, home games are as precious as quarterbacks with Olympic hurdler speed.

Colorado dropped to 3-3 overall and 0-2 in the Big 12. A once-promising season is suddenly on the brink

and, still, so is a coach's fate.

"I wouldn't say we're desperate, but we definitely need wins," CU receiver Toney Clemons said. "We need more than one win. We need multiple wins."

The Buffaloes had Saturday in their grasp. Unfortunately, they couldn't do the same with Griffin. The first-team freshman All-American from two years ago hit 22-of-27 passes for 234 yards and a touchdown. He also looked like the hurdler he once was in rushing for 137 yards.

Combined with senior Jay Finley's career-high 143 rushing yards and two touchdowns, not to

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THE DENVER POST

mention Baylor's 543 total yards, the CU defense's reasonably strong season took a hit too.

"A loss at home is unacceptable," linebacker B.J. Beatty said. "This is our home turf and we have to defend it."

The game, however, didn't turn on defense. It turned on offense when Colorado went from a potentially commanding lead to a six-point deficit.

The Buffs led 15-13 in the third quarter and were driving as they had all night. They rolled up 399 yards, with tailback Rodney Stewart rushing for 125 of them.

This time his new backup, converted receiver Will Jefferson, stormed up a hole from the Baylor 24. Only 3 yards from the end zone, he stumbled and fumbled. Bears linebacker Antonio Johnson recovered in the end zone for a touchback.

"It's a case of a guy who wants to score so bad he made the extra effort and the ball comes out," said CU quarterback Tyler Hansen. "That's really the difference in the game."

Jefferson, little used at receiver and eager to make a difference at tailback, didn't argue.

"I cost us the game," Jefferson said. "It's as simple as that."

Instead of leading 22-13, Colorado had to stop a rapidly heating up Griffin, who marched the

Bears (5-2, 2-1 Big 12) 80 yards on five lightning-quick plays. When Finley raced up the middle untouched the final 17 yards and then Griffin ran in the two-point conversion, Baylor had a 21-15 lead it



Colorado wide receiver Travon Patterson is stopped by Baylor linebacker Tevin Elliott on a reverse in the second quarter. (Karl Gehring, The Denver Post)

would never lose.

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Griffin, fourth nationally in total offense (329.0 yards per game), didn't look like a guy who lost nearly all of last year to a blown knee. After Hansen hit Scotty McKnight for a 7-yard TD on third-and-goal to cut it to 28-25 with 5:14 left, Colorado had to make one stop.

The Buffs couldn't do it. Griffin, throwing quick darts and darting up the middle all night, made three first downs to set up Aaron Jones' third field goal, a 38-yarder.

"Some of the guys were joking that I looked like vintage Griff out there," Griffin said.

With two missed two-point conversions earlier in the game, Colorado was forced to drive 71 yards for a touchdown. Getting booed in the second half for conservative play calling, the Buffs almost made it.

On the final play from Baylor's 19, Hansen lofted a ball toward Clemons in the far corner. But 5-foot-11 cornerback Chance Casey, giving up 3 inches, had inside position and batted the ball away, setting off a wild celebration by Bears one win away from a bowl trip.

"I thought that they would try to run some weird type of screen and run the ball in, but I saw the ball in the air so I had to knock it down," Casey said. "It was a deep ball, so I thought it was going to sail out of the end zone."

Whether Hawkins can steer his team to his second bowl will depend on holding serve the rest of the way at home. A win at pitiful Kansas

would help too. At this point, anything will.

"There are six more games left and they are all winnable," Beatty said. "Yet at the same time, like you saw today, they are all losable."

John Henderson: 303-954-1299 or jhenderson@denverpost.com

Key stat

371: Total yards for Baylor QB Robert Griffin. He threw for 234 yards and a TD on 22-of-27 passing and rushed 15 times for 137 yards.

Key play

Ahead 15-13 in the third quarter, Colorado nearly made it a two-score lead when new backup tailback Will Jefferson raced in from the Baylor 24. However, he began stumbling at the 3 and Bears safety Byron Landor hit him, forcing a fumble. Bears linebacker Antonio Johnson recovered in the end zone for a touchback, and Baylor drove 80 yards for the go-ahead TD.

Three questions for CU

Can Colorado's offense come up with some gashers? Colorado moved the ball, and 399 yards of total offense will beat some teams. But gashers? CU had just one play of 25 yards or longer — Tyler Hansen's 35-yard completion to Travon Patterson that set up Rodney Stewart's second touchdown run.

Can CU's defense contain Baylor quarterback

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Robert Griffin enough to prevent him from a big night? Considering that Griffin accounted for 371 of Baylor's 543 total yards, it's a wonder the Bears didn't score more than 31 points.

Will new Buffs place-kicker Marcus Kirkwood give CU a consistent field-goal threat that has been lacking for three years? Although CU coach Dan Hawkins had said that Kirkwood would get the first placement opportunities, to almost everyone's surprise, Kirkwood never got an opportunity. CU went for two-point conversions after its first two TDs. And Aric Goodman was called on for two field- goal tries, which he made. Hawkins said afterward that choosing a kicker is "a feel thing." Whether that means the kicking derby will continue remains to be seen. *Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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colorado football

CU: Red zone inefficiency remains problem

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/17/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — It's been a continuing problem — and counting. Once again, Colorado showed Saturday night it simply lacks the offensive firepower to keep up against explosive Big 12 teams.

And it doesn't figure to get any easier beginning next season in the soon-to-be-named Pac-12 and against the pass-happy systems of teams in that conference. Colorado has averaged about 25 points per game during five years under coach Dan Hawkins, and the Buffs hit that number on the button this time.

Not good enough. Baylor scored 31.

"When you play good Big 12 schools, when they have a quarterback on the sideline like they do (Robert Griffin accounted for 371 yards of offense), you know when you get into the red zone, you have to come up with points every time," CU junior utility back Matt Bahr said. "We

really want to come up with seven points. We were this close to being ahead in the game."

Colorado ought to be kicking itself for leaving points on the turf.

- CU drove to the Baylor 34-yard line in the first quarter, but Tyler Hansen threw an interception.
- Playing in his first college game as a running back, CU sophomore Will Jefferson took a handoff in the third quarter and busted free up the middle from the Bears' 24. But Jefferson lost his balance at about the 4 and fumbled as he was hit at the 1. Baylor recovered in the end zone for a touchback. To make matters worse, the Bears raced 80 yards in five plays for a touchdown.
- Trailing 21-15, a fumble recovery by Colorado senior cornerback Jalil Brown gave the Buffs the ball at the Baylor 21 late in the third quarter. But Colorado could move just 13 yards in seven plays and was forced to settle for a 25-yard field goal by Aric Goodman.

"There's definitely not a problem for us getting up and down the field on the offensive side," CU senior tight end Luke Walters said. "But there are critical points in the game when we have to make sure we hold on to the ball, get to the line of scrimmage, just making smart plays.

"If it's (a two-minute drive) and the ball is coming your way over the middle and you don't have a timeout, you don't catch that ball if you can't make the first down. We get taught those



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things in practice. It's just a matter of playing with your head as much as physically."

Field goals don't win many games in a wide-open leagues such as the Big 12 and Pac-10. Teams trying to keep up can't squander scoring opportunities.

"Just a couple of plays and that game is winnable," Hansen said.

Baylor outscored Colorado 21-10 after halftime.

"We were hot enough offensively and ran the ball well enough that we were able to sustain drives and control the football," Baylor coach Art Briles said of the second half.

That consistency and firepower continue to be lacking on the CU side.

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colorado football - briefs

CU: Goodman makes good on two FGs

By Paul Willis

Special to The Denver Post

Posted: 10/17/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 10/17/2010 11:41:31 AM MDT

BOULDER — The change had been officially announced, so University of Colorado football fans could be pardoned for doing a double take when No. 13 trotted onto Folsom Field for a field-goal attempt.

Buffaloes coach Dan Hawkins indicated Tuesday that walk-on junior Marcus Kirkwood was set to handle the kicking duties Saturday against Baylor, but there was incumbent — and embattled — senior Aric Goodman, set to try a 45-yarder in the second quarter.

He drilled it and later added a 25-yarder, once again clouding the long-term prognosis of the Buffs' kicking game.

"We really felt like if we were going to take a long shot, Goodman would be the guy," Hawkins explained. "I think he hit a 57-yarder in warm-

ups, and sometimes you go by feel."

And now?

"We're going to compete," special-teams coach Kent Riddle said. "It's his job to make them, and he drilled them today, but we'll still compete at practice and see what happens."

Goodman entered the game 1-for-4 on field-goal attempts; his only successful kick was a 28-yarder in the opener against Colorado State. The Buffs were 1-for-5 overall on field-goal attempts, with freshman Justin Castor 0-for-1 after having one blocked vs. Missouri.

"I still haven't lost confidence," Goodman said. "I went out and made the most of the opportunities, but you never know. It's about the next kick, and if it's mine, I have to go out and make it."

CU defense firsts.

When CU blanked Baylor in the first quarter, it broke a 12-quarter streak in which the high-powered Bears had scored. Then, when senior Michael Sipili picked off Bears quarterback Robert Griffin in the second quarter, it marked Griffin's first interception in Big 12 play this season.

In addition, the interception, which occurred after sophomore defensive tackle Will Pericak tipped Griffin's pass at the line, was the first of Sipili's career.

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"Just a lucky tip from the D-lineman," Sipili said.
"Hats off to him for getting his hands up."

Can't fool 'em twice.

The Buffaloes executed a two-point conversion to perfection against Georgia on a play in which backup quarterback Cody Hawkins found tight end Ryan Deehan just past the goal line. CU tried a similar play after taking a 6-0 first-quarter lead against the Bears, but Deehan was ruled to have trapped Hawkins' low throw.

It forced CU to try another two-point conversion after its second TD, and this time, starting quarterback Tyler Hansen was stopped shy of the goal line, creating several what-if scenarios throughout the remainder of the contest.

Jefferson in the backfield.

In his first game since being converted from wide receiver to running back, sophomore Will Jefferson carried four times for 36 yards. Jefferson, though, turned it over on a fumble into the end zone after a 23-yard run in the third quarter. Baylor scored on the ensuing drive to take the lead.

Footnotes.

Baylor didn't punt, marking the first time since 1983 (Nebraska) that a CU opponent didn't have to punt. . . . True freshman Jered Bell started at strong safety in place of injured Anthony Perkins. Bell was competing with true freshman Terrel Smith and redshirt freshman Deji Olatoye for the

spot. . . . Colorado was penalized a season-low four times (28 yards). . . . Buffs receiver Scotty McKnight extended his all-time team record by catching a pass in his 43rd consecutive game.

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Longmont, Colorado
 Sunday, October 17, 2010

Publish Date: 10/17/2010

Baylor defeats Buffs

By Brian Howell
 © 2010 Longmont Times-Call

BOULDER — Given one last play to salvage a win, the University of Colorado football team came up short on Saturday night.

Tyler Hansen's desperation throw to the end zone fell incomplete and the Buffs walked off their home turf at Folsom Field with a 31-25 loss to Baylor.

"This one kind of hurts," linebacker B.J. Beatty said. "It's a difficult loss, but Baylor is a tough team."

Tougher than usual, that's for sure. The Bears (5-2, 2-1 in the Big 12) are one win away from becoming bowl eligible. They haven't been to a bowl game in 16 years.

The Buffs (3-3, 0-2), on the other hand, have some work to do if they want to get to a bowl game.

"It's still a long season," Beatty said. "There's six more games to play — all winnable, yet at the same time, like you saw today, all lose-able."

This was a game the Buffs felt they could get. Despite Baylor having a dynamic offense led by quarterback Robert Griffin III, CU came in confident.

In the end, Griffin III was as good as advertised, if not better. Griffin III completed 22-of-27 passes for 234 yards and a touchdown and he burned the Buffs with 137 rushing yards.

"He is just a dual-threat," CU linebacker Jon Major said. "You can see every play he is faking a run, throwing the ball. He is just a true dual-threat quarterback."

Griffin III doesn't act alone, either. Jay Finley rushed for 143 yards and two touchdowns, while Tevin Reese (nine catches for 88 yards) and Kendall Wright (seven catches for 86 yards) gave the Buffs fits, too. Colorado gave up 543 yards in total offense.

"Yeah, this one kind of stung because our first goal is always to stop the run and obviously we didn't do that," Beatty said after the Buffs allowed 309 rushing yards. "They did a good job running the ball. That's kind of where everything was a challenge. When teams can run the ball like that, they can throw everything at you because you don't know what's coming."

CU contained the Bears fairly well before halftime, when it led 15-10, but



Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen reflects on a 31-25 loss to Baylor on Saturday. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

BAYLOR 31, COLORADO 25

Baylor

0101110—31

Colorado

69010—25

First Quarter

Col—Stewart 18 run (pass failed), :56.

Second Quarter

Bay—Monk 9 pass from R.Griffin (A.Jones kick), 5:32.

Col—Stewart 6 run (run failed), 1:40.

Col—FG Goodman 45, :57.

Bay—FG A.Jones 50, :00.

Third Quarter

Bay—FG A.Jones 25, 10:18.

Bay—Finley 17 run (R.Griffin run), 4:15.

Baylor took control in the second half.

The Bears got a field goal to open the third quarter, pulling within 15-13.

Colorado then appeared to be headed for a touchdown when Will Jefferson took off on a run from the Baylor 24-yard line. He got 23 yards before fumbling, though, and Baylor recovered the ball.

“He was really close and I think he was about to dive,” Hansen said. “That is just a case of a guy wanting to score so bad that he is giving extra effort and the ball comes out. So it is unfortunate.”

Baylor needed just five plays — four of them for at least 17 yards — to score a touchdown. Finley scored from 17 yards out, and Griffin added a two-point conversion run to give the Bears a 21-15 lead.

CU got an Aric Goodman field goal early in the fourth quarter, but Finley scored again, this time on a 14-yard run, to give Baylor a 28-18 lead.

Minutes later, Hansen connected with Scotty McKnight on a 7-yard touchdown pass to pull the Buffs within 28-25.

After a Baylor field goal, CU had 1 minute, 54 seconds to try to win the game. The Buffs got to the Baylor 19 with 5 seconds left, but Hansen’s final pass couldn’t find Clemons in the end zone.

“Clem is a great player and he steps up in big stages, so I had confidence in him that he would go up and make that play and he almost did,” Hansen said.

Almost, but not quite, and now the Buffs are sitting on two straight losses for the first time this season.

“We made a lot of plays, but we have to close,” receiver Paul Richardson said. “We have to learn how to finish games. That’s what great teams do. Great teams finish.”

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

Fourth Quarter

Col—FG Goodman 25, 12:58.

Bay—Finley 14 run (A.Jones kick), 9:54.

Col—McKnight 7 pass from Hansen (Goodman kick), 5:14.

Bay—FG A.Jones 38, 2:00.

A—48,953.

BayCol

First downs

2925

Rushes-yards

35-30949-192

Passing

234207

Comp-Att-Int

22-27-121-28-1

Return Yards

344

Punts-Avg.

0-0.03-44.7

Fumbles-Lost

4-23-1

Penalties-Yards

9-714-28

Time of Possession

23:2436:36

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Baylor, Finley 14-143, R.Griffin 15-137, Wright 2-19,