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colorado football

## CU's Richardson a big-play threat

**By Tom Kensler**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 10/18/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

**BOULDER** — Consider it a glimpse into Colorado's future.

True freshman receiver Paul Richardson made the most of his touches Saturday night in the Buffaloes' 31-25 loss to Baylor, causing heads to turn at Folsom Field with his quick acceleration and acrobatic moves.

Richardson caught two passes for 27 yards, including a long of 21 yards. He ran three reverses for 17 yards. For the first time, the standout of August camp was made an important part of CU's game plan.

"The coaches told me I was going to be in the mix a little more, so I was ready," Richardson said.

Teammates saw it coming. Junior utility back Matt Bahr recalled Richardson putting on a show last week during a practice.

"I'll tell

you what, on Thursday when Coach (Dan Hawkins) was trying to get the offense to be a little more exciting, Paul did two backflips and a back handspring," Bahr said. "I mean, just like that, standing backflips.

"He's incredibly athletic. You can tell that he's used to being in the air."

In the offseason, Richardson is determined to add some meat and muscle to his lean 6-foot-1, 175-pound frame, although he already plays with fearless abandon. Richardson was flipped into the air by a low tackle Saturday night and almost landed on his head. Amazingly, he held on to the football.

"I have no problem going across the middle," Richardson said. "Nor do I have a problem leaving my feet. I never even worried about it. My landing was fine.

"That's what a lot of DBs (defensive backs) do when they're afraid of contact. They try to take your legs out. I was prepared for that. The way I look at it, every time I'm in the air, I'm getting extra yards."

Colorado (3-3, 0-2 Big 12) will try to get back on track Saturday in a 1:30 p.m. home game against Texas Tech (3-3, 1-3). The Buffaloes need to hold serve in their three remaining home games (versus Texas Tech, Iowa State and Kansas State) to become bowl-eligible because any margin for error largely disappeared with the loss to Baylor.

"It was a tough loss, but as an offense we



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learned a lot about ourselves," Richardson said. "It's going to help us in the next game. We're going to start taking more shots (downfield). We have a lot of speed. If we take more shots, they're going to have to respect our speed. They haven't seen our speed yet."

That includes Richardson. Although fellow wideouts Toney Clemons and Travon Patterson may be a split-second faster in a sprint, Richardson gave every indication that he is Colorado's most exciting player in the open field.

"Paul is going to be one of the best receivers in the country when it's his time," sophomore receiver-turned- tailback Will Jefferson predicted.

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## Eye on

### The Red Raiders

Texas Tech at CU, 1:30 p.m. Saturday

**For the record:** For the first time since World War II, Texas Tech (3-3, 1-3 Big 12) lost at home to Oklahoma State, 34-17.

**Who's hot:** Senior Taylor Potts ranks second among Big 12 quarterbacks in yards passing per game (312.5), behind only Oklahoma State's Brandon Weeden (327.7). Potts' 18 TD passes trail only Weeden's 19.

**Who's not:** Tommy Tuberville's Auburn teams were known for their solid, fundamental defense. But his first Red Raiders team is struggling on that side of the ball. Texas Tech's defense ranks 11th in the conference in total defense, yielding 434.8 yards per game (ahead of only Iowa State's 455.3). The Red Raiders are last in pass defense.

**Key stat:** To former Texas Tech coach Mike Leach, the running game was almost an afterthought. Tuberville promised a more balanced attack, but apparently it's tough to teach an old dog new tricks. Tech ranks last in the league in rushing (114.8 yards per game).

**FYI:** Potts suffered a sprained jaw on Saturday and was taken to a Lubbock hospital after the game for observation and tests. All tests were negative, and he is not expected to miss any practice time this week.

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

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OCTOBER 18, 2010, 11:34 AM

## Hawkins says it's "kicker by committee"

By **JOHN HENDERSON** |  No Comments

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said the place-kicker position will be open competition this week despite Aric Goodman snapping a slump with 45- and 25-yard field goals against Baylor.

Goodman is now 3-for-6 on the year. Hawkins said last week that junior Marcus Kirkwood would see his first action against Baylor but Hawkins used the veteran Goodman instead on the 45-yarder.

"Yeah, that's always a kicker by committee so we'll see," Hawkins said on Monday's Big 12 Conference call. "I was proud of Aric. He came in and did a nice job and made both of his so we'll see how it progresses."

Hawkins, however, isn't sure on star cornerback Jimmy Smith who suffered a concussion.

"We think he'll be all right," Hawkins said. "We don't know for sure but we think he'll be OK."

He's certain his team is OK despite dropping to 3-3 overall and 0-2 in league.

"They're good," he said. "They are. They're all disappointed. No one likes to lose. It was a tough game, a close game and exasperating and all that. But we got to get back on the horse and ride. That's always been our mantra so they're good to go."

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Longmont, Colorado  
Friday, October 22, 2010

Publish Date: 10/18/2010

## CU to be tested

*By Brian Howell*  
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BOULDER — Where do the University of Colorado Buffaloes go from here?

Saturday's 31-25 loss to Baylor was a heartbreaker for CU.

The Buffs (3-3, 0-2 in the Big 12) know they struggle on the road, and therefore must take care of business at home.

That made Saturday's loss at Folsom Field a tough one.

"Any time you lose, it's going to be tough," cornerback Jalil Brown said, "especially when you lose on your home field."

How the Buffs respond to this loss — their second in a row — could determine the rest of their season.

Should the Buffs beat Texas Tech (3-3, 1-3) at home on Saturday, it could be the spark they need to finish strong and qualify for a bowl game.

Lose, and a season that began with so much hope could unravel.

"I think next week is a big game for us; we've got to get a win," quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "To go 4-3, as opposed to 3-4, is really a big difference. Next week is a must-win for us."

Linebacker Jon Major added that "we're not going to dwell on this."

They can't afford to.

Four of the next five games are winnable for the Buffaloes, and they've probably got to go 4-1 in that stretch. Winning at Oklahoma, which is ranked No. 1 in the BCS standings, would be a little much to ask. But home games with Texas Tech, Iowa State (3-4, 1-2) and Kansas State (5-1, 2-1) are winnable, as is a road date with Kansas (2-4, 0-2).

It all starts with Saturday's game, though, and the Buffs can't get ahead of themselves.

"Right now, we're just looking forward to next week," freshman receiver Paul Richardson said.

CU's confidence has taken a hit with back-to-back losses, but it's not gone. The Buffs still believe the opportunity to produce a winning season is there.

"We still look at ourselves as a good team," Brown said. "We made a lot of positive plays out there (against Baylor). It's just they made plays when it counted most."



Colorado head coach Dan Hawkins, left, gestures on the sidelines moments before CU scored against Baylor during the fourth quarter Saturday at Folsom Field in Boulder. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

“We’re not going to tank at all. We’re ready to go next week against Texas Tech.”

**PATCHWORK SECONDARY:** CU’s depleted secondary took another hit on Saturday night when senior cornerback Jimmy Smith went out with a concussion.

By the end of the game, the Buffs were playing in the defensive backfield with just two of their original five starters (Brown and free safety Ray Polk).

“It’s tough when you can’t (jell together) because you have guys who are new on the field,” Brown said.

CU has lost three nickel backs to injuries this season, and strong safety Anthony Perkins was lost for the season with a knee injury against Missouri.

Perkins’ loss was a big one on Saturday, Brown said, because Perkins was often the player communicating to others and getting the Buffs lined up for each play.

“We definitely were missing Perkins today out there,” Brown said. “It was weird to turn around and not see him there.”

Perkins’ replacement, freshman Jered Bell, led the team with eight tackles.

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