

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

sports

## Secondary is primary concern for Buffaloes

**By Paul Willis**  
*Special to The Denver Post*

Posted: 10/22/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 10/22/2010 01:23:01 AM MDT

**BOULDER** — The formula sounds forbidding: a thinned-out, youthful secondary squaring off against perhaps the most notorious pass-first program in the country.

Well aware of that challenge, Colorado is seeking a speedy recovery from one cornerback, hoping a one-game crash course against Baylor was enough to prepare another defensive back, and is prepared to lift the redshirt off a third.

Already without injured starting safety Anthony Perkins for the remainder of the season, the Buffaloes lost NFL prospect and Senior Bowl invitee Jimmy Smith to a concussion against Baylor. The cornerback, though, believes he'll be ready for Saturday's Big 12 matchup against Texas Tech (3-3, 1-3).

"More than likely I'll go,"

Smith said at midweek. "It's just a regular concussion. I've had one before. Just time off and rest is going to heal it."

Playing against Texas Tech essentially means using an additional defensive back anyway, as the nickel package generally becomes the base defense against the air-inclined Red Raiders. That means Jered Bell, who started for Perkins at strong safety against Baylor, will maintain that role, while fellow true freshman Terrel Smith also will be in the mix.

Terrel Smith, a free safety, hasn't played this season. That means the Buffaloes (3-3, 0-2) will be discarding his redshirt if he makes his way onto the field. With free safety Travis Sandersfeld and cornerback Paul Vigo still shelved by injury, that possibility has transformed into a near-definite.

"He'll play unless there's some miracle with Travis or Paul, but he'll play," defensive backs coach Ashley Ambrose said.

Ambrose said Smith is a quick-to-the-ball player who "packs a punch," and that the team gave him the option of whether to burn his redshirt. The choice was easy for Smith.

"There are pros and cons, but I'm looking at the better side," Smith said. "I'm ready to play the Red Raiders and hit some people."

Ambrose indicated that Smith figures to join the secondary as a regular member, because a one-game audition wouldn't justify sacrificing his



We focus on automating Marriott® Hotels' global invoice process. So they don't have to.

Learn more at [RealBusiness.com](http://RealBusiness.com)

Ready For Real Business



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

redshirt.

"If the kid plays, you have to find a role for him," Ambrose said. "You can't just play him one game and that's it. We know there will be some way to get him on the field with different packages, special teams and things like that."

The uncertainty in the secondary is a stark contrast to the start of the season, when the unit was considered the Buffs' strength.

Cornerback Jalil Brown, one of the few healthy defensive backs, believes last week's trial against Baylor will help. The Buffs struggled with Baylor dual threat Robert Griffin III but will be facing a more classic passing attack against Texas Tech quarterback Taylor Potts.

"When you get a quarterback who doesn't have the ability to run as much, you can kind of focus on the pass and screens and things like that," Brown said.

Granted, the Raiders are a bit more balanced under Tommy Tuberville than during the Mike Leach days, but the pass is still their bread and butter.

CU coach Dan Hawkins said he's "fired up" to see how the new blood in the secondary reacts to the challenge.

## Three questions for CU

**1. Will Colorado's defense perform better than it did last weekend against Baylor?** CU's "D"

had, for the most part, played consistently and admirably this season until yielding 543 yards to Baylor. The Buffs were particularly hurt by the option reads of Bears quarterback Robert Griffin III. At least Texas Tech quarterback Taylor Potts is not considered much of a running threat.

**2. Texas Tech averages 33.5 points per game, so if it's a shootout, can CU keep up?** Another touchdown and CU would have defeated Baylor. The Buffs must find a way to regularly score 30 points against the explosive teams of the Big 12. Since the beginning of the 2008 season, Colorado has reached 30 points in just three Big 12 games. Conference foes have accomplished it 11 times during that span.

**3. Will the Buffs continue their recent success against Texas Tech?** Dan Hawkins- coached teams stand 2-0 against the Red Raiders, and both wins were memorable: Hawkins' first victory was a 30-6 surprise in Boulder in 2006, and the last CU victory outside the state was a 31-26 decision in 2007 at Lubbock. CU is 4-0 at Folsom vs. the Red Raiders, dating to 1981. *Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

## PROTECT YOUR HOME

**FREE**

Home Security  
System!

\$850 Value!

CALL NOW and receive a **FREE** wireless  
remote control with **PANIC BUTTON!**

# 1-877-246-7519

Mon-Fri 9am - 10pm - Sat 9am-7pm - Sun 11am - 6pm EST

At no cost to you for parts and activation with only a \$99 installation fee and the purchase of alarm monitoring services. Terms & Conditions apply.



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

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

---

OCTOBER 22, 2010, 8:14 AM

**CU's Hansen: 'Our day coming soon'**By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

BOULDER – This much is certain about Colorado's preparation for Saturday's homecoming game against Texas Tech: Buffs coaches don't have to worry that CU quarterback Tyler Hansen has lost any confidence.

"Our day is going to come soon," Hansen said this week. "We keep fighting. It's going to happen sometime soon."

Hansen said the offense is ready to break out.

"With what (the Red Raiders) do defensively and with the game plan we have going into this week, we should be real confident," Hansen said. "I think we can score a lot of points against them and do something special on offense."

But, Hansen conceded, with Texas Tech and quarterback Taylor Potts being able to throw for 300 or 400 yards, it's imperative that the Buffs keep the Red Raiders' offense off the field.

"We have to be able to control the clock," Hansen said. "We have to run the ball effectively and have a controlled passing game and take our shots (downfield) when we can."

**More from All Things Colorado Sports**

- [CU's starting kicker? It's anyone's guess](#) <sup>[1]</sup>
- [CU's Hartigan: 'I'll be ready for Saturday'](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- [No knee brace needed for CU's Hansen](#) <sup>[3]</sup>
- [CU's Burks to start against Missouri](#) <sup>[4]</sup>
- [Scott to Boulder Camera: I'm not coming back](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

**All Things Colorado Sports Recommends**

- [Tracy predicts Tulo's latest long ball](#) <sup>[6]</sup> (All Things Rockies)
- [Jones not feeling Chipper about CarGo's candidacy](#) <sup>[7]</sup> (All Things Rockies)
- [S.I. cover could be awaiting Jimenez](#) <sup>[8]</sup> (All Things Rockies)

Recommend On 

<sup>[9]</sup>

---

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS COLORADO SPORTS

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2010/10/22/cus-hansen-our-day-coming-soon/13467/>

URLs in this post:

# 1990 CU Buffs flashback: Week 8, Colorado 41, Kansas 10

**By Neill Woelk** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/22/2010 12:08:18 AM MDT

**Editor's note:** *This is the eighth in a season-long series on Colorado's march to the 1990 national championship. The Camera will recap each week's game and catch up with a player from the title team every Friday during the 2010 season.*

For the first seven weeks of the 1990 season, one thing had been a constant for the Colorado Buffaloes:

The opponent scored first. In all seven of those games, the Buffs managed to come back and take the lead, but it nevertheless was a trend that concerned head coach Bill McCartney.

Week Eight finally produced an end to the trend. Colorado's defense stopped Kansas on the first possession, the Buffs answered with a field goal, and the No. 14 Buffs were on their way to a 41-10 win in Lawrence to improve to 6-1-1.

Colorado fans had been worried that CU might look past the Jayhawks. After all, dead ahead after the KU game sat back-to-back games against the Big Red duo -- Oklahoma and Nebraska.

They needn't have worried. CU jumped out to a 17-0 lead, and while the Buffs were momentarily derailed by a fumble deep in their own territory that led to a Kansas touchdown, Colorado nevertheless led 20-10 at the half.

"Our confidence level is right where it should be for our next two games," said Buff running back Eric Bieniemy after the game. "We feel real good right now about playing the Sooners and the Huskers. We'll give them a run."

Bieniemy finished the game with 174 yards and three touchdowns on 18 carries. Quarterback Darian Hagan ran for 45 yards and threw for 90, including a 44-yard touchdown pass to Mike Pritchard; and Dave McCloughan capped CU's scoring with a 90-yard punt return for a touchdown in the third quarter.

Defensively, the Buffs were beginning to come into their own. Alfred Williams finished with 1.5 quarterback sacks, giving him at least one sack in every game to that point. Chad Brown and Greg Biekert each finished with 13 tackles, and Greg Thomas had one interception.

"I feel good about where we are," CU coach Bill McCartney said after the game. "We're improving. ... We haven't leveled off."

**Q&A with Alfred Williams** *Linebacker Alfred Williams was one of the most dominating and decorated defenders in Colorado history. A two-time consensus All-American and two-time Big Eight defensive player of the year, he capped his career by winning the 1990 Butkus Award, given to the nation's top linebacker. Williams went on to play nine years in the NFL, including four seasons in Denver, where he won a pair of Super Bowl rings with the Broncos. Williams now works as a radio talk-show host in Denver:*

**Q: With so many memorable moments in your career, what one particular instance sticks out in your mind:**

A: Walking off the field singing "Shoulder to Shoulder" with Kanavis (McGhee) at the last Orange Bowl. Knowing I wasn't going to ever play college ball again, knowing that life was about to be very different -- and knowing that it was the culmination of a great, great time at the University of Colorado. That last time wearing a Colorado jersey on game day ... that's still a special moment.

**Q: Any game in particular from the 1990 season stick out?**

A: It would have to be the Nebraska game in Nebraska (when Colorado overcame a 12-0 deficit to win 27-12). I'm not sure about sacks, but I know I had a couple of sacks and a few tackles for losses. More than anything, I just stepped it up as a leader of the team and made sure we got a win in some very harsh conditions. I'm very proud of that fact.

**Q: Anything else about that game do you remember?**

A: It was cold, windy and the rain was blowing sideways. It was definitely not ideal conditions. I'll never forget the inspiration that came that day because it was from a guy in the stands. He probably never realized it, but he made sure we got fired up. He had a sign that said, 'This is not 1989. Sal isn't here.' You talk about motivation. I'll never forget that day. That showed me the least amount of class I could imagine.

**Q: What else about the 1990 season sticks out?**

A: Honestly, I never thought we'd lose to anybody. I remember the Illinois game, we were up big, on the sidelines joking around, and all of a sudden they came back and it shocked us. We just couldn't get our focus back.

**A: With such a successful career that included a national college championship and two Super Bowl wins, how do you rank your time at CU?**

A: A lot of people ask me that - and there's no comparison. I'll take my days at CU over those Broncos teams because of my teammates. Restoring the pride. That's who that team was. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the university. Every time I think about those times, I get emotional.

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)