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colorado football

Mizzou has no problem replacing RB Washington

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

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There's addition by subtraction, but no one knew Missouri's rushing numbers would add up the way they have after the high-profile subtraction of star running back Derrick Washington.

Tigers coach Gary Pinkel has had better weeks leading up to a season opener than he had this year. That's when he learned Washington, a two-year starter, co-captain and No. 10 on the school's all-time rushing list, had been charged with felony deviant sexual assault. Washington's former tutor claimed he assaulted her in June. So, three days before the opener against Illinois, Pinkel kicked off one of the top returning tailbacks in the Big 12 Conference and the most impressive player he had in camp.

All was not lost, however. In fact, nothing was lost.

The Tigers are 4-0 and ranked No. 24 heading into their annual Buffalo barbecue when they

entertain Colorado (3-1) on Saturday.


Missouri has not only survived but thrived, and not because junior quarterback Blaine Gabbert is forced to throw the ball all over the Midwest. Four tailbacks, none of whom had more than 260 yards rushing last year, have made Missouri an even better running team.

The Tigers are averaging 154 yards a game on the ground, up nearly 30 yards from a year ago. Washington's 66.5 yards per game have been swallowed up by freshman Henry Josey's 53.0, junior De'Vion Moore's 45.8, freshman Marcus Murphy's 27.0 and sophomore Kendial Lawrence's 37.3. The quartet averages nearly 6 yards a carry, and their nine touchdowns have almost matched Washington's season total of 10.

"Our running game isn't where we want it to be," Pinkel said Monday on the Big 12's media conference call, "but we're working to improve and we've adjusted to that loss."

While the running backs are all but anonymous, Missouri's new star is a wide receiver who barely lettered last year. T.J. Moe has gone from catching two passes all last season to leading the nation with 9.2 a game. The sophomore, a 4.0 student, was the Missouri player of the year at Fort Zumwalt West High School in O'Fallon, Mo., two years ago. A quarterback in high school, he threw for more than 2,500 yards and ran for more than 2,000.

"He had an adjustment his first year, a year ago, out there in space and not being behind the



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center," Pinkel said. "He's a heck of an athlete. He's a very smart kid. He's a student of the game. He's got a lot going for him."

Defensively, Missouri may be even better than a year ago. Despite an injury bug, the No. 1 defense has only allowed four touchdowns. The Tigers rank second in the Big 12 in scoring defense (14.0) and fourth in total defense (320.5) and seventh nationally in pass efficiency defense (96.53).

All this for a CU team that has lost four in a row to Missouri, including the last three by a 50-9 average score.

Missouri, however, had to rely on Moe's 68-yard catch-and-run TD to avoid an upset loss to San Diego State (27-24) and Gabbert has been erratic. He ranks eighth in the conference in pass efficiency (133.0), having thrown five TDs and three interceptions.

Star defensive end Aldon Smith, who leads Missouri with three sacks, will miss the game with a fractured fibula.

Beatty honored.

Colorado linebacker B.J. Beatty was named Big 12 defensive player of the week, primarily for forcing the fumble that clinched the 29-27 win Saturday against Georgia.

"Obviously that was huge," CU coach Dan Hawkins said. "Not just penetration, but him being able to see what was going on. You see

him week in and week out, he's got a nonstop motor, and he has the ability to dissect things and make plays."

Footnote.

CU's Oct. 16 game at Folsom Field against Baylor will kick off at 5 p.m. and be televised by FCS.

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

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

OCTOBER 5, 2010, 11:24 AM

CU's Hansen: Cody Hawkins has been huge help

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

BOULDER – Following Tuesday's practice, CU quarterback Tyler Hansen said his predecessor, senior Cody Hawkins, has been instrumental in Hansen's development and improvement this season.

"We watch film together," Hansen said. "And before games we go over each play and talk about our reads and what (the defense) might do on each play.

"I think this is helping him out too. He wants to be a coach. He's acting out like a coach right now.

"He's really helping out. When I come off the field, he talks to me about he saw, about what I saw. He's been great. He's embraced (the situation)."

The fulltime starter in 2007, Hawkins split duties with Hansen the past two years. Hawkins has not taken a regular offensive snap this season but did throw for a 2-point conversion Saturday in the victory over Georgia.

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[9]

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

OCTOBER 4, 2010, 11:20 AM

Hawkins cites fast start, experience

By **JOHN HENDERSON** |  No Comments

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said finally getting off to a fast start helped propel the Buffaloes to Saturday's 29-27 win over Georgia. The Buffaloes scored a touchdown on their first possession and took a 14-3 lead early in the second quarter.

"Momentum and confidence and just getting off to a good start and having positive things go your way early in the game," Hawkins said on Monday's Big 12 Conference call. "The great thing with this past game is we did get out fast and they came back and we were able to regain the momentum. That showed a little bit of maturity from our guys. A lot of it is getting positive things going early."

Hawkins said it's not so much due to stability at quarterback with Tyler Hansen starting all four games this year.

"It has more to do with stability on the whole team, being able to have some guys who've been around a little bit and played some snaps and some guys rolling in who've played some snaps as well," Hawkins said. "We have an older team, a more experienced team, a deeper team. All that stuff leads to where we are."

Linebacker B.J. Beatty was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week, primarily for forcing the fumble that clinched the win.

"Obviously that was huge," Hawkins said. "Not just penetration but just him being able to see what was going on. You see him week in and week out, he's got a non-stop motor and he has the ability to dissect things and make plays. That's great for him, getting the award. He's a high-energy guy."

Many were surprised that the near packed house at Folsom Field stormed the field after the win. Georgia is 1-4 and has lost four straight for the first time since 1990. They are starting to do that after almost every win.

"To me it just become a tradition here a little bit," Hawkins said. "Our student section is pretty dynamic and a big part of Folsom Field. It's become more of a tradition and a fun thing and I hope it continues to stay like that. You always worry, it doesn't matter if you're at a concert or a game, when you get a whole bunch of bodies pushed up against each other. But our student section pretty vivacious as you know."

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CU Buffs once again vow to snap Missouri losing streak

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

Posted: 10/05/2010 01:26:17 PM MDT



Raise your hand if you've heard this before.

The Colorado football team is taking this losing streak against Missouri personally and believes it is in better position to end it this year because of better talent, depth and experience on the roster.

Yep, same story. Different year.

Instead of Ben Burney or Jeff Smart or Riar Geer, stalwarts from last year's team, this year it's Jimmy Smith, B.J. Beatty and Ryan Miller talking about how much losing to the Tigers has hurt in recent years and how that will fuel them on Saturday when the Buffs travel to Faurot Field in Columbia, Mo., to face a team that has dismantled Colorado to the tune of 177-40 in the last four seasons.

"I think it's more personal to the older guys, myself included," Miller said. "We got it taken to us the past couple years."

Many of the older players on last season's team made similar proclamations during Missouri week. Those teams were coming off consecutive drubbings, including the only shut out in the past 20 years of Colorado football, in Columbia in 2008. The Buffs last trip to mid-Missouri was a nightmare 58-0 shellacking.

Last season's team followed its pregame talk by falling behind 33-3 in the first half and losing 36-17.

"They've been beating on us as long as I've been here," Smith said. "I definitely want to go out with this one at least and win this one."

The Buffs are 3-1 and appeared to be improved, having matched last season's win total four weeks into this season. They have reason to feel confident even in facing the Tigers because they just conquered a Georgia team every bit as talented and athletic as the Missouri.

Coach Dan Hawkins said Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon that the Buffs made a lot of mistakes in last season's game that gave the game away.

"The game kind of slips away from you that way," he said.

Hawkins said he does not believe his team has any real psychological hurdles to overcome this week because of the way the series has gone recently.

"We don't ever try to get into a whole bunch of that, of, 'Oh, these guys are awesome. We've got to be Superman.' Or, 'Oh, these guys are no good. We're going to roll over them.' We don't try to get into that. Our whole deal is trying to get better and maximize our level of competitiveness and efficiency and let it fall where it may."

This will be the last time the Buffs and Tigers play for at least a few years because of Colorado's move to the Pac-10 Conference next season. Colorado and Missouri have been in the same conference since 1948.

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Colorado football shows life after big win



Barry Gutierrez/AP

Under Dan Hawkins, above, Colorado has had trouble keeping up with Missouri. The Buffaloes have been outscored 177-40 in four straight MU victories but come into Saturday's final Big 12 showdown between the longtime rivals riding high at 3-1.

By [Dave Matter](#)

[Tuesday, October 5, 2010](#)

Had Gary Pinkel suspected his 24th-ranked Missouri football team was overlooking Saturday's Big 12 opener against Colorado in favor of the unforgiving four-game sequence that follows, he can address thank you cards to Athens, Ga.

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY

Colorado at (24) Missouri, 6 p.m. (FSN)

The Georgia Bulldogs are having a down season, but their latest loss — Saturday's 29-27 defeat at Colorado — put Pinkel's Tigers on notice.

"We saw on Saturday against Georgia, they're not scared of anybody," Missouri linebacker Luke Lambert said of the 3-1 Buffaloes. "They're going to bring it. ... It's definitely good for our young guys to see that Colorado can play."

Recent matchups against Missouri would suggest otherwise. Since Dan Hawkins left Boise State after the 2005 season to rehabilitate a slumping CU program, the Tigers have dominated the annual series, which concludes for the foreseeable future with Saturday's 6 p.m. kickoff on Faurot Field, the 76th meeting between the two teams.

Colorado is off to the Pac-10 Conference in 2011, leaving one last opportunity to make the series competitive before it goes dormant.

Since 2006, Hawkins' first season in Boulder, Pinkel's MU teams have outscored the Buffs 177-40 in four straight victories. In those four games, Missouri has thrown for 1,200 yards and 16 touchdowns and gashed the Buffs for 684 rushing yards. On defense, the Tigers have sacked CU quarterbacks 19 times since 2006.

Under Hawkins, the Buffs have been more competitive against Big 12 superpower programs Oklahoma and Texas. In two meetings apiece against the Sooners and Longhorns, the Buffs are 1-3 — they upset No. 3 OU in 2007 — and were outscored 124-58.

Hawkins can't explain why Missouri (4-0) has so thoroughly crushed his team.

"They've done a great job, they really have," he said of the Tigers on yesterday's Big 12 teleconference. "They've done a great job scheming, the technical portion of it."

Despite a nonconference schedule that's more challenging than most, the Buffs enter Big 12 play with a winning record for just the second time under Hawkins. CU was dismantled on the road at California 52-7 on Sept. 11, but the Tigers could not ignore Saturday's win over a Southeastern Conference team that averaged 10 wins from 2002-2009.

"You got to leave that all behind you," Missouri linebacker Will Ebner said of his team's four-game winning streak over CU, "because I'm sure that's what they're looking at, from the revenge standpoint. That's a non-factor for us. As far as we're concerned, they just beat Georgia, which over history is a big powerhouse team."

"This is the Big 12, man," Lambert added. "Anything can happen any week. We're going to have to grind it out here these next eight weeks, starting with Colorado."

After which the Tigers play their toughest stretch of the season with trips to Texas A&M, Nebraska and Texas Tech, plus a homecoming date with Oklahoma.

HEALTH REPORT: A pulled hamstring has sidelined Lambert since the fourth quarter of the Illinois game on Sept. 4, but the senior co-captain expects to finally see the field Saturday against the Buffs.

"It's been the longest four weeks in my life," he said. "It's to the point where I don't care anymore, I just want to play. They're doing everything they can to get me healthy. It's just been slow."

Receiver Jerrell Jackson is expected to return to the lineup after missing Missouri's last game, a 51-13 win over Miami (Ohio) on Sept. 25. Jackson had suffered a strained thigh muscle in practice but said he could have played against the RedHawks if necessary.

"I was running, and it felt like somebody stabbed me in my thigh," he said. "Game day I was ready, but they wanted to play it safe."

Jackson is also out of the cast that he had been wearing to support his broken left wrist, an injury that sidelined him for most of preseason camp.

Defensive end Aldon Smith will not play Saturday as he continues to recover from a broken right fibula that occurred on the last series of MU's win over San Diego State on Sept. 18. Smith was not available for interviews yesterday.

TWO SUSPENDED: Two defensive regulars will sit out Saturday's game while serving indefinite suspensions, free safety Jasper Simmons and defensive tackle Jimmy Burge. Burge was issued misdemeanor citations for drinking intoxicants while operating a vehicle and making an illegal turn late Saturday night. Simmons violated undisclosed team policies.

NOTHING TO SEE HERE: Pinkel said he didn't spend much time analyzing the future nine-game conference schedules released by the Big 12 last week. He said each school was asked to rank its order of preference among four proposed schedules. Otherwise, he didn't have any strong opinions on the topic.

"I looked at it for about five minutes," he said, "then started focusing on Colorado."

Reach Dave Matter at 573-815-1781 or e-mail dmatter@columbiatribune.com.

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Opinion: Storm no more!

Buff stampedes after football games are a bad idea

By Patrick Ghidossi on October 5, 2010

11

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It's a ritual as old as the forward pass, if not the sport of football itself. The home team wins a big, important game and the fans rush the field in jubilation to celebrate with the players following the victory.

Storming the field is one of the many traditions that make college football so much more special and entertaining than the homogenized and sterile National Football League. However, the act is easily cheapened and embarrassing when overused and abused, and for the past two seasons CU students have done exactly that.

There are only a few acceptable scenarios when a rush of the field is justified and encouraged. For instance, beating a team ranked in the top five of the polls is enough to get your fans flooding onto the turf. Beating a rival who has had the better of your team in recent years can also be a storm-worthy circumstance. Clinching a division or conference title is cause for mass celebration as well.

In my time as a student here at dear old CU, I have witnessed six games that resulted in a mobbing of Folsom Field. On only three of these occasions was said mobbing genuinely special and acceptable.

The Buffs' last second 27-24 victory over the then third-ranked Oklahoma Sooners in 2007 was tremendous, and kissing the grass of Folsom will always be one of my best college memories.

Laying 65 points on the hated Nebraska Cornhuskers that same season to become bowl eligible, and simultaneously keep them home for the holidays, was also a fun and worthy win to celebrate with the team on the field. I'll throw in the win over West Virginia in 2008 as well since they were ranked and a last-second field goal in overtime gave the Buffs a victory.



A CU fan kisses the grass after Saturday's 29-27 win over Georgia. (CU Independent/Phil McMichael)

The other three occasions were an embarrassment to CU's football tradition as well as the intelligence of our student body.

The most abysmal of these was last season's 35-34 win over a mediocre Texas A&M team. Sure, it was an exciting win in a season where victories were few and far between but never under any circumstance should a rushing occur here.

To make matters worse, this same day fans in the stands wore powder blue shirts to protest the poor performance of the team under head coach Dan Hawkins. Of course, students clad in light blue could be seen running onto the turf, representing the height of hypocrisy.

Most recently, the majority of our student section ended up on the field following the dramatic 29-27 win over traditional Southeastern Conference powerhouse Georgia. While it isn't everyday you beat a team from the SEC, this Bulldog team was sporting a sub-par 1-3 record coming into this contest. After a game that featured a halftime ceremony honoring the 20th anniversary of CU's 1990 National Championship, the storming stood in stark contrast to our school's rich history.

These events cast our football program in an embarrassing light and raise questions about CU's football standards. Expectations in Boulder are considerably higher than these unwarranted rushes would lead the rest of the nation to believe.

If we truly want our football program to return to the level it was at even a decade ago when the Buffs were Big XII champions, storming after every exciting win needs to stop.

We all need to act like we've been there before so that when we do eventually get back there it will be that much more special, and you can tell your grandchildren about the time you rushed Folsom Field as the Buffs clinched a Rose Bowl berth.

I can dream can't I?

Contact CU Independent Assistant Photo Editor Patrick Ghidossi at Patrick.ghidossi@colorado.edu.

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