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cu football

## CU Buffs' offensive line eager to make amends

By Chris Dempsey  
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/17/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 09/17/2010 01:04:30 AM MDT



Buff's quarterback Tyler Hansen bobbles the snap as pressure from Cal's defensive front moves in during last Saturday's game. (Jed Jacobsohn, Getty Images)

BOULDER — The beating that Colorado's offensive line took last Saturday at Cal didn't

stop when the beleaguered unit walked off the California Memorial Stadium field. It continued on talk shows and message boards, on Facebook and Twitter, on campus and yes, even in the Buffaloes' own locker room.

But now, those players vow to fight back into the good graces of all of those who, before the season, touted the size, strength and experience of the offensive front as perhaps CU's best unit.

"We have to come off, do your job, take the fight to them, really hit them in the mouth, not wait to feel what it's like," junior Mike Iltis said.

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins spent the week not only tweaking his offensive line

but reinforcing the principles of protecting the quarterback after Tyler Hansen was harassed throughout the 52-7 loss at Cal, which included six sacks and several hurries.

"Some of it is the quarterback getting rid of it," Hawkins said. "Some of it is the protection schemes."

The Buffs spent ample practice time on both this week. Hawkins shuffled players, sliding Iltis from left guard to center, where he has played before, and moving junior Ethan Adkins back into the starting lineup at left guard, where he was to start the season. Colorado's depth on the line allows for coaches to mix and match multiple players to find the right fit, and chances are the tinkering won't stop Saturday if there are more

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protection issues.

After the personnel moves came a refresher course on the protection scheme. All quarterbacks need a pocket to pass from, and the Buffs' linemen aim to give Hansen one. So the pyramid of accountability goes as follows:

If the linemen are pushed back into the pocket and Hansen is sacked, it's the line's responsibility. If Hansen's drop is too deep and the rush ends, who are pushed outward, end up meeting him at a point 8 to 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage, it's on Hansen to step up in the pocket to avoid the sack.

Having the running backs do a better job of protection against the blitz is key, and that was drilled as well. In short, if Colorado is to remedy this problem, it's going to take major improvement in cohesion and communication across the board on offense.

"It's always easier said than done," Itlis said. "But anything that is easy isn't really worth doing."

Hawaii's defense could give the Buffs offensive line a chance to find its footing, if they play strong. The Warriors' defense is allowing 233.0 yards rushing per game, though that number is skewed a bit because Hawaii faced run-heavy Army last week.

Penalties have stalled several CU drives this season. The Buffs have been whistled seven times for illegal procedure, twice for holding and

twice for illegal blocks.

"We have to minimize the mistakes that are killing us," Itlis said. "We can't get a 6-yard gain brought back with a chop block."

As for the heat they've taken this week, some of those on the CU offensive line bristle. Itlis, however, said ignoring anything that isn't coming from a teammate is the way they'll proceed.

"We have critics in the media, we have critics in the fans, critics in the alumni, critics here, critics there and as far as I'm concerned, I can care less what any of them have to say," Itlis said. "When it comes down to it, it's the criticism from your teammates that really needs to motivate you, not from outside."

At practice this week players reported seeing a more aggressive attitude from the line. Wide receiver Scotty McKnight, whose production depends on a quarterback who has enough time to deliver the football said: "They are sick, whether it be guys in the locker room or people on the outside saying it's their fault. It's never solely on one position, but I think that did get under their skin a little bit, and they want to let Tyler feel comfortable in the pocket and let the team know they are going to do their job."

Hansen dismissed the notion he has lost faith in the guys up front just two games into the season.

"Those guys are great guys," Hansen said. "They

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want to win as much as I do. They'll get better."

*Chris Dempsey: 303-954-1279 or  
cdempsey@denverpost.com*

## How the CU offense rates

*Colorado's offense has sputtered out of the gate this season. Here's where it ranks in various statistical categories among FBS teams:*

Category Avg. Rank  
Sacks per game allowed 4.0 T-113  
Rushing yards 94.0 103  
Passing yards 179.0 T-85  
Total yards 273.0 111  
Scoring offense (points) 15.5 T-108

## Three questions for Colorado

1. Can Colorado's offensive line give quarterback Tyler Hansen some protection? Hansen admitted to making mistakes Saturday in the loss at Cal. But for the most part, he didn't have much of a chance. California pass rushers were in the Buffs' backfield all afternoon. Hansen was sacked six times, and it looked worse. CU's offensive line was supposed to be a strength of the team this year. It's time to show it.

2. Can CU's defense prevent Hawaii's run-and-shoot offense from dictating momentum and field position? It must have been frightening for CU defensive coaches to show film of Hawaii accumulating 588 yards in the 49-36 loss to Southern Cal. USC may not be USC this season, but the Trojans have athletes. Hawaii made them

look silly at times, with three players receiving more than 100 yards. CU's defense must be aggressive. If the Buffs lay back on their heels, Warriors quarterback Bryant Moniz will carve them up.

3. Will CU put on a performance that will make Buffs legend and Saturday honoree Alfred Williams proud? When was the last time Colorado looked really sharp for four quarters? The 38-17 victory over Colorado State in the 2008 opener, perhaps? In any case, it has been awhile.

*Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

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cu football - briefs

## CU Buffs freshman Uzo-Diribe shows pass-rushing promise

By Tom Kensler  
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/17/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

**BOULDER** — It's perhaps fitting that Colorado freshman defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe could see more playing time Saturday in the Hawaii game, which has been designated "Alfred Williams Day" at Folsom Field.

Uzo-Diribe, 6-feet-3 and 238 pounds, already is flashing the potential that suggests he could develop into one of the program's most tenacious pass rushers since Williams helped Colorado win a 1990 national championship.

Top pass rushers often rely on a favorite technique to get past the offensive tackle. A native of Long Beach, Calif., Uzo-Diribe grew up with a love for basketball and did not start football until his junior year of high school. But he already has an effective spin move from around the edge.

Uzo-Diribe twirls almost 360 degrees to break free from the block and seemingly does not lose a step.

It's the kind of spin move that, well, one might see on a basketball court.

"Chidera has good hip flexibility and good quickness," defensive coordinator Ron Collins said this week. "He's able to do some things athletically that maybe some of the other guys can't."

CU coaches can't take credit for teaching Uzo-Diribe the spin technique. Give credit to Google.

Google?

"I went on the Internet and found a spin move used by (pro football Hall of Famer) Bruce Smith and Dwight Freeney (Indianapolis Colts), and I tried it," Uzo-Diribe said. "Ever since then, it's been working for me."

Through two games, Uzo-Diribe has participated in a total of 15 plays, primarily on third-down passing situations. He has two tackles — a sack against Colorado State and a third-down stop against Cal. Hawaii is principally a passing team, so Uzo-Diribe may see more plays Saturday.

"Chidera is a speed-rush end that has a bright future," Collins said. "As the season progresses, you're going to see him on the field more and more."

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Uzo-Diribe said he never expected to play as a true freshman and is thrilled with his opportunities. Continually gaining size and strength in the weight room, he hopes to play at a minimum of 250 pounds by next season. CU should feel fortunate that Uzo-Diribe did not grow into a 6-9 power forward.

"I still miss basketball," he said. "But I'm just fortunate to be able to play this game and get a free education."

## No additional hardware required.

CU junior quarterback Tyler Hansen is glad he will not have to wear a knee brace against Hawaii. He hyperextended his right knee while being hit during his third-quarter touchdown run last Saturday at Cal.

"It's OK," Hansen said of the knee. "I'm doing a little rehab on it. It hurts a little bit. I just have to fight through it."

Hansen said he also banged up his left calf in the game.

## Footnotes.

"Alfred Williams Day" will honor the former Buffs All-American and 1990 Butkus Award winner for his December induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. Those involved with the Hall of Fame selection process, including National Football Foundation CEO and president Steve

Hatchell (a CU alumnus), plan to attend Saturday's game. Williams is expected to address the team with a pep talk, perhaps today. . . . Hawaii has not visited a Big 12 team since the Rainbows lost 56-10 at Nebraska in 1978. . . . Calendar-wise, this is CU's latest home opener in 30 years.

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2010, 7:23 AM

## CU's Hawkins wary of QB scrambles by Hawaii's Moniz

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

BOULDER – During his years facing Hawaii in the Western Athletic Conference while at Boise State, Colorado's Dan Hawkins coached against some high-scoring, pass-happy Warriors teams coached by June Jones.

This year's Hawaii team, which will make its first-ever appearance in Boulder on Saturday, "may be as dynamic as they have ever been," Hawkins said.

The reason? The running ability of junior quarterback Bryant Moniz, who showed last year that he can scramble.

Moniz hasn't run much through two games this year (15 carries for 20 yards, including sacks). But he had a 31-yard scramble against Utah State in 2009.

"These guys are a very talented squad," Hawkins said. "They have experience particularly on offense.

"The thing that is a little different for them than in years past ... their quarterback now can really run. He can pick up 40, 50 yards in a heartbeat."

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Longmont, Colorado  
Friday, September 17,  
2010

Publish Date: 9/17/2010

## Hawaii offense presents challenge

*By Brian Howell*  
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BOULDER — If fans of the University of Colorado football team didn't know much about Hawaii, they certainly took notice on Sept. 2.

That night, Hawaii lost to Southern California. But, in doing so, the Warriors put 36 points on the board and racked up 588 yards in total offense.

Last weekend, the Warriors had 353 yards in a 31-28 win at Army.

"I know what they're capable of," CU head coach Dan Hawkins said. "I think they're probably, in some respects, as dynamic as they've ever been."

That's saying a lot, because in recent years, Hawaii has featured Colt Brennan, whose 186.0 passer rating and 58 touchdown passes in 2006 are both NCAA records, and Timmy Chang, whose 17,072 career passing yards is an NCAA record.

This year, the Warriors are led by junior quarterback Bryant Moniz. Through two games, he's thrown for 612 yards and four touchdowns. He has yet to be picked off. Moniz is also a threat running the ball.

"He's a fast dude," CU linebacker B.J. Beatty said. "He can move. He can throw the ball. He's a dangerous tool for them."

Beatty, who is from Kaaawa, Hawaii, played against Moniz in high school. Beatty said Moniz is more dangerous than either of the two quarterbacks the Buffs have seen so far this year — Pete Thomas of Colorado State and Kevin Riley of Cal.

"Yeah, he probably is because of his footwork," Beatty said. "Because of what he can do with his feet. He's probably more dangerous in that aspect. He gets the ball out (for a pass), but if he has to, he can run it."

Moniz has a bunch of weapons in the passing game. Three players have at least 187 receiving yards already, led by Kealoha Pilares, who has 280 yards and four touchdowns.

It is the air attack that has given Hawaii its reputation. But, the Warriors are more than just a passing team.

"They've got great skill guys and they're going to be throwing the ball all around, but the thing you've got to remember, they're averaging about 6 yards a carry in the run," CU defensive coordinator Ron Collins said. "They're going to hit you on the run when you over-commit to the pass."

Hawaii's leading rusher, Alex Green, has just 106 yards on the season, but he's averaging 7.1 yards per attempts. Chizzy Dimude is averaging 7.0 yards, including a 30-yard run.

"The challenge is don't let them get big, long runs on you and big plays," Collins said. "Make them earn everything

they get.

“They do a good job there (on the ground). Their play is draw. If you over-commit six guys to the pass, you’re going to give up the draw. You know you have to find that fine line with them.”

Although Hawaii can be a dangerous team on offense, the Buffs are confident they can play well.

“For our guys, they’ve got to go out and do their jobs,” Collins said.

Part of that is containing Moniz. He has been sacked six times, so getting to him is not impossible.

“If nobody is open, he’ll pull it down and go, so we have to keep him in the pocket,” Collins said. “When he gets sacked is if you can get him to hang onto the ball a little bit. That’s where you have to have good coverage and you’ve got to have guys getting after him. We’re striving for one sack per 10 attempts. We’ll see how that plays out at the end.”

In the end, the Buffs defense is simply hoping for a better result than it got last week. CU played fairly well on defense in the 52-7 loss to Cal. But, even though many of the 52 points were set up by CU’s offense — and not because Cal burned the CU defense all day — the defense believes it needs a better performance this week.

“We’re all excited about this,” Collins said. “We know the challenges Hawaii brings. We’re excited about getting into this game and basically redeeming ourselves from last week.”

**MUST-SEE TV:** CU has several Hawaiian players on its roster, and Beatty said it is a thrill for them to play against their hometown team.

“I’m excited to play against old friends from high school, old friends I played against,” said Beatty, who estimates that eight of his high school teammates play for the Warriors. “That’s the most exciting thing, playing against them.”

With Hawaiians on both squads, Beatty said this game is a popular one for fans in his home state.

“I found out from my uncle, who is not able to make the trip, I guess they are showing it in the movie theaters,” Beatty said. “It’s going to be exciting for a lot of us.”

**EXTRA POINTS:** Tom McGann, CU’s director of game management and operations, said Thursday afternoon that roughly 9,000 tickets are still available for Saturday’s game. He also added that the Buffs generally have good walk-up sales for the home opener, so he’s hopeful that attendance will get to about 50,000. ... CU has a promotion of four tickets for \$60 for this game. To purchase tickets, visit cubuffs.com or call 303-492-8337. ... This is just the second meeting between the teams. Hawaii won the first, 13-0 on Jan. 1, 1925, in Honolulu.

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



# Warriors present test for Buffs 'D'

## Hawaii's Moniz a dual-threat QB

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

Posted: 09/17/2010 12:20:08 AM MDT

Three weeks into the college football season it's tough to tell how much improvement the Colorado defense has made over last season.

We ought to have a better idea this week.

The Buffs faced an impotent Colorado State offense in the season opener. Defenders were put in bad situations time and time again by the offense and special teams last week at Cal.

The team returns to Boulder for the home opener Saturday against a Hawaii offense featuring an explosive passing game ranked second in the nation in the early going this fall. It is led by a quarterback capable of beating the Buffs through the air or on the ground.

Bryant Moniz has passed for 612 yards and four touchdowns in Hawaii's first two games. He is completing 60 percent of his passes and hasn't thrown an interception. Not bad for a former walk-on at a non-BCS school.

"Their quarterback is the No. 1 dude who stands out because of how fast he is and how much he is accurate throwing the ball and how much they throw the ball peri-od," cornerback Jimmy Smith said. "That's definitely going to be a game for the secondary."

Coach Dan Hawkins identified the secondary as the strength of the 2010 Colorado team when he was asked about it way back in July at Big 12 media days in Dallas. That theory will be put to the test and then some against the Warriors.

Smith and fellow fifth-year senior cornerback Jalil Brown are reliable on the outside, but the strength of the Hawaii passing game is receivers such as Greg Salas and Kealoha Pilaes operating in the slot and the middle of the field.

Defensive backs such as redshirt freshman Paul Vigo and junior Jonathan Hawkins will be asked to cover them. True freshman Jered Bell could see more playing time this week as well.

But it's really a test for the entire defense.

The Buffs were victimized by the big play often last season, allowing 53 plays of 20 yards or more. They have allowed just five plays of more than 20 yards in the first two games, but face an offense this week that can put a lot of stress on defenders, especially considering Moniz's ability to run.

"To me it's exciting," senior defensive end Marquez Herrod said. "It makes you step your game up because you know the guy is not just a pocket passer. He can do a lot of different things. It gets me excited because as a pass rusher, I can do a lot of different things too. It's fun for me. That's why I play the game, to get good competition."

The Buffs are coming off a 52-7 loss at Cal and don't really need any further motivation for a solid performance, but they are aware that Hawaii scored 36 points and put up more than 500 yards of offense against Southern Cal two weeks ago. That tells them all they need to know about how tough Saturday's matchup will be.

"They're fast and big up front and that quarterback can run, he can scramble," Herrod said. "We really got to be in our gaps and contain that guy. The details, the small things, being in gaps, that's going to make a big difference this week."

### Notable

CU officials said they are expecting a crowd of about 45,000 for the game. There were 10,000 tickets available at the

beginning of the week. ... A halftime ceremony with special guests will honor former Buff Alfred Williams, who was voted into the College Football Hall of Fame earlier this year. Fans will receive commemorative Alfred Williams cards. ... The Buffs will wear throwback jerseys from the 1990 national championship season for all home games this year. ... CU is expecting a record number of NFL scouts at the game. Many of those scouts attended Thursday's morning practice.

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# 1990 flashback: Illinois 23, Colorado 22

## A look back at Colorado's 1990 championship season

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

Posted: 09/17/2010 12:03:22 AM MDT

**Editor's note:** *This is the third 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.*

Early in the 1990 season, the Colorado Buffaloes seemed determined to make life as difficult as possible on themselves by tempting fate at every turn.

Fate finally brought them to the turf in Week 3. A late touchdown run by Howard Griffith gave Illinois a 23-22 victory in Champaign, giving the Buffs a 1-1-1 record and seemingly ending any hopes they had of playing for a national title.

Wrote the Camera's Barney Hutchinson: "Funeral services were formally held for the words, 'University of Colorado, 1990 national champion' on Saturday afternoon."

After the game, even CU head coach Bill McCartney seemed ready to concede any hope of a championship run.

"I think this loss takes us out of consideration for anything like that," McCartney said in the CU locker room. "And it's also going to drop us down in the rankings."

Indeed, the Buffs would fall from No. 9 to No. 20 after the loss -- a seemingly impossible mountain to climb.

But today, in retrospect, Buffs from that team look back and see the loss to Illinois as a defining moment.

"That was the perfect example of taking a negative and turning it into a positive," center Jay Leeuwenburg said recently. "We lost to Illinois, we were 1-1-1 -- and I think that all of a sudden relaxed our team."

"A lot of us believed that the 1990 team was better than the 1989 team, but we hadn't shown it. We had some excuses for the tie against Tennessee, then we struggled against Stanford and lost to Illinois. After that, we kind of refocused. We said, 'We've got to win the Big Eight.' Forget about everything else, just win the Big Eight."

"When we did that, when we really focused on the little things that would make a difference, we finally became the team we thought we could be."

The Buffs didn't play particularly poorly against Illinois, a team that would finish the season ranked No. 25 in the nation -- at least not in the beginning. After the Buffs spotted the Illini a 3-0 lead, they answered with 17 straight points, getting a 2-yard run from George Hemingway and a 32-yard scoring pass from Darian Hagan to Michael Simmons, along with a 54-yard Jim Harper field goal.

That burst gave the Buffs a 17-3 lead with 13:02 still left in the second quarter.

But they didn't score again until just 24 seconds were left in the third period.

Illinois, meanwhile, chipped away at the lead, and finally tied it with 2:28 left in the third on Kevin Verduzco's second touchdown pass of the day.

"I still remember that game," said Buff defensive lineman Garry Howe, who finished with 11 tackles. "We've got this lead -- and all of a sudden, they started coming back. We kept telling ourselves that we couldn't let them do what Tennessee did (when Tennessee overcame a 31-17 deficit in the season opener to forge a 31-31 tie)."

"But that's exactly what happened."

The Buffs actually regained the lead, getting a safety when Greg Biekert (20 tackles) stopped Griffith in the Illinois end zone, and extended the margin to 22-17 on another Harper field goal.

But the Illini had one more scoring drive in them, and when the game was over, so were the Buffs' national title hopes.

Or so they thought.

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## Q&A with Kanavis McGhee

Camera staff  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/17/2010 12:04:45 AM MDT

*Buff outside linebacker Kanavis McGhee was a three-time All-Big Eight player and a two-time second-team All-American (1988, 1989). He and good friend Alfred Williams formed one of the best bookend OLB tandems in college football history. A second-round pick of the New York Giants, he played five years in the NFL. He now works at Challenge Early College High School in Houston.*

### **Q: What one thing sticks out in your mind from the championship season?**

A: There are so many memorable things -- but the weird thing is I remember when we came into camp and how disappointed Coach (Bill) McCartney was with the seniors. Almost everybody did not pass the summer conditioning test, so he made us do the whole thing over again. When you look at all the returning guys we had from 1989, and none of them passed that test -- maybe it was a sign we were going to start slow.

### **Q: What else contributed to that slow start?**

A: I think we played a lot better as a team 1989 -- but once we got to the championship game, it was almost like we had already accomplished what we needed. We settled for an undefeated regular season.

Then when we came back, I think a lot of guys thought we could run the table -- but everybody was ready for us. We had to go through that 1-1-1 start to realize we couldn't just show up and have people lay down for us."

### **Q: What made Bill McCartney such a great motivator?**

A: He knows his audience. He knows who they are and where they're coming from. He knows how to say the right things to get you to understand, 'Here's why you need to do this.' There was a group of guys on our team who bought what he was selling, and they took it to heart on and off the field. Things you could use in everyday life as well as in a game."

### **Q: What kind of a bond did you have with Alfred Williams?**

A: When you pluck a young man from the bosom of his family and he's somewhere he's never been before, you need a special relationship to help the transition. Our bond was so tight because we both understood what was needed. We became the overwhelming supporting cast for one another. When we got on the field and dealt with the Xs and Os of football, that was easy. But we supported each other off the field. We always pushed each other to be our very best. We knew that when you want to be the very best, you have to put the necessary work in, and we never stopped working. In the dorm room, after practice, at meals -- we never stopped preparing each other.

### **Q: What was it like in practice with so many talented players on those teams?**

A: Mac used to tease us once in a while by letting the No. 1 offense go against the No. 1 defense. We'd read in the newspaper about how great our offense was, number one, blah, blah, blah.

We used to tell the offense, 'If ya'll played us, you wouldn't be No. 1.' Every once in a while, Mac would let us go and we'd start talking. We'd tell Eric (Bieniemy) and (Darian) Hagan and those guys, 'Hey, this ain't the Oklahoma defense. This ain't Nebraska. This is the Colorado defense and you ain't going anywhere.'

But that actually helped. I remember telling Hagan, 'If you can read us and get around us on the option, that guy on Saturday is going to seem like he's standing in cement.' Then, if the offense was struggling on Saturday, I'd go get in his face and say, 'You mean that guy is better than me? He's better than Alfred?' And he'd say, 'No,' and go back out there and start a touchdown drive.

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## CU football doesn't live up to expectations

Bufs look to bounce back at Folsom

*By Michael Krumholtz on September 17, 2010*

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(CU Independent illustration/Adam Milner)

All summer CU players and coaches raved about what was supposed to be a much-improved offensive line. Two games, eight sacks and one banged-up quarterback later, there seems to be little difference from 2009.

“Those guys are great guys and want to win just as much as I do; they’ll get better,” said CU junior quarterback Hansen, who hyper-extended his knee on a touchdown run during Saturday’s game.

Hansen said the knee is fine and he does not even plan on wearing a brace for the Hawaii game.

A group one year removed from allowing 44 sacks, and limiting a run game that

finished last in the Big 12, has a lot of work to do.

At his weekly Tuesday press conference, coach Dan Hawkins addressed the fact that the offensive line has work to do. But he said it is not time to blowup yet.

“There’s a time and place for yelling and screaming,” Hawkins said. “And there’s a time and place for teaching. We’ve got good kids and they want to do the right thing.”

Hawkins also emphasized how impressed he has been with his defense thus far. The 52 points put up by Cal is somewhat misleading, considering the Bears defense outscored the Buffs offense with two return touchdowns and created four turnovers in total.

Colorado is in for a test this week as Hawaii hung 588 yards against an always-talented USC defense.

“They’re [Hawaii] probably as dynamic right now as they’ve ever been,” Hawkins said.

Hawaii is led offensively by junior quarterback Bryant Moniz and senior All-WAC wide out Greg Salas. Moniz is quick with his legs and has yet to turn the ball over in the air.

Hawkins mentioned how the defense has been put under pressure by an offense that could maintain possession of the ball against Cal.

"It's hard because you're hanging in there and hanging in there," Hawkins said. "It's just hard to keep answering the bell every single time when you're not getting much from the other end."

To help, CU will count on the little back that could, junior Rodney Stewart, whose longest rush of the season is only 10 yards. A good amount of prolonged runs can also help the offensive line get some confidence back.

"They're sick of whether it be guys in the locker-room or people from the outside saying it's their fault," said senior receiver Scotty McKnight. "It's never solely on one position, but I think that did get under their skin a little bit. They want to let Tyler feel comfortable in the pocket and let the team know they're going to do a good job."

Hawaii's defense has yet to force an interception and has registered one sack in two games. This first game at Folsom presents a golden opportunity for the offensive line to recuperate from the beating Cal gave them. Hawaii head coach Greg McMackin said in his weekly presser that he expects to get the brunt of CU's anger.

"If I'm Colorado, I'd be really upset and embarrassed [after the lopsided loss to Cal] and try to play my best ball," McMackin said. "They have some good players and they're playing at home."

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## Moniz and Beatty recall 2004 playoffs

[By Dave Reardon](#)

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Sep 17, 2010

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[Share](#) LAS VEGAS » In 2004, a young quarterback got revenge in the state high school tournament against the team that beat his in the public school league championship game.

**Bryant Moniz** was a sophomore when he and upstart Leilehua toppled always-powerful Kahuku in the Hawaii High School Athletic Association semifinals.

"He cut us up," said **B.J. Beatty**, who was a linebacker/defensive end for the Red Raiders at the time.

"That was one of the proudest moments for me in high school sports," Moniz said yesterday. "That team was loaded."

Leilehua then fell to Kamehameha in the state final.

Moniz, now the starting quarterback at Hawaii, leads the Warriors against host Colorado tomorrow. That's where Beatty is an outside linebacker.

Another Buffaloes linebacker, **Liloa Nobriga**, is a second-year freshman who was an 'Iolani athlete before his family moved to the mainland. He finished up his high school career at Palo Verde High School -- which is where the Warriors practiced all week, just a few blocks from the team hotel in Summerlin.

Other Buffs with Hawaii ties are senior inside linebacker **Michael Sipili** (Damien) junior offensive lineman **Sione Tau** (Damien) and freshman offensive lineman **Kaiwi Crabb** (Punahou).

Sipili is tied for second on the team with 12 tackles and leads the Buffs with three stops for loss. Beatty has four tackles, including a sack for 9 yards.

Nobriga got playing time against Colorado State. Tau and Crabb have not played.

### Rileytown

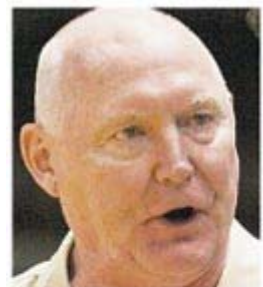
Retired UH basketball coach **Riley Wallace** attended the Warriors practice yesterday at Palo Verde. He is now a part-time Las Vegas resident who works for the Boyd Gaming Corporation, one of UH's bigger sponsors.

Wallace said he and other Boyd officials were scheduled to meet with UH athletic director **Jim Donovan** yesterday to discuss promoting and marketing the Western Athletic Conference volleyball and basketball tournaments that will be held at the Orleans Arena.

"The WAC coaches loved it here," Wallace said, referring to the 2009 women's volleyball tournament. "It's a central location fans want to come to and it takes away homecourt advantage."

Wallace said he's also working on the Orleans hosting the men's volleyball national championship.

### Boot Hill



>> **P.T. Wallace:** The former UH hoops coach is involved with marketing the WAC

At least one UH player is looking forward to the 5,360-foot altitude of CU's Folsom Field.

Punter **Alex Dunnachie** got additional height and distance on his punts all week during practices.

"I can already tell the difference here (at Las Vegas' 2,028-foot elevation)," the sophomore from Australia said. "I'm not really going for distance, but I'm getting about 4.8 to 5.0 on hang time. It's been 4.5 at sea level. A half a second can make a big difference. It lets the guys get a chance to get down there and limit the return yards."

Dunnachie averaged 42.9 yards per kick on seven punts in the first two games.

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## Sampson takes over kick returns

The speedy freshman could give the Warriors a legit breakaway threat on special teams

[By Stephen Tsai](#)

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Sep 17, 2010

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[Share](#) SUMMERLIN, Nev. » In a symbolic fast start, speedy freshman Allen Sampson has been named Hawaii's starting kick returner for tomorrow's road game against Colorado.

"He's a true freshman, but we need to play our best players, and he's certainly one of them," said Chris Tormey, who coordinates the Warriors' special teams.

Sampson and right wideout Royce Pollard shared kick-return duties in the first two games, each returning three.

With Pollard's expanded role as a receiver, and Sampson's production as returner (24.7-yard average), "it makes sense to have (Sampson) return kicks," Tormey said.

Sampson said: "They wanted to give me the opportunity, and I've been working hard at it."

In UH's return scheme, middle linebacker Jake "Animal" Heun is aligned about 10 yards in front of Sampson.

"He tells me to run behind him, and I run behind him," Sampson said of Heun. "He's crazy. He'll kill anybody. I know when I get behind him, we'll have a big play."

Heun said: "He's really good about reading the blocks. The kid can freakin' go. He's fast."

As a member of Plant (Fla.) High's team, Sampson was timed running 40 yards in 4.39 seconds.

While his speed earned him a scholarship, his best assets might be his eyes and heart.

"He has really good vision," Tormey said. "He makes those blockers look good. If they can just get on someone, stick on someone, he'll make a play. With his speed, quickness and vision, he can see what he needs to do, and he can do something about it."

Assistant coach Mouse Davis said: "He loves to play. He's one of those kids who loves the game. He's going to be a good punt returner, too, once he catches the ball better."

Sampson, who is 5 feet 8 and about 150 pounds, said he devoted the summer to working on improving his lower-body strength. His workouts included running up and down hills, and leg presses.

Sampson is humble and polite, addressing coaches as "Sir." But he has stood out because of his unique hairstyle. He kept the Mohawk he wore for Plant's championship game. At Hawaii, he bleached the mohawk.

He also has undergone a nickname makeover. Known as "Turbo" since he was 2, that changed during the summer conditioning program. Wideout Darius Bright called him "Rabbit."

"I was thinking, 'Rabbit?'" he recalled. "Then Coach (Greg McMackin) called me that one day, so I guess that's my



nickname."

During practices, the scout team tries to give the starters different looks -- and none was more unique than defensive tackle Haku Correa playing safety during a drill yesterday at Palo Verde Football Field.

The scouts "needed help, and I helped out," Correa said.

With the travel roster limited to 66 players -- 63 percent of the full roster -- players take turns on the scout team that portrays the Warriors' upcoming opponent.

"There are only a certain amount of us who can go on road trips," Correa said. "We try to give everybody rest and help each other out."

Slotback Dustin Blount practiced as a running back. Running back Hogan Rosehill worked out at tight end.

"I do what I have to do to help my team," Rosehill said.

To help simulate Colorado's offense, the Warriors needed a second tight end. Miah Ostrowski volunteered.

He caught two scoring passes, drawing roars of approval from teammates.

Ostrowski is 5 feet 9 and 170 pounds.

"It's fun to volunteer," Ostrowski said.

McMackin said he appreciated the contributions.

"It's a we-are-one philosophy," McMackin said. "They want to win, and they find roles to help us to win. I have a lot of respect for this particular group. They have no egos. They look out for each other."

The Warriors, who have trained in Nevada this week, depart for Boulder, Colo., today. where they will have a walk-through at the Buffaloes' stadium.

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[http://www.staradvertiser.com/sports/sportsnews/20100917\\_Sampson\\_takes\\_over\\_kick\\_returns.html](http://www.staradvertiser.com/sports/sportsnews/20100917_Sampson_takes_over_kick_returns.html)

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