



Tyler Hansen was 19-of-26 for 200 yards and a pair of touchdowns
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



09/18/2010 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

Brooks: Buffs Find Second-Half Offense, Rout Warriors

BOULDER - Saturday's first half belonged to the defense, the second half to the offense. Halftime belonged to Colorado's offensive position coaches and junior receiver Toney Clemons, who acknowledged what his unit hadn't accomplished in the first two quarters then issued a challenge for what must be done in the last two.

"If you don't want to play, don't go back out there," running back Brian Lockridge recalled "T-Clem" advising the offense. "But it wasn't in those exact words, if you know what I mean . . . he called out our offense."

Message sent, message received. The Buffaloes scored all of their points in the second half en route to a 31-13 rout of Hawai'i that improved CU's non-conference

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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record to 2-1 and eradicated some - certainly not all - of the angst from the previous weekend's 52-7 loss at California.

"It was good to see our guys get a little confidence and a little wind underneath their wings," CU coach Dan Hawkins, sporting a bandage on the bridge of his nose, said in one of the bigger understatements of his fifth season.

During pregame activities, Hawkins' nose and one of his player's helmets met briefly, according to several players. Accident or not, "he was fired up," linebacker B.J. Beatty said, not elaborating.

Whatever the circumstance, Hawkins watched his defense begin the afternoon with a pair of first-half goal-line stands that limited UH's halftime lead to 10-0. The Warriors finished with 337 yards in total offense, but only 100 of it in the second half. They rushed 13 times for seven yards, with the 13 attempts tied for the second fewest against CU in its history (12 by Texas Tech in 2007 are the fewest).

On their second play from scrimmage, the Warriors (1-2) showed what they intended to do, striking for an 80-yard Bryant Moniz to Kealoha Pilares completion. CU corner Jimmy Smith crossed the field to run down Pilares at the Buffs' 3-yard line - and the Warriors went no further than the 2.

After three runs gained nothing, a fumbled snap on fourth down recovered by CU safety Anthony Perkins preserved the goal line stand. Two series later - after CU began the offensive ineptness that would follow it to halftime - UH again had possession at the Buffs' 3-yard line, this time taking advantage of a punt fumbled by Travon Patterson and recovered by Warriors linebacker Po'okela Ahmad.

But this UH possession at the CU 3 was no more effective than the first. After Moniz threw three incompletions, placekicker Scott Enos was wide right on a 20-yard field goal attempt.

The upshot: on seven plays inside the Buffs' 3-yard line, the Warriors gained one yard and missed a chip shot field goal attempt. It was a valiant first quarter by the CU defense, but apparently it was of no inspiration to the offense, which committed three first-quarter penalties and a turnover that finally allowed UH to score.

"The defense was absolutely stellar . . . they played extremely hard the whole day," Hawkins said.

His offense, though, was only good for a half - but it was the half that counted. Inept during a first half that saw them commit three of their nine penalties, fumble a punt, lose a fumble and kill a drive

09/19/2010



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with a ground-hugging shotgun snap, the Buffs shook themselves awake in the second half and scored on their first two series (touchdown runs by Rodney Stewart) and the Warriors' first possession (safety). CU mostly used the no-huddle, taking advantage of the altitude and perhaps UH being road weary at the tail end of a 13-day, roughly 11,000-mile trip.

The Buffs rediscovering their running game was the second half's biggest find. Stewart (22 carries, 106 yards, 2 TDs) and Lockridge (14-109) became the first two CU running backs to go over 100 yards in the same game since Chris Brown (127) and Bobby Purify (174) did it in 2002 against Iowa State.

The Buffs rushed for 183 of their 252 yards - their largest total so far in 2010 - in the second half. But the Warriors entered the game allowing an average of 248 rushing yards in their first two games. So CU figured if it got a push from its offensive line, the ground game could stretch its legs.

"We really wanted to come out, run the ball and show we could run it," guard Ryan Miller said. "That's what we did (in the second half)."

Miller acknowledged a week of post-Cal criticism "was earned. But then we came out and ran the ball. So, I'm sorry, haters."

CU's offensive line "just dominated," Hawkins said. "Our O-line was moving the line of scrimmage. I thought Eric Kiesau (offensive coordinator) did a good job of being patient with it and . . . our O-line did a good job of answering."

Hansen said his O-line "had a fire, a little something extra to them . . . Mike Iltis playing center, he has some fire and we need that. They were embarrassed last week (at Cal), they wanted to have a good showing."

Running backs coach Darian Hagan had planned on using Stewart and Lockridge in fairly equal amounts, but after Stewart's first-half fumble Lockridge's role increased.

"He got his opportunity and he ran with a fighter's mentality," Hagan said. "I haven't seen him run that hard since he was a freshman against Miami of Ohio."

An opportunity for more carries was all Lockridge said he needed to record his first career 100-yard rushing game. He carried 12 times for 53 yards last season - total.

"He's not afraid to pour it up inside," Hawkins said. "We're going to need all of those guys as the season goes on because it wears on you too much."

In addition to Stewart's pair of short second-half TD runs (4, 2 yards), CU's second-half point spree featured a pair of TD passes from Hansen to Clemons (73 yards) and to Scotty McKnight via Clemons (21 yards). A series after the Hansen-to-Clemons scoring play gave CU 24-13 lead, a Hansen pass intended for Clemons bounded off of Clemons' shoulder pads and caromed to McKnight, who made the catch and ran a couple of steps into the end zone.

"I understand why it happens - it's good Karma," McKnight said. "I treat people so well, I'm such a nice guy it just comes back to you at some point. I'm just a decoy on that play . . . the ball just popped up, I said, 'Thanks, bud,' and caught it and scored."

Hansen finished the game with 200 yards passing (19 of 26) and the two TD tosses. He was not intercepted. Moniz was 27-of-41 for 330 yards and one TD. He was intercepted in the fourth quarter by nickel back Jonathan Hawkins, the fourth player CU has used at the position this season because of injuries.

BUFF BITS: CU is off until Oct. 2, when Georgia of the Southeastern Conference visits Folsom Field . . . Saturday's paid attendance was 47,840 . . . CU is using 6-foot-9 offensive tackle Nate Solder and 6-7 Miller on its field goal rush team. Beatty believed it shook up Enos, the UH kicker who missed from short range in the first quarter . . . In addition to his fumble recovery, Perkins led the Buffs with six tackles (five solo) and was credited with CU's safety . . . Nickel back Paul Vigo left the game with a lower leg injury and will be out four to six weeks. CU previously lost nickels Parker Orms and Travis Sandersfeld to injuries . . . Freshman receiver Paul Richardson's two-point conversion reception was the first by a CU true freshman since 2000 (QB Craig Ochs) . . . Former CU All-America Alfred Williams, who will be inducted into the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame in December, was honored at halftime.

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SHOW MENU



CU runs away from Hawaii

Stewart, Lockridge each rush for more than 100 yards

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/18/2010 11:57:24 PM MDT

See Speedy run, see Speedy fumble, see Speedy run anyway, see Speedy score.

And B-Lock wasn't bad either.

Credit the Colorado coaching staff for sticking with a simple but deadly running game, even after the starting tailback gave up a costly fumble and the Buffs fell behind 10-0 at halftime.

Rodney Stewart overcame his turnover and scored on touchdown runs of 4 and 2 yards during CU's 17-0 run in the third quarter en route to a 31-13 victory over Hawaii on Saturday at Folsom Field.

Stewart finished with 106 yards on 22 carries (4.8 per), and Brian Lockridge finished off the weary Warriors with 109 yards on 14 carries (7.8 per). They are the first CU duo to have 100 yards rushing in the same game since Chris Brown and Bobby Purify achieved the feat against Iowa State in 2002.

"It's always nice when you have a game plan to actually come out and follow the game plan," right guard Ryan Miller said in a what-took-so-long? tone after the Buffs gashed Hawaii for 252 net yards rushing.

Dan Hawkins, Eric Kiesau and Co. wisely attempted to run the ball against the Warriors' defense, which had allowed an average of 248 yards on the ground in its first two games against USC and Army, early and often.

On a third-and-seven from his own 5-yard line, Stewart picked up 11 yards to get the plan off to a solid start. But "Speedy" slowed the momentum from two goal-line stands by CU's defense with a lost fumble at his own 42 with 2:07 remaining in the first quarter. The miscue led to a Hawaii touchdown three plays later and a 7-0 deficit for the Buffs.

"It is encouraging that we stuck with it," Stewart said. "Good players, when you have a fumble or throw an interception, you just have to come back and pick it up and not get discouraged. That's exactly what I did."

During CU's best drive of the first half the Warriors called a timeout to catch their breath. Facing a third-and-short after the break, an errant snap bounced behind Tyler Hansen for an 18-yard loss.

The Warriors suddenly had the ball back after the ensuing punt and kicked a field goal on the final play before the intermission to take a 10-0 lead into the locker room.

Earlier in the game, Andre Patterson fumbled a punt return to set Hawaii up with a first-and-goal at the 3.

Despite the myriad of miscues, Kiesau did not stray from the pregame X's and O's, hitting the Warriors with a one-two punch of Stewart and Lockridge throughout the second half.

Stewart capped a brilliant 14-play, 80-yard drive to open the third quarter with his first touchdown. And after a safety by the CU defense, Speedy reached the end zone again to give the Buffs a 17-10 lead with 7:09 remaining in the third quarter.

"Stats don't lie and a lot of teams have run the ball well on them," Stewart said. "We have good backs, so we knew we were going to come out and do the same thing."

In the fourth quarter, as the Buffs were clinging to a 17-13 lead, the offense went to a huddle and broke it with the following sequence -- run, run, short pass to tight end, run, run ... Hansen finds a wide open Toney Clemons down field for a 73-yard touchdown to make the score 24-13 with 9:24 left.

"The run game is crucial. It helps out the pass game and everything else. Once we get the run game going, we're good," Lockridge said. "I'm glad they stuck with it. That's them just having faith in the players, and we came out and proved we could do it."

Even though the Warriors struggle to contain the run, it's a nice step forward for a CU team that finished 113th in the nation rushing in 2009 and was ranked 103rd after two games this year.

Not to mention that ugly little 52-7 beat down in Berkeley, Calif.

"I think if we played Cal at home we would have won," Stewart said. "We've just got to figure this road thing out and we'll be all right."

CU has a bye week before hosting Georgia on Oct. 2. See Buffs run vs. the Bulldogs?

"We wanted to really come out and show we could run the ball and that's what we did. We ran the ball," Miller said. "So next week I think we should come out and run the ball."

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Woelk: Wakeup call keeps season alive for CU

Neill Woelk Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/18/2010 11:54:08 PM MDT

The torches and pitchforks crowd will have to wait.

Just when you thought the Colorado Buffaloes were dead and buried -- or at least ready for last rites -- they bounced back and showed some life Saturday afternoon.

The Buffs and their coach are still kicking.

Go figure.

For 30 minutes against visiting Hawaii, the Buffs performed exactly like the doomsayers had predicted. Penalties, fumbles and a general lack of anything resembling consistency ruled the half. Had it not been for two terrific goal-line stands by the defense, the 10-0 Hawaii halftime lead could easily have been 24-zip.

But just as the angry masses were ready to storm CU's locker room and demand Dan Hawkins' head -- or at least his resignation -- the Buffaloes woke up.

They ran the ball, and did so with authority. Tyler Hansen became a third-down conversion specialist. CU's defense was outstanding.

And the mistakes that were so commonplace in the first half, the pratfalls and belly-flops that had threatened to become this team's epitaph, disappeared.

It all added up to 31 second-half points for the Buffs, and what will look like a relatively easy 31-13 win to the rest of the nation this morning.

Easy?

About as easy as Buff cornerback Jimmy Smith spotting Hawaii's Kealoha Pilaes a 15-yard lead, then chasing him down from behind for a touchdown-saving -- and likely game-saving -- tackle on Hawaii's first possession. (If you're looking for one play that might -- just might -- have saved CU's season, keep Smith's effort in mind.)

About as easy as the defense holding Hawaii scoreless when the Warriors had eight -- yep, eight -- snaps inside the CU 3-yard line in the first quarter.

Or, about as easy as the Buffs banging out 252 yards the old fashioned way -- on the ground, chunk by chunk, with 183 coming in the second half.

Nothing is easy for these Buffs. That's not likely to change.

But they don't count style points in the standings. The Buffs took a shot to the chin and survived, and today they're 2-1 with two weeks to prepare for a home matchup with Georgia.

"To their credit, they've never bagged it and they've never quit," Hawkins said. "They have never doubted and they keep coming back.

"To have their backs up against the wall a little bit, and to have them answer, that is not only season changing but also life changing."

If Saturday is indeed going to be season changing -- and nobody in this corner is ready to make that bet today -- Hawkins and his staff would nevertheless be well-advised to remember one very simple revelation from Saturday's game.

The Buffs are better when they run the ball. When offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau quit trying to out-fancy the Warriors and instead decided to play a little smashmouth out of the no-huddle offense, CU was a different team.

Rodney Stewart ran for 106 yards and two touchdowns. Brian Lockridge (can we see more of him, please?) ran for 109 yards. Both ran with a sense of urgency and purpose behind an offensive line that had its dander up after absorbing lots of heat over the past week.

CU's two third-quarter scoring drives were as impressive as any the Buffs have put together in the Hawkins era. The first went 80 yards on 14 plays. The second went 60 yards on 10 plays -- with nine of those rushing plays.

Meanwhile, CU fans can only hope to see more of the same from CU's defense. Two stellar goal-line stands started an afternoon in which the Buffs held Hawaii to 337 yards and 13 points. That's the same Hawaii, mind you, that put 36 points and 588 yards on the board against Southern Cal.

By no means should anyone read too much into Saturday's game. The Buffs played well in spots, and had some fortuitous breaks. While everyone would like to see another 250-plus day from the running game, nobody's counting on another Tyler Hansen-to-Tony Clemons-to-Scotty McKnight touchdown pass.

But this morning, the Buffs are 2-1 and still alive. That's more than lots of folks expected -- and it will have to be enough for everyone for at least another couple of weeks.

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CU defense keeps Hawaii in check

Bufs stand tall on goal line multiple times

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/18/2010 11:56:32 PM MDT

The Colorado defense was good with its back up against the wall.

And even better when Hawaii's offense was out of backyard real estate.

The Buffs came up with a pair of goal-line stands in the first quarter and put a safety on the scoreboard in the third quarter to will CU to a 31-13 victory over the Warriors of the WAC on Saturday at Folsom Field.

The dramatic turn of events made Alfred Williams' smile even wider.

"It gave us momentum throughout the whole game because it gave our D-line confidence that they could stop them," CU cornerback Jimmy Smith said. "They had all the momentum at that point, and we stopped them so close."

The Buffs took the bend-but-don't-break philosophy to an extreme early.

On the second snap of the game, Warriors quarterback Bryant Moniz hooked up with Kealoha Pilaes for an 80-yard pass play. With 13 NFL scouts watching from the press box, Smith ran Pilaes down from behind after giving him a 15-yard head start to prevent a touchdown.

"Those hustle plays are the plays the coaches are harping on in practice," Smith said. "In fact, you can't even practice if you're not running to the ball."

After Smith's tackle, CU stuffed the visitors on four consecutive run plays at the goal line with Anthony Perkins recovering a fumble on fourth-and-inches.

On Hawaii's next possession, the Buffs forced a three-and-out but were back on the field after Travon Patterson fumbled the punt to set the Warriors up with a first-and-goal at the 3. The nation's second-ranked passing offense misfired on three consecutive passes and then botched a 23-yard field goal attempt.

Eight plays inside CU's 3 and no points.

"They really just out-toughed us on that," Moniz said of his fumble. "I was pretty much handing the ball and just trying to get into the end zone. We were only two or three yards away."

Moniz took advantage of yet another short field after a Rodney Stewart fumble was lost at his own 42. Three completions later, Pilaes was in the end zone as the Warriors took a 7-0 lead with 50 seconds in the first quarter.

It should have been at least 10-0 or perhaps as much as 21-0.

"Two times within five yards of the goal line, they stopped us, and that really hurt us," Moniz said. "We put points on the board one of those times, I think it would have been a whole different ball game."

Moniz, who threw for 612 yards and four touchdowns in the first two games, finished 27-for-41 passing for 330 yards and one touchdown.

CU, which lost Parker Orms and Travis Sandersfeld to injuries in the first two games, saw its third nickel cornerback, Paul Vigo, lost to injury.

The Buffs' secondary still held up long enough for Moniz to be sacked twice, extending the defense's streak in that stat category to 23 games. Alex Green was also swarmed in the end zone for a safety by the aggressive CU front.

"They're going to get yards, that's all they do is get yards through the air," CU defensive end Nick Kasa said. "But we did a good job of stopping them from getting points."

The Warriors only ran the ball 13 times for seven net yards (11-for-19 if excluding sacks). The only second-half points for the visitors came on a 32-yard field goal.

"As much as they pass, which is a whole lot, I think we did a decent job," Smith said. "The loss to Cal last week was a debacle, but it didn't prove we were a bad team. It was just everything went wrong for us. This week things went right in the second half."

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Williams lights fire under Buffs

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/18/2010 11:51:05 PM MDT

Former Colorado linebacker Alfred Williams didn't pull any punches in addressing this season's team Friday night before the Buffs played host to Hawaii on Saturday.

Williams talked about the history and tradition of the program and told the Buffs they needed to do better than their 45-point loss a week ago at California.

"He called a lot of guys out, basically every starter on this football team," wide receiver Scotty McKnight said. "He called them all out and was like, 'This is unacceptable.'"

"We knew it was in a positive way. It was the best thing for us. I've met with him a couple times and just talked to him, and he is truly what Colorado football is all about."

Williams' talk had the Buffs feeling inspired on a day in which Folsom Field was painted with his No. 94 and hosted a halftime ceremony in his honor celebrating his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. It took the Buffs a half to turn that motivation into results on the field, but they got the job done sending Williams and fans home with a victory.

"He's such an inspiring guy," McKnight said. "He has accomplished so much and he is a presence when he talks, and he basically explained to us the tradition here and he went into detail about the past."

"... We don't take it as he's calling us out because he doesn't like us. I think we're all grown men and we understand that. We take it as he is calling us out because he wants us to be great. He said if you're a starter, you need to work harder than anyone on the team. If you're a backup, make it your goal not to be a backup next week."

Williams walked to midfield during halftime through a tunnel of children wearing his jersey. He was greeted by fellow CU Hall of Famers Dick Anderson and Joe Romig and representatives from the Hall of Fame.

Nickel nightmare

Perhaps Colorado coaches

should rename the position currently known as nickel back in their defense. It appears to be cursed this season.

The Buffs' starting nickel back has suffered a serious injury in each of the first three games. Redshirt freshman Paul Vigo was the latest victim Saturday when he suffered a lower leg injury that is expected to keep him out four-to-six weeks.

Parker Orms suffered a torn knee ligament in the season opener and Travis Sandersfeld broke a bone in his leg in Week 2.

Moving up

McKnight continued his assault on the CU record books. He became the seventh player in CU history to amass more than 2,000 receiving yards and now ranks sixth all-time with 2,065. He moved into fourth place in career touchdown receptions when he caught his 17th scoring pass late in the fourth quarter.

Rae Carruth and Derek McCoy hold the record with 20 touchdown catches.

Hansen owns third down

CU quarterback Tyler Hansen did his best work on third downs Saturday. He completed nine of 10 passes for 147 yards and two touchdowns on third downs against the Warriors. He also helped the Buffs make eight first downs on those 10

passing attempts.

Notable

CU continued its penalty problem Saturday with nine more flags for 48 yards. The Buffs have now been flagged 29 times in three games. ... The Buffs now have at least one sack in 23 consecutive games. ... The Buffs outgained Hawaii 328 yards to 100 in the second half.

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CU finds redemption in second half vs. Warriors

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

Posted: 09/18/2010 04:44:56 PM MDT



Dan Hawkins had reason to think it wasn't his day early Saturday afternoon.

The Colorado football coach suffered a cut and bloodied nose in a raucous pregame locker room when he head-butted a player who was already wearing a helmet before the Buffs hosted Hawaii in the home opener. He then watched his team make a series of mistakes and fall behind by double digits in the first half.

But when he saw Scotty McKnight catch a ricochet touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter to cap his team's rally and 31-13 win, Hawkins knew the Buffs had found their "mojo" or what McKnight joked was "Karma" for one day at least.

"People always talk about emotion and passion, and you have to have a little of that to get going, but you also have to have some results to keep feeding that," Hawkins said. "It's hard to just stay passionate when you're not getting a lot of results."

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"... Once they got a little mojo going, they were rolling."

Hawkins has had his struggles in Boulder, but he still owns the Western Athletic Conference. He is now 38-3 as a head coach against WAC teams, including five years at Boise State. It was the first of four games scheduled in the series with Hawaii through 2013 and was played in front of an announced crowd of 47,840.

"It was good for these guys to get a little confidence and get a little wind underneath their wings," he said.

The Buffs redeemed themselves from an ugly loss a week ago on a day dedicated to celebrating the College Football Hall of Fame induction of former Buff linebacker Alfred Williams, whose jersey No. 94 was painted on the field. Williams was honored at halftime.

Running backs Rodney Stewart and Brian Lockridge led the way. Both ran for more than 100 yards in the latest home opener for the Buffs since 1980. The Buffs came into the game ranked 103rd in the nation in rushing but were facing a Hawaii defense that had allowed 500 rushing yards in its first two games.

CU coaches stuck with the run even after falling behind and it paid off behind an offensive line that had taken plenty of criticism after a lousy performance at Cal. What was particularly interesting is that the Buffs ran the ball using a no-huddle approach that forced Hawaii to use timeouts defensively to give players time to catch their breath.

"I think we've taken a lot of criticism that we've earned, but then we came out and we ran the ball," guard Ryan Miller said. "So, I'm sorry, haters."

The Buffs got off to an inauspicious start. Hawaii quarterback Bryant Moniz found wide receiver Kealoha Pilares over the middle on the second play of the game. Pilares made the catch as CU defensive backs Anthony Perkins and Paul Vigo collided. Pilares raced 80 yards to the Buffs' 3-yard line.

The CU defense stiffened and stopped the Warriors on four consecutive plays with a goal line stand.

Colorado forced Hawaii to punt on its second possession, but Travon Patterson muffed the catch and Hawaii recovered at the CU 3-yard line. The Buffs forced three incomplete passes and Hawaii place-kicker Scott Enos missed a 20-yard field

goal.

"I thought our defense obviously was absolutely stellar once again," Hawkins said.

Colorado's third big mistake of the first quarter finally led to points for the Warriors. Tailback Rodney Stewart fumbled at his 45-yard line and Hawaii cornerback Jeremy Bryant recovered. The Warriors scored three plays later on a seven-yard touchdown pass to Pilares.

Hawaii used its 2-minute offense at the end of the first half to drive 55 yards to kick a field goal, making the score 10-0 at halftime.

The Buffs put the mistakes behind them at halftime and marched 80 yards in 15 plays on their opening possession of the second half to score on a four-yard touchdown run by Stewart. The offense responded to an emotional halftime speech from offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau.

"We knew what we were doing on offense was unacceptable," McKnight said. "The defense was playing great."

A holding penalty on the ensuing kickoff pinned Hawaii back at its 9-yard line and a false start on the first play knocked them back further. Linebacker Tyler Ahles pressured Moniz who threw a pass to running back Alex Green, who was tackled by Perkins in the end zone for a safety.

The Buffs rolled down the field on their next possession scoring on another touchdown run by Stewart on the 10th play of the drive. Paul Richardson became only the second freshman in CU history to score a 2-point conversion on a pass from Tyler Hansen and the Buffs led 17-10.

Hawaii drove to a field goal before momentum finally stuck with the Buffs. Hansen connected with Clemons on a 73-yard touchdown pass down the west sideline. It was the longest offensive play for the Buffs in the Hawkins era.

"It's so refreshing to see someone take it 70-plus to the house," McKnight said. "That hasn't happened a lot."

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Colorado vs. Hawaii

Colorado 31, Hawaii 13

Sep. 18, 2010

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) -Rodney Stewart rushed for two touchdowns and Tyler Hansen hooked up with Toney Clemons on a 73-yard touchdown toss as Colorado overcame a sluggish start Saturday to beat Hawaii 31-13.

The Buffaloes (2-1) trailed 10-0 at halftime and were booed off the field by the frustrated fans at Folsom Field. A loss in their home opener to Hawaii (1-2) on the heels of their 52-7 debacle at Cal a week earlier and surely the calls would have intensified for the firing of embattled fifth-year Colorado coach Dan Hawkins.

Stewart scored on runs of 7 and 2 yards sandwiched around a safety as the Buffs surged ahead 17-10 in the third quarter. Hawaii quarterback Bryant Moniz barely got the ball off to beat the blitz but running back Alex Green was tackled in the end zone by defensive back Anthony Perkins for the safety.

After Scott Enos' 32-yard field goal brought Hawaii to 17-13, Hansen ducked the pass rush and found Clemons alone on the right sideline for the long touchdown early in the fourth quarter that finally gave the Buffaloes some breathing room.

In the closing minutes, Clemons' tipped pass came down in Scotty McKnight's hands for a 21-yard touchdown.

Stewart finished with 106 yards on 22 carries and Brian Lockridge added 109 yards on 14 carries, marking the first time since 2002 that the Buffs had two 100-yard rushers in a game.

The Warriors led 10-0 at halftime and could have been 24-0.

Colorado cornerback Jimmy Smith chased down Hawaii big-play receiver Kealoha Pilaes (six catches, 117 yards) at the 3 after an 80-yard gain, and Perkins, who ran into nickel back Paul Vigo in a collision that sprung Pilaes for his big gain, recovered a fumbled snap on fourth-and-goal inside the 1.

The Warriors got the ball at the Buffs' 3 again when Paul Richardson muffed a punt and Po'okela Ahmad recovered for Hawaii. Again, the Buffs held and Enos missed a 20-yard field goal.

They finally got it right the third time. After Jeramy Bryant recovered Stewart's fumble at midfield, Moniz found Pilaes alone on the right side for a 7-yard TD and a 7-0 lead.

The Buffs were driving for the tying score when Mike Ittis, who replaced Keenan Stevens at center following the O-line's dismal showing last week, scooted the ball along the ground for an 18-yard loss, forcing a punt. The Warriors drove down and Enos nailed a 31-yarder as the first half expired.

Hansen finished 19 of 26 for 200 yards and two TDs. Moniz was 27 of 41 for 330 yards, a TD and an interception.

This was the first meeting between the schools in 85 years. The Warriors hadn't played a Big 12 team since facing Nebraska in 1978.

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Scoreboard

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Hawaii (1-2)	7	3	3	0	13
Colorado (2-1) <	0	0	17	14	31



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Scoring Summary

HI	Kealoha Pilaes 7 yd pass from Bryant Moniz (Scott Enos kick)
HI	Scott Enos 31 yd FC
CO	Rodney Stewart 4 yd run (Aric Goodman kick)
CO	Anthony Perkins safet
CO	Rodney Stewart 2 yd run (Paul Richardson 2pt pass from Tyle Hansen)
HI	Scott Enos 32 yd FC
CO	Toney Clemons 73 yd pass from Tyler Hansen (Aric Goodman kick)
CO	Scotty McKnight 23 yd pass from Tyler Hansen (Aric Goodman kick)

Team Stats

	HI	CO
First Downs	13	21
Third Down Efficiency	3-11	10-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-1
Plays-Net Yards	55-337	78-451
Rushes-Yds	13-7	52-251
Passing Yds	330	200
Kick Return Yds	49	6
Punt Return Yds	-1	-1

Passes	27-42-1	19-26-4
Punts	4-176	4-141
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-1
Penalties-Yds	6-37	9-41
Time of Poss.	24:11	35:41

Individual Stats

RUSHING

HI: Chizzy Dimude 1-9, Alex Green 6-3, Bryant Moniz 6--5

CO: Brian Lockridge 14-109, Rodney Stewart 22-106, Justin Torres 9-32, Tyler Hansen 5-21, Travon Patterson 1-2, Team 1--18

PASSING

HI: Bryant Moniz 27-41-330-1, Team 0-1-0-0

CO: Tyler Hansen 19-26-200-0

RECEIVING

HI: Greg Salas 9-94, Kealoha Pilares 6-117, Royce Pollard 6-67, Rodney Bradley 3-36, Alex Green 3-16

CO: Scotty McKnight 6-65, Toney Clemons 3-85, Ryan Deehan 3-32, Paul Richardson 3-9, Rodney Stewart 2-9, Travon Patterson 1-4, Kyle Cefalo 1--4

Standings

Team	Standings	Conference	Overall
Hawaii	6th Western Athletic	0-0	1-2
Colorado	2nd Big 12 North	0-0	2-1

Top 25 Games

Arkansas	31	Final	MA	37	Final
Georgia	24		Michigan	42	
Ohio	7	Final	Kent St	0	Final
Ohio St	43		Penn St	24	
Maryland	17	Final	Alabama	62	Final
West Virg	31		Duke	13	
Florida	31	Final	USC	32	Final
Tenn	17		Minnesota	21	
Air Force	24	Final	Ariz St	19	Final
Oklahoma	27		Wisc	20	
Nebraska	56	Final	Baylor	10	Final
Wash	21		TCU	45	
Louisville	28	Final	PORTST	0	Final
Ore St	35		Oregon	69	
FUR	19	Final	Clemson	24	Final OT
S Car	38		Auburn	27	
Miss St	7	Final	Notre Dm	31	Final OT
LSU	29		Mich St	34	
Texas	24	Final	Utah	56	Final
Tex Tech	14		N Mexico	14	
Boise St	51	Final	Iowa	27	Final
Wyoming	6		Arizona	34	
Wake	24	Final			
Stanford	68				

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CU football- tale of two halves

Buffs fight back to top Hawaii 31-13

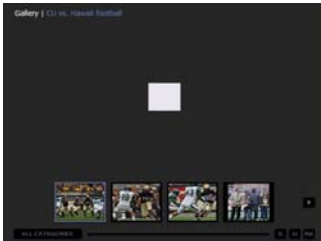
By Michael Krumholtz on September 19, 2010

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A thick fog, that hid the Flatirons-view for much of the day, gave way during halftime to a bright and spotless sky. Once the sun came out, so did CU's biggest stars, who rallied to defeat Hawaii 31 – 13 after being shutout at halftime.

Two second-half scores from junior Rodney Stewart and one by junior Toney Clemons, and senior Scotty McKnight, allowed the Buffs to run away with the game.

"We knew what we're playing like on offense was unacceptable," McKnight said of the Buffs' first-half play. "Our defense was playing great, just like in the past when we've been flat. We know we have the potential. If we put two halves together like that you're talking 50-60 points."

Three plays into the game and the Buffs already had their backs against the wall, with Hawaii just a few yards away from an abrupt touchdown.

After an 80 yard pass play from Hawaii quarterback Bryant Moniz to receiver Kealoha Pilaes, Hawaii landed at the CU three-yard line. On the very next play the Warriors made it inside the one, and it all looked like a repeat from the week before when the Buffs' were crushed by Cal.

In the next moment, Hawaii's offense was put on pause. Buff defenders stood the visiting-team up in three consecutive plays. The last of which resulted in a fumble recovered by CU junior safety Anthony Perkins.

It was one of two crucial goal-line stands in the first quarter and both kept the team afloat when the CU offense looked sunk.

"We took it upon ourselves right there to make a statement," said senior linebacker and Hawaii native B.J. Beatty. "The crowd was behind us and right there we took it upon ourselves, and [decided] this is where we're going to win the game."

Decked out in the 1990 replica uniforms, the Buffs looked oh-so old school in their approach. They hit Hawaii by running the ball 52 times for 252 yards. On defense they contained the active Hawaii run game to only seven yards.

Running backs Stewart and junior Brian Lockridge both ascended the 100-yard mark on the ground, making it the first time since 2002 where two Buffs have done so. The offensive line came under heavy criticism after the Cal game, where they allowed six sacks on Hansen and gave little room for their backs to gain only 75 yards.

"We wanted to really come out and run the ball, and show we could run the ball," said junior guard Ryan Miller. "That's what we did; we came out and we ran the ball."

Not only was the run game more successful than it has been all season, but Hansen and his receivers, were more proficient statistically as well. His 73-yard bomb to Clemons made it a 24-13 CU advantage. It is the longest play in the Dan Hawkins Era.

"We practice [the] scramble drill every week," said quarterback Tyler Hansen. "Scotty was about the same place, but I had Clemons behind him so I choose him to throw the ball to. I think Scotty was kind of mad I didn't throw to him."

The Buffs fumbled twice in the first half and put up a so-so 124 yards of total offense in what looked to be a hangover from the previous week's defeat. Then, after a Stewart touchdown run in the opening drive of the second half, Hawaii got the ball back deep in their own territory.

Moniz dropped the snap, and hopelessly threw the ball to his senior running-back Alex Green in their own end zone. Green was immediately swarmed by CU defenders and taken down for a safety. The score made it 10-9, and the Buffs never stopped rolling from that point on.

"We talked about last week's game and how we just couldn't get any momentum going ever, and it became tough," Coach Hawkins said. "And on this day they definitely showed up, offensively in the second half and defensively the entire game."

The defense did surrender over 300 yards passing to the Warriors pistol offense, but the fact that Hawaii could only punch it into the goal once came back to haunt them.

"They really just out-toughed us on that," Moniz said. "We were only two or three yards away. It didn't bother us, but we were discouraged that we didn't get any points. In the end, it really hurt us."

A crowd of 47,840 made themselves heard on both goal-line stands, giving strength to the steady defense. Only giving up 10 points to a dynamic Hawaii passing-game when their own offense is neutralized, shows this defense can hold their own.

"Defensively, we were holding up," Beatty said. "Our offense came on the second half and you saw what they did."

Hansen and company piled up 328 yards in that second half when the sun came out. They scored on four of their first five drives during that time and did not turn the ball over once. A week after giving it away four times and not letting the defense get an adequate rest they returned the favor with a monstrous second half.

The previous week was filled with scrutiny of the offense, the linemen and of course the coach. Hawkins said he knows this team has been through their share of messes, but a big win over Hawaii fixes all that. For another week, at least.

"Lord knows we have had our share of adversity," Hawkins said. "Again to their credit they have never bagged in and they have never quit. They have never doubted and they keep coming back."

Contact Staff Writer Michael Krumholtz at Michael.krumholtz@colorado.edu.

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cu football

Bufs wake up, rip Hawaii in second half

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/19/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — Although waiting until the second half to score didn't exactly follow Colorado's game plan, the Buffaloes discovered a perfect way to wake up their disgruntled fans and perhaps even get a few back onboard.

There's nothing like an old-fashioned comeback to get everyone excited and to make new friends. Folsom Field became fun again Saturday after the Buffaloes rolled to a 31-13 victory over Hawaii. CU trailed 10-0 at halftime.

"If we keep winning, people are going to support us," Colorado senior receiver Scotty McKnight said. "We just scored 31 points in the second half against a pretty good defense. That should give everyone confidence. We know we can be a good team."

Colorado (2-1) is far from a finished product. The team and its fans will learn

more when Georgia comes to town Oct. 2 after a bye weekend for the Buffs. But this is a start — after a bad start. The first two quarters looked like the same old, same old. Once again with silly mistakes, CU couldn't seem to get out of its way.

Fortunately for the Buffs, two remarkable goal-line stands inside the 5-yard line by the CU defense to begin the game prevented Hawaii from jumping out to a big lead. The Warriors (1-2) did score on their third possession, after a fumble by CU tailback Rodney Stewart. But Colorado players did not want to think about what might have happened if Hawaii had led 17-0 or even 24-0 at the break.

As it was, a 10-0 deficit left the atmosphere rather somber during halftime — at least it felt that way in the stands except for the applause that recognized Colorado legend Alfred Williams for his December induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. Inside the CU locker room, however, a much different scene took place. Players described the coaches as intense.

"Coach (Eric) Kiesau was getting on me a little bit," CU junior quarterback Tyler Hansen said, referring to his offensive coordinator. "We had to play better. We were moving the ball, but it was one play (on each possession) that was killing us."

Something clicked, including seeing beleaguered head coach Dan Hawkins bleeding from a cut on his nose. Hawkins wouldn't elaborate about what

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happened, but players insisted that, to get the team and himself fired up, their leader had head-butted a player's helmet before the game.

Hawkins wouldn't confirm the story. And some might joke that people have wanted Hawkins' head anyway, so a little blood is a good start. But the team felt inspired by the sight.

"When I saw that, I thought somebody had punched Coach Hawkins," McKnight said later. "But if you know Hawk, anything can happen. He's a pretty fiery guy. We support Coach Hawkins. We support all our coaching staff. You can see by Hawk's nose being all bloody that he wants it."

A crowd of 47,840 watched Colorado take control of the second half on its first possession. Using a no-huddle, hurry-up attack for the first time in the game, the suddenly revved-up offense moved 80 yards in 14 plays, capped by the first of two touchdown runs by Stewart. Still, Colorado led by less than a touchdown (17-13) until Hansen, while scrambling out of the pocket to buy some time from a pass rush, spotted wideout Toney Clemons getting behind the Hawaii secondary down the right sideline.

According to the school's sports information department, the 73-yard touchdown tied for the 36th-longest in school history. But none could have felt bigger. Fittingly, CU finished its second-half frolic with some laughs. A Hansen pass later in the fourth quarter bounced off the fingertips of Clemons — right to McKnight, who

caught the deflection inside the 5-yard line and then danced across the goal line. McKnight gets credit for all 23 yards of the pass play.

"Guys were giving me (grief) in the locker room about it," McKnight said with a chuckle. "I just say it's karma. I treat my quarterback real well."

Fun is what this game is supposed to be. And for the Buffs, there was plenty to go around. Juniors Brian Lockridge (career-high 109 yards) and Stewart (106) became the first pair of CU rushers to reach the century mark since Chris Brown and Bobby Purify in 2002 against Iowa State. McKnight became the seventh receiver in school history to eclipse the 2,000-yard mark.

And CU linebackers B.J. Beatty and Michael Sipili, who both played high school football in Hawaii, got back at their old buddies by keying the early goal-line stands that might well have saved the day for the Buffaloes.

"Lord knows we have had our share of adversity," Hawkins said. "To (his players' credit), they have never bagged it. They have never quit."

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Key stat

7: Net yards rushing for Hawaii. It was the 10th-worst rushing outing ever against the Buffs and second least in Dan Hawkins' tenure (Kansas had a minus-8 last season). The Warriors actually

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gained all of 23 yards but posted 16 yards in losses. CU gave up 208 yards rushing in its first two games.

Key play

The Buffs were onto a 17-13 lead into the fourth quarter and trying to get something moving on third-and- 8. Tyler Hansen went over the secondary to Toney Clemons on a crossing play, and Clemons jetted with the 73-yard completion for a 24-13 lead with 9:24 remaining.

Natalie Meisler, The Denver Post

Three questions

A look at how Colorado answered Tom Kensler's three questions going into the game against Hawaii:

Can CU's offensive line give QB Tyler Hansen some protection? Affirmative. Hansen was not sacked, a huge improvement from getting dropped six times by California. Some of the credit should go to the game plan calling for short passes, especially in the first half. And the Buffs' no-huddle offense in the second half had Hawaii defenders gasping for air. But yes, the offensive line did its job.

Can CU's defense prevent Hawaii's run-and-shoot offense from dictating momentum and field position? Colorado's defense went into the game with a bend-but-don't-break philosophy, and it worked. Hawaii quarterback Bryant Moniz

completed 27 passes, but he couldn't get the Warriors into the end zone after the first quarter.

Will CU put on a performance that will make Buffs legend and Saturday honoree Alfred Williams proud? Mission accomplished. Scoring 31 points in the second half does make a statement: that this team didn't quit after a 45-point loss at California, and that perhaps there's some hope for a successful season — although tougher foes await.

Time to wake up

After escaping the first half down just 10-0, Colorado's offense came to life in a second-half flurry. A look at the first-half and second-half numbers:

HAWAII COLORADO

Category	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
First downs	8	5	10	16
Carries	10	3	19	33
Rushing yards	17	-10	69	183
Passing yards	220	110	55	145
Total yards	237	100	124	328
Points	10	3	0	31

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cu football

Bufs gain ground in second half

By Natalie Meisler
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/19/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — First, Colorado had to get it inside the Hawaii defenders' heads. The visitors from the islands were playing at about a mile high, and oxygen is in short supply. Then CU had to find its way into the end zone after a scoreless first half.

Until Saturday's late push to beat Hawaii 31-13, production out of CU's running game was negligible. While they dug themselves a hole early at Cal last week forcing the passing game, CU had netted 190 rushing yards in its first two games. Even the first half Saturday was uninspiring for CU's backs.

Then, for the first time since Bobby Purify (174 yards) and Chris Brown (127 yards) overran Iowa State in 2002, CU came up with a double century when Lockridge (109) and Rodney

"Speedy" Stewart (106 yards, two touchdowns) left the Warriors gasping.

"The running game was crucial," Lockridge said

of the running-in-place start for a 10-0 halftime disadvantage.

After just 69 yards on the ground in the first half, the Buffs finished with 252 yards on 52 carries. It was the Buffs' biggest day rushing since the 2007 game against Nebraska (a 65-51 win) when CU had 277 yards on 52 carries.

Lockridge said there were a few reminders on the field about the altitude.

"We weren't really warn down," Warriors linebacker Paipai Falemalu said. "A lot of people think it's the elevation, but it's not. It feels the same to me as playing in Hawaii."

The Warrior even had a lecture from their receivers coach, Mouse Davis, who coached the Denver Gold of the long defunct United States Football League in the early 1980s.

"We always used to do that stuff with the Denver Gold when teams came in here," Davis said. "I told them they would use that."

It wasn't until Stewart ran in twice from inside the 4 in a span of 4:19 in the third quarter (sandwiched around a safety) that the Buffs took a 17-10 lead, the first of the day.

Earlier, Stewart fumbled, setting up Hawaii's first scoring drive. He took a seat while Lockridge went in.

"Stuff happens," Stewart said. "We were playing

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well and then I think we were unlucky. . . . We needed a spark and that's what I wanted to do in the second half."

Guard Ryan Miller delivered all the praise to Lockridge, Stewart and freshman Justin Torres. It was Lockridge's first career 100-yard game.


"It feels awesome just to have B-Lock and Speedy and even Torres getting in there and pounding up the holes," Miller said. "The running backs followed the blocks, and that's always a huge thing."

The line, which had generated great optimism around Miller and Nate Solder, both NFL prospects, had come under attack after the Cal debacle.

"I think we've (the offensive line) taken a lot of criticism that we've earned," Miller said. "We came out and ran the ball. Sorry, haters."

*Natalie Meisler: 303-954-1295 or
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cu football - briefs

Beatty contributes two key tackles on goal-line stand

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/19/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — Colorado senior linebacker B.J. Beatty emerged from the locker room Saturday after the 31-13 victory over Hawaii with a smile on his face and a Hawaiian lei around his neck.

The string of flowers looked a bit wilted, but to Beatty, a Kahuku High School graduate from Kaaawa, Hawaii, they couldn't have been more beautiful — or meaningful. Perhaps his grandmother knew something. A slew of Beatty's relatives from the islands flew in for the game, and the lei, the traditional Hawaiian symbol of love, was presented to him by his grandmother on Friday.

A day later, Beatty performed like a player possessed. And the team got to celebrate a come-from-behind victory.

Beatty, in fact, made the first two tackles to stop Hawaii at the 1-yard line on the first of two goal-line stands by the CU defense. The third

tackle was made by another former islands prep star, Michael Sipili, also a senior linebacker.

"I was excited playing my good friends, old (high school) teammates," said Beatty, who also made a key sack in the fourth quarter. "For me, it's great because I can brag for the rest of my life on them. Now I can say I beat them all in college."

Snakebit position?

CU is down to its fourth nickel back. Redshirt freshman Paul Vigo became the latest to go down, suffering what CU reported as a "lower leg injury" that the school says could keep him out four to six weeks.

Vigo had replaced Travis Sandersfeld (out four to six weeks with a fibula fracture against California), who had replaced Parker Orms (season-ending ACL tear). Junior Jonathan Hawkins drew most of the work at nickel after Vigo went out in the first quarter.

Hawaii coach impressed.

Hawaii coach Greg McMackin, who knows his way around the Front Range having been an assistant coach for the USFL's Denver Gold, said CU coach Dan Hawkins "made some fantastic adjustments" at halftime.

"He had his guys ready to play in the second half," McMackin said.

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Footnotes.

CU senior wideout Scotty McKnight said after the game he was unaware that he had become the seventh player in school history to reach 2,000 career receiving yards. "The only number I know is we're 2-1," McKnight said. . . . In addition to a halftime ceremony, the school commemorated "Alfred Williams Day" with his jersey No. 94 painted on both sides of the field at the 25-yard line. The former CU All-American will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in December. . . . Before the floodgates opened, Hawaii was working on its first road shutout since 2005 at Idaho. . . . The 2-point conversion by CU receiver Paul Richardson was the first by a Buffs freshman since QB Craig Ochs in 2000 against Kansas State.

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SEPTEMBER 18, 2010, 9:54 PM

Buffs get back to the ground, but is it a fad or a trend?

By **CHRIS DEMPSEY** |  No Comments

If 52-7 earned Dan Hawkins the hottest seat of his tenure as head coach at Colorado, did 31-13 earn him a reprieve?

Probably not in most circles. Bloodthirsty fans will always be bloodthirsty fans.

Yet Colorado impressed with a stunning second half display of power against Hawaii. What stood out the most was its simplicity. For one of the few times in recent years, the game plan carried out was a realization that the best way from the line of scrimmage to the end zone was off-guard. And off-tackle.

When Hawkins arrived on the scene in 2005, he did so to a deluge of questions/concerns/worries about running the football. It seemed to everyone on the outside looking in that a power running game wasn't exactly part of the Boise State program. Hawk bristled a bit, then reassured the masses. Running was a priority, he said. Recruiting both lines – offensive and defensive – was at the top of the list.

Only, for so long it didn't appear that way.

Outside of a handful of exceptions, running the football appeared to be nearly non-existent. But today, there was a tinge of legitimacy to what transpired. Not only did the Buffs decide to run the ball, they fully committed to it. Rodney Stewart. Brian Lockridge. Spot carries for quarterback Tyler Hansen. During the week of preparation Colorado pledged to be more physical at the point of attack, and when it decided to sell out on the run, the Buffs were just that. A week of work on the offensive line didn't go unfulfilled. The pass protection part of it did, but who needs to pass the football when you can simply pound it down the opponents' throat?

The question now is: Can CU commit to a run game for the remainder of the season? Do the Buffs even want to?

The offense's ability to be one thing in one game and something completely different the next has been one of the most maddening aspects of the last five seasons. Running the football, many times, seemed like an afterthought in the midst of a ton of motion, misdirection and smokescreen plays.

For anyone longing for a tough-minded identity, today provided a glimpse. If the offensive line is as good as those in the program have said it is, then the holes should be there for Stewart and Lockridge to run through most of the season.

And if those two run the football with the same kind of authority – especially Lockridge – it would be just what CU needs to keep some sort of control of its games and give Hansen an opportunity to grow into being the quarterback the team needs him to be, without heaping a ton of pressure on him to make all of the plays all of the time.

With the running game in full stride in the second half, Hansen settled down and played within himself. He got the ball to his playmakers, and when the opportunity presented itself, he hit the long strike to Tony Clemmons to seal matters down the stretch.

Sometimes, football isn't so complicated.

For one game, Colorado stripped the pomp and circumstance from its offensive attack and got back to the basics. Time will tell if it is the exception and not the rule.

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Longmont, Colorado
Sunday, September 19,
2010

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Give CU credit: It did what it needed

By Brian Howell
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BOULDER — One win isn't going to take the pressure off the University of Colorado football team.

"No," head coach Dan Hawkins said. "You've got to keep moving forward."

For now, at least, the Buffs can breathe a little easier. The Buffaloes are 2-1 after Saturday's 31-13 win against Hawaii. The win came one week after a 52-7 loss at Cal that rekindled the debate over whether it's time for head coach Dan Hawkins to go.

"We needed it big," running back Rodney Stewart said. "We needed a game that wasn't close so that we know we're good."

Hawkins, who is now 18-34 in his tenure, knows it's going to take a lot more than Saturday's win for others to buy into the fact that the Buffs are, indeed, good.

But, give Hawkins, his staff and his players credit. For all the criticism they took this past week, they responded with an impressive performance in a game they knew they had to win.

"To their credit, these guys have never bagged it. They've never quit," Hawkins said.

The Buffs' offensive line may have been the best symbol of that. The group took a lot of heat after the Cal game, but responded with a great performance Saturday.

"I think we've taken a lot of criticism that we've earned, but then we came out and we ran the ball," right guard Ryan Miller said. "So, I'm sorry, haters."

Those "haters" will point to the fact that CU's two wins are against non-BCS teams with a combined 1-5 record (Colorado State and Hawaii). And, they're right. But, the Buffs realize that there is only one way to get fans to believe in them again.

"We've just got to keep winning," receiver Scotty McKnight said. "Everyone will keep supporting us if we keep winning."

The Buffs haven't won two in a row since starting the 2008 season at 3-0. But, now they head into a bye week after a strong win. That gives them confidence as they have two weeks to prepare for Georgia to come to Boulder.

"We just have to keep this thing going and use this as momentum for Georgia," quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "I think this bye week comes at a perfect time. Now we can use this win, get our guys healthy, prepare for Georgia and hopefully get a win against Georgia."

No, Saturday's win won't erase the criticism directed at Hawkins and the Buffs. But, rest assured they are trying and they realize they've got more work to do. For now, however, the Buffs can hold their heads up, knowing they did what

they said they could do.

“It’s not about what you talk about, it’s what you go out and do,” McKnight said.

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Second-half rally propels Buffs

By Brian Howell
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BOULDER — University of Colorado football players and coaches got one look at their head coach in the moments before Saturday's game against Hawaii and knew he was ready to go.

Dan Hawkins got so excited before the game that, according to some players and coaches, he heat-butted a player and bloodied his nose.

"I heard about it and saw how bloody he was," CU running backs coach Darian Hagan said. "I saw his nose all jacked up and I'm like, 'You OK,' and he said, '(Heck) yeah I'm OK. I didn't go down.'"

It took a while for Hawkins' team to match that intensity, but the Buffs wound up with a much-needed 31-13 win at Folsom Field.

CU's defense was phenomenal, and the offense finally busted loose after halftime. Rodney Stewart ran for 106 yards and two touchdowns, Brian Lockridge ran for 109 yards and Tyler Hansen threw for 200 yards and two touchdowns.

"It was good for these guys to get a little confidence and get a little wind underneath their wings," Hawkins said.

As for his shiner, Hawkins said, "We got a little hyped before the game. But, I'm an old fullback; I'm used to playing with a bloody nose."

Prior to Saturday, the Buffs (2-1) were a bruised bunch. They had lost 52-7 at Cal the week before and felt they had to beat Hawaii to regain their confidence.

"It was a desperate win," cornerback Jimmy Smith said. "This was a must win. Every game is a must win; this was a we have to win, no questions asked."

At halftime, CU fans had to be asking what was going on with their Buffs. The dreadful performance against Cal carried over to the first half against the Warriors (1-2).

The Buffs trailed 10-0 at the break, and it could have been worse. They had two first-quarter fumbles — including one on a punt return that gave Hawaii the ball at the CU 3-yard line. They also had untimely penalties, a bad snap that resulted in an 18-yard loss, and three punts in the first half.

"We were doing everything we wanted to do; it was just one play here and there that was killing drives," CU quarterback Tyler Hansen said.

The only reason CU was within 10 at the half was because its defense made key stops.

Hawaii connected on an 80-yard pass to the CU 3 on the second play of the game. But on the next four plays, Hawaii



Colorado's Scotty McKnight celebrates in the end zone after a 23-yard reception late in the fourth quarter against Hawaii at Folsom Field in Boulder on Saturday.

Joshua Buck/Times-Call

gained zero yards and came away with no points.

After CU fumbled a punt return later in the first quarter, the defense forced Hawaii into three straight incomplete passes before the Warriors missed a 20-yard field goal.

In the second half, CU's offense finally got its act together.

Hansen guided the Buffs on a 14-play, 80-yard march, capped by Stewart's 4-yard touchdown run, to pull within 10-7.

Less than a minute later, the Buffs defense registered a safety to pull the team within 10-9. The offense then went on a 10-play, 60-yard drive to take the lead for good at 17-10.

Hansen then added a 73-yard touchdown pass to Toney Clemons and a 23-yard touchdown pass to Scotty McKnight on a tipped pass.

CU scored touchdowns on four of its first five second-half possessions.

"It shows us we can be an explosive team, we can be a great team," Hansen said. "Just go out there and play and have fun."

The Buffs' offense had 328 total yards in the second half, and they did it by going to a no-huddle attack.

"(Offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau) did a good job of going no-huddle," Hawkins said. "We really felt like that was probably a key to it. But, we just got a little tempo going. People always talk about emotion and passion. You have to have a little of that to get going, but you also have to have some results to keep feeding that. We came out and set the tone early on. The offense got a lot of confidence and got back in the flow of it.

"Once they got a little mojo going, they were rolling."

CU's defense, meanwhile, was stout throughout the game, but particularly in the second half. Hawaii averaged 470.5 yards and 33.5 points in its first two games. Colorado held the Warriors to 337 total yards, and only 100 of those came after halftime.

"We knew it was our D versus their O," Smith said. "Our defense was up to the challenge and obviously came out on top today."

It was a game in which the Buffs felt they needed to win.

"We had to," offensive tackle Nate Solder said. "We had to come back from last week and respond in a positive way."

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Rebuffed

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hawaii's Richard Torres, left, and Jeramy Bryant, right, tackled Colorado running back Brian Lockridge during the Warriors' loss yesterday.

BOULDER, COLO. » More than 5,300 feet above sea level, the Hawaii football team's statement-making hopes disappeared into thin air.

It vanished in a 31-13 loss to Colorado in which the Warriors misfired on point-blank scoring opportunities on their first two possessions, and then spent the rest of the way with growing regrets.

The Warriors also learned the new math: Two halves are not necessarily equal. Using a no-huddle offense that left the Warriors gasping, the Buffaloes scored 17 unanswered points in the third quarter to vaporize a 10-0 halftime deficit.

Controlling the tempo and then the Warriors, the Buffaloes produced 31 second-half points and rolled up 329 of their 452 yards after the intermission.

"We knew we were a better team," said Colorado running back Rodney Stewart, who rushed for 106 yards and two touchdowns. "The big players stepped up and made big plays."

Brian Lockridge added 109 rushing yards for the Buffaloes, and Tyler Hansen ended the suspense with two fourth-quarter scoring passes.

"They made the plays in the second half, and we didn't," UH head coach Greg McMackin said.

The autopsy will show the Warriors succumbed from multiple wounds.

The Warriors converted three times in 11 third-down situations. The Buffaloes were 10-for-14, including 6-for-7 in the second half.

The Warriors ran 25 plays for 100 yards after intermission; the Buffaloes had possession for 44 plays and 18 minutes, 31 seconds in the final two quarters.

"In the second half, we made a lot of mental mistakes," McMackin said. "And when you make mental mistakes, like penalties, you're tired. You're mentally tired."

The breakdown in the opening quarter was purely physical.

Slotback Kealoha Pilaes split the defense on a crossing pattern for an 80-yard gain, giving the Warriors a first down at the CU 3.

Running back Alex Green carried to the 1, where all lanes then turned into dead ends. Green and then quarterback Bryant Moniz each failed to gain a yard on runs.

"I feel we should be able to get half a yard," UH offensive coordinator Nick Rolovich said of his decision to call consecutive rushes.

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The Buffaloes' strategy was for the defensive linemen to dive toward the blockers' shins.

"There was no way we could get a push because they were diving into our legs," UH center Bronson Tiwanak said.

On fourth down, Moniz, who takes snaps from under center in short-yard situations, tried to call out a play. But Tiwanak, thinking Moniz had started his cadence, snapped the ball.

"It was loud, and (Tiwanak) really couldn't hear me," Moniz said. "When he thought I said 'hut,' I was calling a play."

The snap was fumbled, and the Buffaloes recovered at the 4.

"Put it on me," Tiwanak said. "That shouldn't have happened."

The Warriors' next possession was resurrected when punt returner Travon Patterson fumbled. But this UH drive, also from the 3, resulted in three incompletions and Scott Enos' missed field-goal attempt.

"We were right there, inside the 5 twice, and came away with nothing," Moniz said. "It's really embarrassing. Really. ... If we walk away with 14 points right there, it might be a whole different story."

Instead, it became the game's story line.

"I don't think we can let opportunities get away," Rolovich said. "That's the fatigue: knowing we left 14 points right there. That starts to wear on you when things start to get close."

Pilares' 7-yard scoring catch and Enos' field goal from 31 yards did give the Warriors a 10-0 lead at the half. But that was written in chalk.

And in the Colorado locker room, the chalk talk was to accelerate the pace. The Buffaloes' thinking was this: If a no-huddle offense doesn't sap the energy of the Warriors, who are not used to playing in high altitude, at least it will prevent the frequent defensive substitutions.

The Warriors, meanwhile, were fixated on stopping the Buffaloes' opening drive of the second half.

"We knew we had to hold them, not give them any momentum," McMackin said.

The implosion came after two plays. With CU facing a third and 4, the Warriors brought in two players, but exited only one. They could not get the 12th defender off the field in time, leading to 5-yard penalty and an automatic first down.

"We needed a stop," McMackin said, "and they go 80 yards."

The final 4 came on Stewart's misdirection run. That scoring drive was a mixture of short-passes and the "push," a play in which the blockers go in one direction and the back goes in the other.

"What the linemen try to do is push everybody to one side," Stewart said. "It's designed for me to cut back."

UH's ensuing possession started at its 9 because of a holding penalty on the kickoff. Three plays later, from the 10, Tiwanak's shotgun snap ricocheted off Moniz, who chased the football into the end zone. Moniz was tackled for a safety as he flipped the ball to Green, closing CU to 10-9.

"It slipped through my hands," Moniz said of the fumble. "I was trying to read the defense. The defense was moving while the ball was snapped. It was a lack of concentration on my part."

After receiving the free kick, the Buffaloes went 60 yards in 10 plays, concluding with Stewart's 2-yard

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run through a hole created by the right guard. The 2-point conversion gave the Buffaloes a 17-10 lead.

It was 17-13 when the Buffaloes faced a third and 8 from their 27. The Warriors blitzed from CU's left side. In such situations, the Warriors try to bracket the other side, boxing in the quarterback. But the area was vacant, and Hansen ran to safety toward the right sideline. Hansen lofted a pass to Toney Clemons, who had crossed from the left side. Clemons made the catch and raced to the end zone to complete the 73-yard play.

"We should have kept contain on that quarterback, but he got out of the pocket," UH defensive coordinator Dave Aranda said.

It was an out-of-pocket expense the Warriors could not afford.

"I thought they were really smart going to the no-huddle because our guys got really gassed," McMackin said. "We wore down. We were out of gas."

Defensive tackle Kaniela Tuipulotu said fatigue was not a factor.

"That's not an excuse for us," Tuipulotu said. "We have to be disciplined. We have to read our keys and be men about it. We're out here to play hard and win, and we weren't able to do that. Any loss is a disappointment, but this was worse because we had 'em, and we let 'em get away."

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