



Freshman tailback D.D. Goodson (21) picks up yards in Saturday's scrimmage.
 Photo Courtesy: Gary Kirchner



Brooks: Embree Says CB Picture Beginning To Clear

Release: 08/15/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - Colorado's starting cornerback picture is beginning to come into focus for new coach Jon Embree, but he's hesitant to pencil in his new pair of corners just yet.

"I think I know who our corners are going to be, so we'll see if they finish (this week) like that," he noted following an intense, full-pads practice Monday morning.

Embree said last Saturday's scrimmage "cleared up" - at least in his mind - the probable front-runners to replace Jimmy Smith and Jalil Brown, fixtures in the CU secondary for the last several seasons.

At the end of last weekend's scrimmage, Embree singled out true freshmen Kyle Washington and Greg Henderson, redshirt sophomores Ayodeji Olatoye and Paul Vigo and senior Travis Sandersfeld, who has received several good reviews from Embree and defensive coordinator/secondary coach Greg Brown throughout camp. Sandersfeld has played mostly safety, nickel back and on special teams in his three previous seasons.

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Embree and his staff are expected to settle on the first depth chart of camp after reviewing Friday's second scrimmage, which will be closed. That depth chart will set the Nos. 1-2 offensive and defensive units, allowing them to begin concentrated work in the final two weeks before the Buffs' Sept. 3 opener at Hawaii.

If the cornerback picture is clearing up for him, Embree said that wasn't the case in settling on a No. 1 punter. Neither incumbent sophomore Zach Grossnickle nor freshman walk-on Darragh O'Neill has separated himself, possibly pushing the competition past the mid-week timeline Embree has mentioned for naming a starter.

"After (Monday), golly . . . I don't know," Embree said about identifying his punter by mid-week. "In a perfect world, yeah, but we're going to put the pressure on them (Tuesday) and see if someone asserts themselves. No one wants it. No one wants to do it. I thought that was a fun thing to do; I guess not."

He called Monday's punting "average at best - and that's because I don't know anything else to say."

SEVERAL HAPPY RETURNS: A handful of players resumed full practice Monday, among them tailback Brian Lockridge (bruised tailbone), defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe (neck/shoulder soreness) and cornerback Parker Orms (strained calf).

Orms, injured in the 2010 season-opener, said he still was experiencing some swelling in his leg but was determined "to play through the pain if it's there. If it's hurting too much, you don't want to try and be Superman . . . like coach Brown said, if it starts swelling too much come out."

He said he felt like his legs were "all over the place, but I was just excited to get out there. I'm just going to keep working every day. It sucks being off a week and not getting those reps, but I'm going to work twice as hard now."

A safety and nickel back previously, he conceded that corner "is different, but I like it. I kind of missing getting inside and tackling somebody . . . but I'll still be playing nickel and I'll get that chance to (tackle). But we definitely need corners and I want to compete for the job."

The biggest transition he's had to make: "Getting your mind playing pass first and run second." He said he believes he can cover the required ground at corner and "compete with the rest of the guys. I think I can play the position really well."

Embree said he was watching other areas of practice and couldn't gauge Orms' progress. "But the good news is I don't see him riding off in a cart," he said. "So there's a positive sign. But I think having him back and having him in the mix and getting him going will help us back there."

SORE, BEAT UP AND WORN OUT: Embree called Monday "separation day," telling his players that practices such as this one would separate the Buffs from some Pac-12 teams that might not be enduring such physical drills during camp. He also said physical practices would precede Friday's scrimmage.

"We're battling some things right now," Embree said. "Some guys are going through, I guess, the flu bug. That's why we're a little lethargic, so that was one of the issues (Monday). Guys are beat up and sore, but they keep making the pads talk."

"So that's an encouraging sign, because we're going to feel like this in Week Eight (of the regular season). Let's see how we respond in Week Eight when we're beat up, sore and tired like this."

Embree noted that most of the players who had been absent from practice or limited during practice were easy to spot: "They're a little bit fresher and have a little more juice in them."

'DANGEROUS DUDE' GOODSON? When he was three years old, Joseph Goodson's older brothers began calling him D.D. "I don't know why, they just came up with it one day playing football . . . it doesn't stand for anything,"

Goodson says.

The random nickname stuck, and now the kid from Rosenberg, Texas, is going about making sure it sticks out among the incoming CU freshmen.

Almost immediately after his arrival on campus this summer, Goodson made a positive first impression on director of strength and conditioning Malcolm Blacken.

Said Blacken: "That kid's got a tremendous work ethic. He's mature beyond his years; he works like he's 25 years old. He's all business."

Initially pegged as an "athlete," Goodson is 5-7, 165 pounds and maybe is as hard to miss as he is to hit. With "dreads" flowing, he's proving to be one of the Buffs' most elusive tailbacks, practicing entirely at that position through camp.

"You can be a receiver at the running back position because you do a lot of flat routes and I feel comfortable coming out of the backfield doing that," he said. "But I believe I can run inside and outside . . . I'm shifty and can make people miss, but I'm not scared to lower my shoulder and go at you."

Goodson said it took him until Monday to begin to feel comfortable with the CU playbook: "But now everything has settled down and is moving much slower now that I know the playbook and know what I'm doing."

He called football at this level "exactly what I thought it would be; it's college football and they're hard on us. We come to work every day. I'm used to the heat, but the elevation got to me a little early. This camp is hard, but that's what I was looking forward to. So I came here to work."

According to Embree, Goodson's early work will pay off: "He's going to play a role; we're just looking to see where he fits."

BOHN TO SPEAK AT DENVER PRESS CLUB: CU Athletic Director Mike Bohn will be the featured speaker at a special CU sports luncheon at the Denver Press Club (1330 Glenarm Place, downtown Denver) on Thursday, Aug. 25.

Buffs fans and college football followers in general will learn about CU's move to the Pac-12 Conference, the selection of new head football coach Jon Embree and the Buffs' prospects for the 2011 season. There also will be a Q&A session with Bohn.

Doors open at 11 a.m., with a buffet beginning at 11:30. The program featuring Bohn follows at about 12:15 p.m. The price for lunch and the program is \$14 for Denver Press Club members, \$16 for non-members, and includes drawings for several door prizes, including tickets to the Rocky Mountain Showdown between CU and Colorado State on Sept. 17.

Register at www.blacktie-colorado.com, or call the Denver Press Club at 303-571-5260.

BUFF BITS: Embree is still looking for more productivity and consistency out of senior receiver Toney Clemons. "We've got to figure out how to get him more consistent," Embree said. "He's hard on himself; I don't know what it is, but it's something we've got to keep working with him on. I'm sure he expects more out of himself than what he's done." . . . Uzo-Diribe and fellow defensive end Josh Hartigan showed up well on the edge in Monday's practice. Hartigan also caught Embree's eye with his on-field leadership. "As coaches we're trying to see who starts asserting themselves," Embree said. "There were plenty of times out there (Monday) when I normally would have been reacting a little differently, but I just wanted to see how some players (reacted) and were taking it. We're on the sidelines on game days, so they've got to be able to learn to lead on the field and get after each other in the right way when things are going how they should be." Hartigan apparently stepped up in that regard . . . Redshirt freshman Kaiwi Crabb, who played some at center in Saturday's scrimmage, worked with

the first-team offense at right guard Monday - a result of what Embree said was continued experimentation in the interior O-line The Buffs have their final two-a-day practice Tuesday (8:30-11 a.m.; 3:30-5:30 p.m.). It will be open to the public, as will morning workouts on Wednesday (8:30-11 a.m.) and Thursday (9:30-11 a.m.). Friday's scrimmage (noon-3 p.m.) is closed. Fall semester classes begin Monday, Aug. 22, with the practice schedule shifting to 4-6 p.m. daily (closed).

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SHOW MENU



Consistency key for CU Buffs' Toney Clemons

Dropped balls hindering senior wide receiver

By **Joshua Linden**stein Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:08/15/2011 06:18:00 PM MDT



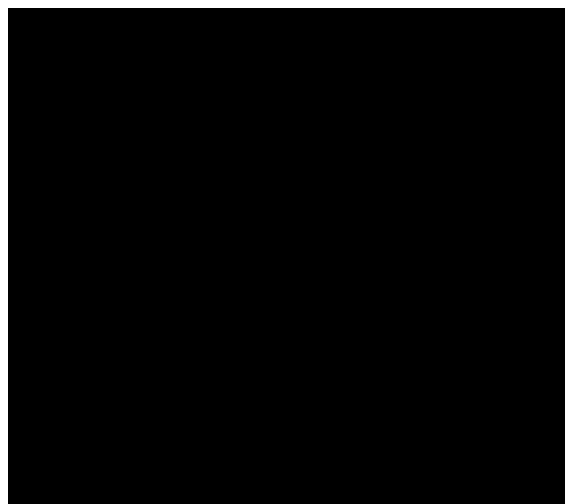
Colorado football coach Jon Embree sent a message to his receiving corps early in fall camp when he declared sophomore Paul Richardson the only wideout on whom he could rely.

Senior Toney Clemons heard the challenge loud and clear.

"You don't like to take it personally, but as a competitor you definitely want to take it to heart," Clemons said. "And I have."

Clemons entered fall camp atop the CU depth chart at the X receiver position after finishing second on the squad in receptions last year. But he's also been plagued in the preseason by inconsistency and dropped passes that he knows he needs to clean up if he's to contribute the way the Buffs need him to this fall.

"We've got to figure out how we can get him more consistent," Embree said Monday. "He's hard on himself. I don't know what it is, but it's something we've just got to keep working on with him."



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Few football players see more faces and places in their college careers than Toney Clemons will have by the time he's done.

A transfer from Michigan who played there under Lloyd Carr and Rich Rodriguez, the Colorado senior wide receiver is on his fourth college head coach this season. And when league play rolls around, he'll become the first player to compete in the Big Ten, Big 12 and Pac-12 conferences.

"It's been a roller coaster," Clemons said.

A top-10 receiver recruit nationally out of high school who caught 12 passes in two seasons at Michigan, the 6-foot-2, 210-pounder got the chance to prove his value last season as a big, strong possession receiver with a knack for keeping the chains moving.

He played in all 12 games and started eight, catching 43 passes for 482 yards and three touchdowns. Twenty of those receptions came on third or fourth down, with 16 of those going for first downs. He also had a hand in CU's longest play from scrimmage last year, a 73-yard touchdown catch from Tyler Hansen against Hawaii.

Indications in camp are that Clemons is still in line to be a starter if the season started tomorrow.

But Monday's practice showed glimpses of both the good and bad he's dealt with this fall. While he caught a 25-yard touchdown pass down the sideline and made a couple of other solid grabs in traffic, he also had a drop on a short route where he was open.

Catching the ball has been one thing. But receivers coach Bobby Kennedy said he wants more from all of his players as far as going full speed on every play.

"We're getting there," Kennedy said. "These are the dog days right now, but the great ones try to push through it and compete every play."

In a senior like Clemons, Kennedy said he's also looking for someone who can execute at "a dominant level" to set himself apart from other guys who might have the same physical tools.

Clemons said a hamstring injury that limited his practice time in the spring didn't help as far as getting into a rhythm. But he also doesn't cut himself any slack.

Aside from just making plays with the ball, Clemons said he's trying to get better at little details when the ball isn't in his hands -- things like blocking away from the ball in the run game and finishing routes.

"That's been my main focus," Clemons said.

Clemons said he's enjoyed the experiences he's had. But all of the twists and turns and lack of continuity in his career have also been frustrating at times -- something he's now trying to use as fuel for motivation to close out his career on a high note.

"I need to have a good year and Colorado needs to have a good year," Clemons said.

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CU Buffs' Orms back in mix at cornerback

Sophomore returns to practice after injury

By Joshua Lindenstone Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:08/15/2011 02:14:10 PM MDT



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The Colorado football team's situation at cornerback got a little brighter Monday with the return of Parker Orms to full contact participation. And one of the bigger question marks of camp -- who will start at the position -- seems to be getting a little clearer as well even if coaches aren't ready to announce anything yet.

Orms, a sophomore out of Wheat Ridge High, practiced for the first time since the first day of camp 11 days earlier, rotating in with the top defensive unit on several occasions.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Orms had been out with calf cramps and swelling in the same leg on which he had knee surgery last season.

"It's my favorite thing to do, play football," said Orms, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament on the third play of the season last fall and missed spring practices. "It sucked watching camp for the first week. It kind of felt like last year a little bit, just wanting to get in there but you can't really do anything."

Orms, who was tabbed as the top nickelback last year before his injury, admitted Monday that he should have been

wearing his knee brace the first day of camp when his injury occurred. While he said there's no new ligament damage, he said the training staff did worry that maybe he'd tweaked some cartilage in the knee in addition to the calf cramps.

"It's definitely not 100 percent," Orms said. "But I've got to play 100 percent. My knee is going to hurt. I've just got to play through it."

The biggest step now, Orms said, is getting back in shape.

"I know what I'm doing. I've been watching and studying my playbook. I've just got to come out here every day and just work twice as hard as the other guys because they've already got a week ahead."

Orms' return was a welcome sight for a club that is trying to find capable players at the position.

Head coach Jon Embree said after Saturday's scrimmage that sophomores Ayodeji Olatoye and Paul Vigo, senior Travis Sandersfeld and freshman Greg Henderson were probably the top four guys at the position.

Sandersfeld and Henderson seemed to get the heaviest share of reps with the top unit Monday, but Embree wasn't ready to name starters just yet.

"I think I know who our corners are going to be, so we'll see if they finish like that," he said.

Uzo-Diribe back

Another happy return for the Buffs' defense Monday was that of defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe.

The sophomore left the field in an ambulance on Wednesday after falling on his head and neck. He was released from the hospital that afternoon but was held out of practice for a couple of days, including Saturday's scrimmage.

Embree said Uzo-Diribe had been begging to get back on the practice field since Thursday, and the player made one of the bigger stops Monday, stuffing tailback Rodney Stewart in the backfield near the goal line to help force a field goal by the offense.

"You can tell the guys that have been out," Embree said. "They're a little bit fresher, a little bit more juice in them. So it was good having him back."

Field leadership

The new CU coaching staff has gained a reputation for being vocal and direct with players in practice, but Embree said he tried to hold back a bit Monday during live situations.

"There were plenty of times today I probably normally would have had a little different reaction," Embree said. "But I just wanted to see if we were going to have some players saying some stuff and start taking it. We're on the sidelines on game day, so they've got to be able to learn how to lead out there on the field and get after each other in the right way when things aren't going as they should be."

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SPORTS

Little Guy On The Field May Be CU's Biggest Ground Threat

August 15, 2011 9:01 PM

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Rodney Stewart (credit: CBS)

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BOULDER, Colo. (CBS4)- He's not the biggest guy on the field, but Rodney Stewart has become the University of Colorado Buffaloes' biggest ground threat.

Darrell Scott was supposed to be CU's next Heisman Trophy winner. He was supposed to break all the school's rushing records. Everybody expected greatness, but nobody expected running back Rodney Stewart to crash the party.

"I looked forward to coming here and competing against him and playing with him as teammate, so once we got here and started practicing, and getting into the games, you know, it was the coach's call," Stewart said.

It was an easy call to make. In Stewart's third game as a Buff, he burst onto the national scene. With the nation watching on a Thursday night, the unknown Stewart rushed for 166 yards against West Virginia.



Rodney Stewart of the Colorado Buffaloes rushes for a first down against the West Virginia Mountaineers at Folsom Field on Sept. 18, 2008, in Boulder. (Photo by Doug Pensinger/Getty Images)

"After the game I laid in grass, I just laid down, I couldn't believe it! They were a ranked team. It was something I dreamed about from a little kid, just being on this level. And accomplishing something so big, it was great to me," said Stewart.



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[More](#) All he's done since then is become CU's 5th all time leading rusher.

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At first glance, stopping the guy they call Speedy doesn't appear too daunting. He's listed at 5-foot-6 and 175 pounds. But what he lacks in size, he makes up for in other areas.

"He has huge heart. Everyone talks about the 'want to.' He definitely has the want to," quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "He wants to be great. He came in as a freshman three years ago with a chip on his shoulder and he still has that chip on his shoulder. There's going to be no stopping Rodney Stewart."

Guard Ryan Miller told CBS4 Stewart plays like a bigger player.

"If you've seen his arms, he's not a little guy — he's jacked," guard Ryan Miller said. "He's may not be as tall as the next guy, but he can sure slip through and find holes."

Safety Ray Polk says Stewart has a chip on his shoulder. "Which is a good thing," he said.

The new man in charge of the team, Coach Jon Embree, has definitely noticed Stewart's mantra.

"When you're smaller player, if every time you have the ball — especially as a running back — you don't have an attitude, you're in trouble," Embree said.

Embree described one play that particularly impressed him recently in practice.

"I don't know how many of you guys were out there ... he broke a run and cut back and went around the outside and the safety came and he tried to kill the guy. And it's practice. It's a mindset and a mentality, and I hope this doesn't offend him, he is a great little guy."

Stewart said he's constantly motivated to prove people wrong about him.

"I've always been small, so around 6, 7, 8 years old you just get over it, you know. You just got to get out there and play. I have the talent to be blessed to come on and prove people wrong," Stewart said.

Another Buff who proved people wrong despite his size was Eric Bieniemy, the Buffaloes new offensive coordinator. Bieniemy is the school's all-time leading rusher, but Stewart only needs about 1,200 yards to pass him.

SPORTS SNAPSHOT OF THE DAY

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Cam Newton, the No. 1 pick of this year's NFL Draft, throws his arm bands into the crowd to Carolina Panthers fans after defeating the New York Giants 20-10 at Bank of America Stadium on Aug. 13, 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina. (Photo by Streeker Lecka/Getty Images)

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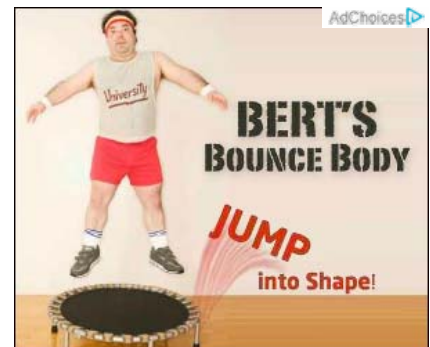
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"Records are made to be broken. I could care less that it's broken. Bottom line, if he's breaking it, that means we're doing something absolutely right," said Bieniemy.

Stewart said the two of them haven't actually talked about the school rushing record so far.

"We talk about what we're going to do this year. We might talk about it. If we get a chance. Not at this moment, we've never talked about it."

"I thought about that, just having the chance to never be forgotten or when my time is done. If the record is broken or if I don't break the record, I'm just blessed to be here and have my name somewhere on that chart," said Stewart.

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THE DENVER POST

cu football

CU's Orms, Uzo-Diribe return to practice

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 08/15/2011 11:54:05 AM MDT

Updated: 08/15/2011 12:35:31 PM MDT

BOULDER — Two sophomores expected to earn starting roles on the Colorado defense this season, defensive back Parker Orms and defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe, returned to practice today after being out with injuries.

Orms had been out since early in fall camp with knee and calf problems. He underwent ACL surgery last fall after getting injured in the opener against Colorado State.

Uzo-Diribe was hospitalized for a few hours for observation on Wednesday after complaining of tingling when he landed awkwardly on his shoulder pads and helmet.

CU coach Jon Embree said it was good to see them on the field. "You could tell the ones that had been out," Embree said. "They had fresh legs."

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AUGUST 16, 2011, 7:32 AM

Review of scrimmage film has CU's Embree impressed with freshmen

By TOM KENSLE |  No Comments



Aaron Ontiveroz, The Denver Post

Freshman Greg Henderson, top, was impressive in the scrimmage.

BOULDER — Video tape of Saturday's scrimmage has been reviewed, analyzed and dissected by Colorado coaches. Here's what head coach Jon Embree had to say:

"Early on, offensively, we'd have one guy break down here or there," Embree said. "After seeing that, it was disappointing.

"But it was nothing we can't fix. It was good for them to be in that environment, that pressure — getting them to think and react. That explained why we started slow. We have to start fast. We have to create our own momentum. We've learned how to do that a little bit, but we're not where we want to be."

As far as personnel, Embree said he didn't want to mention names. "I think I know who our corners are going to be, if they finish like that," he said. "I'm not going to say anything now, but I think that cleared up that. I think it helped with some guys at the back end of the safety position that can help us. And I thought a couple of the young 'backers played really well.

"We have to see how guys on the special teams can help us. That cleared up. A couple of the (young) receivers started distinguishing themselves."

As for who Embree was referring to, it was no secret among those watching the scrimmage that the young players who played well included freshman cornerback Greg Henderson, freshman safeties Kyle Washington and Will Harlos, freshman linebacker Brady Daigh and freshman receivers Tyler McCulloch and Nelson Spruce.