



Rodney Stewart broke a 97-yard run as the offense took the spotlight in the first day of pads.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



First Day In Pads Proves Beneficial To Buffs Offense

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

BOULDER - Whether it was simply the law of averages catching up with the Colorado offense or that unit finally finding and hitting the "ON" button, Jon Embree left the practice field Monday morning feeling a bit better about his 'O.'

Of course in reality that makes for mixed feelings; head coaches also have the 'D' to consider. But the Buffaloes' first day in full pads clearly belonged to the offense - and Embree said it was about time.

"The offense won it today ... it was a good thing (because) the defense won the last three days," he said after the nearly 3 1/2-hour session. "You've got to win one of these days, or we're going to have to play the defense on offense. So yeah, it is good.

"I think sometimes you start feeling good about yourself because you've been handling them, then the offense comes back and hits you right back in the mouth and you realize you don't take it for granted."

But overall, noted Embree, the Buffs' intensity level remained at the high level that was achieved during the camp's first four days of work in shorts and/or shells. "It was great," he said.

BUFFALO EXTRAS

- [→ Fall Camp](#)
- [→ Buy Tickets](#)

Especially gratifying for the offense (and perplexing for the defense) was a segment of the practice devoted to the 'O' being "backed up" - trying to work its way downfield from its own 2- or 3-yard line. It did, and on one of the possessions senior tailback Rodney "Speedy" Stewart burst up field for a 97-yard touchdown run.

Here come those mixed feelings for Embree. He applauded his offense, but chased off the entire defense, sending players to an adjacent field to do "up-downs."

Embree said the offensive line did a good job of asserting itself and is beginning "to start taking on the identity we need . . . the offense ran the ball." Senior guard Ryan Miller agreed: "I thought we did a great job today in the run game. The pass (game) could have been a little better, just speaking for myself. But especially when we were backed up, it's a good feeling to go 97 (yards) . . . that's a huge momentum change."

Miller said Monday's lengthy, ultra-physical practice wasn't about the coaching staff wanting to make a first-day-in-pads statement: "No, I think it's what they intend to do for the rest of the season. I know we're so set on defining who we are and what we are . . . that practice today, that's what we're about. It was a good practice; we got after each other . . . I'm really glad we don't have another practice this afternoon."

He equated the morning's work to "kind of like being in high school . . . having your hands in the dirt every single play. We're going forward and that's it - no ifs, ands and buts about it."

Embree's objective for the day wasn't to push the Buffs to near-exhaustion. Asked what he hoped to get out of the first day in full pads, he said, "Finally getting to tackle, mixing some live stuff in . . . getting in that situation where we were backed up and being able to cut block, do things we needed to do from an offensive line and a tight end standpoint in the run game. We need to get that stuff done."

Senior quarterback Tyler Hansen said he felt "more comfortable" in almost everything he attempted Monday than in the first four days of preseason camp.

"This was a real good day for me," Hansen said. "I thought the first couple of days I was kind of getting used to things, getting back the feel. Today I felt really comfortable and made good decisions."

The offensive efficiency, he said, resulted partly from full pads being worn for the first time: "You can do all your stuff when you're in full pads. But we're also trying to stay on our toes to get the defense on their heels - so they have to think when they're tired. That's our goal. But we do get tired and we do mess up, so we have to get better."

At the end of Monday's practice, Embree emphasized to all of his players that they must "think when we're tired." Earlier in the practice, he said, "We had some penalties we just can't have - we roughed the kicker on a tight punt (at the back of the end zone). We can't do that because we give (the offense) life."

Continuing to think through fatigue, said Miller, applies to everyone: "Both sides of the ball have to do it. As many plays as there are on offense, there are that many coverages and reads on defense. I mean, they've got to get in the right defense, they've got to fill the right gaps. Same thing on offense; if one guy doesn't do his job, we get sacked. If one guy doesn't do his job on defense, we score seven."

Of the "backed-up" drill, Hansen said, "That's how you do it; 'EB' (offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy) called good plays and we did a good job of executing. We had three drives that went right down the field."

Hansen said Bieniemy's play-calling overall will be different from what he and the offense are accustomed to because the offensive emphasis is different.

"Obviously we've got a different offense with a fullback and tight ends, we're in a lot more heavy sets and trying to run downhill a lot more," Hansen said. "It's a lot better complement to our play-action stuff. We haven't had that before. Last year we had a couple (of play-action calls) but now I can take time on a play fake - and that

brings a safety up and we can throw over the top. We really didn't have that (capability) before because we didn't have this type of running game."

DOUBLE DUTY: The Buffs have three days of two-a-day drills scheduled, with two of the "double days" scheduled this week (Tuesday, Thursday). Consecutive two-a-day drills aren't permitted, and Embree noted that one afternoon of the scheduled two-a-days will be a "young guy practice," or a teaching session for newcomers.

The NFL is trending away from two-a-days and Embree said he understands the reasoning. Two-a-days "came about to get guys in shape, but players at all levels - for the most part - are working out all summer, if not year round," he said. "So they're in shape; it is a violent game if you play it the right way. There's only so much you have in you; there's a fine line between practicing and learning how to do it and embracing it, as opposed to not doing anything and then thinking you're automatically going to do it when you get on the field."

BACK TO THE FUTURE: The fullback will play a more prominent role in CU's offense, and converted linebacker Evan Harrington is taking well to his new role. Embree said Harrington, a 5-11, 230-pound senior, and fellow senior and former linebacker Tyler Ahles (6-2, 235) "are both physical, it's just that Evan's a little further along in the playbook in understanding what we want, who to block and how we want it done." Harrington, a transfer from College of the Canyons in 2010, played in all 12 games last season on special teams but only saw duty on six snaps on defense.

WATCHING, WAITING: Defensive back Parker Orms watched most of Monday's practice from a golf cart, elevating a strained calf. Embree said he hoped Orms, a safety who is being given a look at cornerback, can return by Thursday and participate in Saturday's scrimmage (noon-3 p.m.). "But that's me," Embree added. "The trainers might have a different deal. I don't ask so much when, but just how he's doing."

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

SHOW MENU



Promising CU Buff Tyler McCulloch reminds coach Jon Embree of McCaffrey

Incoming frosh wears Ex-Bronco's No. 87

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:08/08/2011 11:42:23 PM MDT



Jon

Embree wanted to bite his tongue and keep the secret.

But during a media day press conference on Saturday at the Dal Ward Center, Colorado's head coach decided to break his own rule against it and brag about a true freshman.

After only two practices, Embree even compared CU's new No. 87 -- Tyler McCulloch -- to a legendary Denver Broncos wide receiver who wore the same number during the Super Bowl glory days.

"I don't want to say, but I will. He's a freshman. Tyler McCulloch is doing a lot of good things," Embree said when asked about players standing out early in camp. "He makes mistakes at full speed when he does make a mistake, which doesn't happen a lot. He is very aggressive catching the ball. He is probably all of 6-5, and he has a way of getting behind people.

"I gave him 87 because he reminds me of an 87 I used to watch, a Bronco, Ed McCaffrey. I'm excited to see if he keeps progressing. He's jumped out right now."

McCulloch missed most of his senior season at Eldorado High School in Albuquerque, N.M., after suffering a lacerated liver and spleen during a vicious hit. As a result of the injury, he did not have any Division I scholarship offers.

Fortunately for McCulloch and the Buffs, he had attended Dan Hawkins' football camp in Boulder last summer. Former CU recruiting coordinator Robert Tucker told the new staff about the potential hidden gem as they were scrambling to put together the 2011 class.

It was love at first sight.

"After signing day, actually on Valentine's Day, I met the coaches and took the offer," said McCulloch, who had been planning to walk on at New Mexico. "It was a blessing."

Tyler Hansen already has his favorite targets lined up with Toney Clemons and Paul Richardson expected to start again, but there also might be room in the huddle for a tall, sure-handed wide receiver with a firm grasp of the new playbook.

"The first thing with Tyler is he catches the ball really well," wide receivers coach Bobby Kennedy said. "He's learning our offense, for a freshman, real well. He's really bright. He's not a finished product, he's young. We've been encouraged with him in camp, but the things we can build upon are that he runs good routes and has a feel for the game.

"We're throwing a lot of things at these guys every day. We're installing new plays every afternoon. And the good thing about him is he has been a guy who has been able to retain it."

Over a 14-month period from the end of the eighth grade until the beginning of his sophomore year of high school, McCulloch grew nine inches. Ironically, during that same time period his passion for basketball faded and his main focus was on football.

"I was a pretty goofy kid for a while," McCulloch said. "Now I'm starting to grow into my body."

The entire team is adjusting to Embree's more intense and physical practice style. The first five days at the CU practice field have been a real eye-opener for McCulloch.

"Camp is no joke. It's a lot different experience than anything I've ever done before. In high school we have maybe three days of two-a-days, and then we'd start going light," he said. "This is definitely a lot to get used to. You have to make the most of your down time and get in the training room.

"I'm learning a lot about how important ice baths are right now."

McCulloch -- the first player from the Land of Enchantment to sign with the Buffs out of high school since Darius Holland (Las Cruces, N.M.) in 1991 -- just wants to quietly blend in with his new teammates and impress coaches with his work ethic.

That's how McCaffrey caught Mike Shanahan's eye back in the day.

"I'm not trying to show anyone up or anything. I'm trying to do my thing," McCulloch said. "The most important thing so far is getting into the playbook. I think that's what has got me on the field a little more, because I've been knowing what I'm doing out there so far."

CU Buffs to hit two-a-days

By **Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:08/08/2011 04:28:58 PM MDT



Click on any photo to see full gallery

Who got the better of the NFL's new labor deal?

Certainly not old-school coaches.

The players can no longer be subjected to two-a-day practices during training camp (teams can have one practice and one walk-through per day).

NCAA rules state schools can practice only once a day for the first five days, and then can practice twice every other day.

After five practices and five walk-throughs over the first five days of fall camp, the Colorado football team will endure its first two-a-day practice under first-year head coach Jon Embree with both a morning and afternoon session on Tuesday.

"I understand it," Embree, a former assistant with the Washington Redskins and Kansas City Chiefs, said of the NFL's new practice policy. "Two-a-days came about to get guys

in shape. The players, at all levels for the most part, are working out all summer, if not year-round. So they're in shape.

"It is a violent game if you play it the right way, and so there is only so much you have in you. There is a fine line between practicing and learning how to do it and embracing it, as opposed to not doing anything and thinking you're going to do it when you get on the field."

The Buffs wore full pads for the first time during Monday's practice. After allowing the defense to push them around the three previous days, the offensive linemen responded with a physical practice that allowed Rodney Stewart and Paul Richardson to make some explosive plays.

"Our intensity level didn't change from what it has been," Embree said. "Offense ran the ball ... the offense won it today."

CU will also have two-a-days on Thursday and on Aug. 16. Players will get three days off from practice before classes begin on Aug. 22.

"Basically, the way I you understand (the rule), you're allowed one two-a-day, and then for every two-a-day after that they have to have a day off," Embree said.

Fullback emerging

One of the unsung heroes of CU's 2001 Big 12 championship team, which ran the ball down hill with Chris Brown, Bobby Purify and Cortlen Johnson, was fullback Brandon Drumm.

As the Buffs look to establish a dominate ground game again under offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy, it appears the coaches have found another powerful lead blocker in Evan Harrington. Embree said Monday the converted linebacker leads Tyler Ahles in the competition for the starting job.

"They're both physical, but Evan's a little farther along on the playbook and understanding what we want, who to block and how we want it done," Embree said. "I'd say he has the edge right now."

Harrington, a senior who transferred to CU from College of the Canyons in 2010, only saw action on six defensive plays last season. He might eclipse that number on the Buffs' first drive of the season at Hawaii if the offense is executing the game plan.

Clemons responds

After publicly calling out wide receiver Toney Clemons after Sunday's practice for "dropping too many passes," Embree said the talented target responded with a solid effort on Monday.

"Toney practiced today. He did it. Now can he do it tomorrow? Anybody can do something once," Embree said. "Hopefully, he continues on. He understands it's about getting better and helping the team."

Overall, new wide receivers coach Bobby Kennedy has been impressed with Clemons, who had 43 receptions and three touchdowns last season.

"There's no doubt Toney has the tools. We'd like him to step up and we think he has the physical ability. He's a smart kid, he's a nice kid, and he can be a big-play receiver for us if he becomes more consistent," Kennedy said. "But I haven't been disappointed in Toney so far. The first two days of practice he came out and lit the world on fire. Now he just needs consistency."

Notable

Parker Orms watched most of Monday's practice from a golf cart with his sore leg elevated. Embree hopes the sophomore cornerback will be able to return to the field for Saturday's scrimmage. ... Richardson continued to wear out CU's inexperienced cornerbacks. He even had a 98-yard touchdown on a "free play" when the defensive line jumped off sides during the backed up scrimmage. ... Tuesday's first practice (8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.) will be in full pads but the second practice (3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.) is not scheduled to be.

Close Window

Send To Printer

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

sports

Colorado football molded by Malcolm Blacken's conditioning skills

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 08/09/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 08/09/2011 07:26:38 AM MDT

BOULDER — Monday marked Colorado's first practice with full pads and full-speed hitting, and players were sure to be feeling it afterward.

But perhaps they won't be as sore as they might have been. For that, the team can thank Malcolm Blacken, CU's new director of speed, strength and conditioning, and his all-encompassing training regimen designed to strengthen muscles from head to toe.

"With Jon Embree's football camp, he goes hard now," Blacken said. "We're going to have some nicks and some bumps and bruises. But I prepared the guys for this. They knew what's coming."

An assistant strength and conditioning coach last year for the NFL's Washington Redskins, Blacken brought a much different training philosophy to Boulder from what his predecessor, Jeff Pitman, ran.

"It's like night and day," said senior guard Ryan Miller.

While Pitman had the Buffs focus on heavy lifting, Blacken takes a broader approach. He

focuses as much on burst, explosiveness, flexibility and overall athleticism as he does on raw power. Blacken, 45, has the Buffs work the small-muscle groups as well as the big muscles. He points out that some of the NFL's hardest hitters aren't its biggest guys.

"We're not training Olympic weightlifters here," Blacken said. "When we run, we're not a track team. We're a football team."

"What we do in the weight room is important, but it has to transfer to what we do on the field. That's what it's all about. I tell the position coaches, 'I'm not going to give you a better football player. I'm going to give you a better athlete to become a better football player.'"

Working under Blacken, some players have much different body types from a year ago. The 6-foot-8 Miller is listed at 295 pounds, down 15 pounds from his weight a year ago. Senior defensive tackle Conrad Obi said he is "definitely quicker" and down from about 305 to 290.

"We were definitely strong under Coach Pit," Miller said. "With Malcolm, we're strong and we can move. You're more of an athlete with Malcolm. You have to be. Otherwise, you couldn't survive his workouts."



Send flowers
for any occasion
Bouquets
from \$19.99
+s/h

ProFlowers[®]
Offer ONLY available at:
proflowers.com/happy
or call 1.877.804.1133

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Blacken's weekly offseason training schedule began with weightlifting and running on Mondays and then running the stadium steps of Folsom Field on Tuesdays.

"I wanted them to sweat in their home stadium," Blacken said. "We've made what I call 'deposits' in our stadium. During the season, when everybody gets tired, we'll be able to reach into the 'toolbox' and say, 'Remember when were in the stadium running when everybody else was sleeping?' "

Thursdays were "jack rabbit day" because the running drills focused on improving change in direction: shuttle runs, planting, cutting. "Monster day" Fridays might involve pushing sleds, pulling sleds, throwing around tires — kind of like a reality show for lumberjacks.

"Under Coach Pit, we'd run one day and lift another day," said CU senior quarterback Tyler Hansen. "Under Coach Blacken, we did both running and lifting the same day.

"He made it tough on us, but that should help us get through playing 13 straight games without a break."

Blacken likes to surprise the players with a new wrinkle in their offseason workouts.

"Under Pit, we pretty much knew what we were going to do," Miller said. "But with Malcolm, you never know what to expect. It was like, 'What is he going to throw at us today?' You had to prepare yourself mentally for

that.



Malcolm Blacken is a big fan of seeing the Buffs "sweat in their home stadium." (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

"Thank God we had Wednesdays off because there is no way in the world I would have made it four days in a row."

Blacken does not ignore old-school squats, jerks and bench presses. But he also prescribes a variety of fresh techniques, including resistance exercises using stretch bands and power moves from various angles.

"We do sport-specific movements. That's why we do certain lifts that mimic what we do on the field," said Blacken, who with his staff oversees the strength and conditioning for all 16 Colorado varsity sports teams.

DONATE YOUR CAR!



The Breast Cancer Research Foundation

100% Tax Deductible
Free Pick-Up Anywhere
We're Available 7 Days a Week

Donating is Fast & Easy!

Call Today **877-821-5493**

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation is a classified 501 (c)(3) charity.

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

Blacken livens up his workouts and tries to make them fun by setting up competitions — some serious in nature, others not so serious. Offensive linemen run and lift weights with defensive linemen. Wide receivers work out with defensive backs. "Because that's who you've got to beat," Blacken said.

Embree said a testament to Blacken's impact on the CU program in such a short time is the fact that only one player missed a voluntary workout this summer.

"That's one guy," Embree said. "And he missed one day."

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or tkensler@denverpost.com

The Blacken file

A look at Malcolm Blacken, the Colorado Buffaloes' director of speed, strength and conditioning:

Age: 45

Hometown: Rural Mathews County, Va.

Joined CU: January

College playing days: Running back at Virginia Tech (1989)

College resume: Assistant strength and conditioning coach, South Carolina (1990-91); head strength and conditioning coach, George Mason (1992-94); assistant, Virginia (1995)

NFL resume: Assistant strength and conditioning coach, Washington Redskins (1996-2000); head strength and conditioning coach, Detroit Lions (2001-09); assistant S&C coach, Redskins (2010)

What you may not know: At age 12, daughter Maya is a nationally ranked long jumper in her

age group.

Quotable: "Mike Shanahan was funny," Blacken said. "He said: 'Hey, man, if you had come to me (about another job opportunity) at any other school, any other city, I would have said heck no. But I love the state of Colorado.' Now I know what he means."

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

Get a FREE ADT-Monitored Home Security System.*

(With \$99 customer installation and purchase of ADT alarm monitoring services. See important terms and conditions below.)

Call Now! 1-877-835-8373

SECURITY CHOICE
ADT Authorized Company

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

*\$99.00 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$35.99 per month (\$1,295.64). Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Certain restrictions apply. Offer valid for new Security Choice - An ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT Security Services, Inc. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. **\$100 VISA® Gift Card Offer: \$100 VISA Gift Card is provided by Security Choice and is not sponsored by ADT Security Services. Requires mail-in redemption. Call 1-888-407-2338 for complete restrictions and redemption requirements.

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

AUGUST 9, 2011, 8:21 AM

First of CU's trio of two-a-days is today

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post

New CU coach Jon Embree on NCAA rule changes: Two-a-days came about to get guys in shape. But players, at all levels really, are working out all the time. So they're already in shape."

BOULDER — In an effort to make the game safer, the NCAA has invoked further restrictions on the number of two-a-day practices that a team can schedule during August drills.

Colorado is down to three two-a-days, the first of which is today (Tuesday). The Buffs, now in full pads, will practice today from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and again this afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Both practices are open to the public.

CU's other two-a-days are Thursday of this week and on Tuesday, Aug. 16. The starting times of those practices are the same as those of today. They also are open to the public.

"I understand it," CU coach Jon Embree said of the reduction of two-a-days. "Two-a-days came about to get guys in shape. But players, at all levels really, are working out all the time. So they're already in shape.

"And it is a violent game, if you play it the right way. There's only so much you have in you. There's a fine line."

Colorado often gathers as a team on the practice fields twice a day. But other than the three specified two-a-days, those include a walk-through session that is closed to the public.

Walk-throughs do not count against the number of practices allowed during August camp. But a football may not be used.

The public is invited to attend all regular sessions through the Aug. 19 scrimmage.

Here is a list of remaining camp sessions open to the public:

- Today: 8:30 to 11 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- Thursday: 8:30 to 11 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Friday: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday: scrimmage, noon to 3 p.m., practice fields
- Sunday: no practice
- Monday: 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- Aug. 16: 8:30 to 11 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17: 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- Aug. 18: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Aug. 19: scrimmage, noon to 3 p.m., practice fields, final camp session open to the public.

Spectators should be aware that campus police is ticketing vehicles parked in numbered university lots that require a parking pass. Metered spaces and other public parking are scattered throughout campus.

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/08/09/first-of-cus-trio-of-two-a-days-is-today/19336/>

Click [here](#) to print.

All contents [Copyright © 2011 The Denver Post](#) or other copyright holders. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.

The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

AUGUST 8, 2011, 3:09 PM

CU's Embree hopes Orms available by Saturday

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments



Karl Gehring, The Denver Post

Parker Orms.

BOULDER — Colorado sophomore defensive back Parker Orms spent much of the morning pedalling on a stationary bike. Orms and the coaches would rather he be on the field.

Orms strained a calf muscle Thursday during the team's first practice. CU head coach Jon Embree said he hopes the former Wheat Ridge High School standout can return to practice by the end of the week and be available Saturday for the first scrimmage of camp.

The scrimmage is scheduled for noon to 3 p.m. Saturday on the practice fields. It will be open to the public.

Orms redshirted in 2009 and then suffered a season-ending ACL tear last fall early in the season opener against Colorado State.

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/08/08/cus-embree-hopes-orms-available-by-saturday/19304/>

Click [here](#) to print.

All contents [Copyright © 2011 The Denver Post](#) or other copyright holders. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.

The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

AUGUST 8, 2011, 2:38 PM

CU offense wins first day in pads

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments



Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post

"The offense," said first-year CU coach Jon Embree, "we ran the ball."

BOULDER — No head football coach wants one side of the ball to dominate practices for long stretches, so Colorado's Jon Embree was pleased that the offense shined Monday during the first day in full pads.

"Our intensity didn't change from what it has been, and the offense ... we ran the ball," Embree said after watching full-speed hitting for the first time since spring drills.

"We did have a roughed up punter, we had some penalties we can't have, but the offense won it today. That's a good thing. The defense won the first three days. (The offense) had to win one of these days."

Speaking of the defense, Embree said: "Sometimes you get feeling good about yourselves because you have been handling them, and then the offense comes back and hits you in the mouth. You realize you can't take it for granted."

A major portion of Monday's practice was the "backed-up drill," where the offense had the ball inside its 5-yard line. The offense was able to gain positive yardage on almost every play.

"The offensive line did a good job of asserting themselves. ... They're starting to take on the identity that we need," Embree said.

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/08/08/cu-offense-wins-first-day-in-pads/19295/>

Click [here](#) to print.

All contents [Copyright © 2011 The Denver Post](#) or other copyright holders. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.

The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

AUGUST 8, 2011, 1:34 PM

Evan Harrington leads in CU fullback battle

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

BOULDER — After the first practice in full pads was complete and players began hitting at full speed, Colorado coach Jon Embree told reporters Monday that senior Evan Harrington is the leader at fullback.

Harrington, 5-feet-11 and 230 pounds, transferred to CU prior to last season as a linebacker from College of the Canyons, a junior college in Southern California. He converted to fullback during spring drills.

Harrington is battling another former linebacker, senior Tyler Ahles. Ahles (6-2, 235) also moved to fullback during spring ball.

“Both of them are physical,” Embree said. “But Harrington is a little further along with the playbook and knowing who to block and how we want it done. I’d say he has the edge right now.”

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/08/08/evan-harrington-leads-in-cu-fullback-battle/19291/>

Click [here](#) to print.

All contents [Copyright © 2011 The Denver Post](#) or other copyright holders. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.



Patrick Finley: Winning on road a tough task for Buffs

Patrick Finley Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Tuesday, August 9, 2011 12:00 am

BOULDER, Colo. - Of the Pac-12's two new football teams, Colorado will be more popular around the league this year.

It's not because its campus has separate trash cans for recycling, landfill and compost waste. (It does.)

Or because Ralphie V is the greatest of college mascots. (He is.) Or because Boulder is fall-down gorgeous, the Kate Upton of college towns. (Totally.)

The past four seasons, Colorado has been the nation's worst visiting team.

The Buffaloes have lost a school-worst 17 straight away games.

Deer fare better on the road.

It's enough to motivate anyone, much less first-year coach Jon Embree, a former CU tight end.

"I want to get it over with," he said. "Get it over with."

He'll have a chance right away, when the Buffaloes open the season as underdogs at Hawaii.

The coach smirked when asked if his team would change its game-day routine when traveling to the islands.

"We might have to start taking buses," he said. "Do something."

Since beating Texas Tech in 2007, the Buffaloes have fallen to Iowa State twice, Florida State, Kansas twice, Missouri twice, Texas A&M, Nebraska twice, Toledo, West Virginia, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Cal and Oklahoma.

They've lost by a total score of 636-319 - a ratio of almost exactly 2-to-1.

The streak symbolizes the worst of the Dan Hawkins era.

Hawkins was fired last year after, in Lawrence, the Kansas Jayhawks scored 35 points in the final 11:04 to win by a touchdown.

"We gotta get the monkey off our back," said defensive coordinator Greg Brown, a former Arizona Wildcats assistant who is starting his third stint in Boulder. "That's a huge deal."

Colorado hasn't been terrible otherwise.

Since the first road loss of the streak, the Buffs have gone 15-8 at home and on neutral sites, including their annual Denver game against Colorado State.

"We have to get that mind-set that no matter who we play and no matter where we're playing, we have to come out just as confident and just as prepared," senior defensive back Anthony Perkins said.

Perkins was on the sideline Oct. 27, 2007, in Lubbock as a redshirting freshman, but he doesn't remember much about the Buffs' last road win.

"That was a long time ago," he said.

Pressed, he vaguely remembered Colorado's Terrence Wheatley, now with the Jacksonville Jaguars, plucking three interceptions out of the sky to help beat Texas Tech 31-26.

(Quick cartoon-related aside: Later that year, when "South Park" character Eric Cartman read Colorado's lineup before an ABC broadcast, he said that "Wheatley has more interceptions than Boulder has hippies - and Boulder has a lottttttttttt of hippies.")

If the Buffs can't beat Hawaii, the streak could reach into the 20s.

Colorado plays maybe the nation's toughest schedule, with no byes and road games at Ohio State, Stanford, Washington, Arizona State, UCLA and Utah.

They'll likely be underdogs in all those games.

"There's been a number of games where we just kind of let it slip away," Perkins said. "You don't have the crowd to rely on.

"You don't have what you're comfortable with. You have to have a whole different mind-set when you're on the road."

There's no mental block, Brown said, as much as an issue of blocking and tackling.

"There's only two rules of football," Brown said. "There's always a loser. And don't be the loser."

Buffalo wings

Colorado's switch from the Big 12 to the Pac-12 means logging more air miles but far less time driving to campuses from the airport.

The CU athletic department crunched the miles - and minutes - to both conferences' 11 campuses and league offices:

Pac-12

8,993

Air miles from Denver International Airport

174

Driving miles from airport to league campuses/office

5:05

Driving time to all campuses/office

Big 12

7,011

Air miles from Denver International Airport

645

Driving miles from airport to league campuses/office

13:05

Driving time to all campuses/office