

CU Buffs look to sack critics

Football team predicted to finish last in Pac-12 South

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Five years of losing, a coaching change and what some believe is the nation's toughest schedule have the college football preseason magazines predicting another sluggish season on the gridiron for the Colorado football program.

Predictably, the Buffaloes disagree and hope to prove they are a contender in their first season in the Pac-12 South Division race.

"I think people are thinking the worst and they don't really know what we have," senior quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "We have a big group of seniors, a lot of returning starters coming back, we've been real close to being bowl eligible the last couple years. So I feel like we're going to surprise people."

"We have a lot of playmakers on offense. Our line is great. Defensively, our line is pretty good and we've got to clean some stuff up in the secondary. And once we do that and figure out our special teams situation in camp, I think we're a solid team."

The case against the Buffs is an easy one to make.

First and foremost, they are slow.

Aside from significant injuries, the overall team speed is the biggest concern of the coaching staff heading into the season.

The Buffs will be dealing with all the transition issues of a team under a new management and in a new conference.

They play 13 consecutive games without a bye, with 11 of them against teams from Bowl Championship Series conferences, seven road games and one on a neutral field.

There are only 16 players on the roster who have been in the program long enough to have experienced a road win.

However, none of those players actually participated in the last victory on the road at Texas Tech on Oct. 27, 2007.

Those facts and others led publications such as Athlon, Lindy's, Phil Steele and The Sporting News to pick the Buffs to finish last or next to last in the Pac-12 South. Most have the Buffs battling UCLA and former CU coach Rick Neuheisel to avoid finishing at the bottom of the division.

"It's the same thing it is every year," offensive lineman Ryan Miller said. "That's all it is is a prediction. It's words on a piece of paper. Big deal."

CU does have some reasons to believe it could be one of the feel-good, turnaround stories by the end of the season.

Players have made it no secret they believe their new coaches are superior to their former staff and they expect that to show up on game days.

There are 27 seniors on the team and both the offensive and defensive lines feature solid experience, which often seems to bode well particularly early in the year.

Having an experienced quarterback also is key and three of the Buffs' most difficult games -- Oregon, USC and Arizona -- will be played at Folsom Field.

CU must win seven games this year to qualify for a bowl game because it is playing an extra regular season game at Hawaii.

"You never know what's going to happen," senior tailback Rodney Stewart said. "It's just a prediction. It's somebody's opinion. We're just going to come out and prove everybody wrong."

Meanwhile, fellow Pac-12 newcomer Utah is predicted to compete for the South Division title and a berth in the inaugural Pac-12 championship game.

The Utes recent history of success has garnered them plenty of respect, despite the fact they have played 11 BCS teams over the last four years and must play 10 this season alone.

The Sporting News ranks the Utes No. 22 in the nation to start the season and predicts they will represent the south in the championship game against Stanford.

Four of the Utes first seven games are on the road, including a trip to USC on Sept. 10 and the annual grudge match with Brigham Young on Sept. 17.

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JULY 20, 2011, 5:29 PM

CU football will have new (old) uniforms, and different helmets

By **NICK GROKE** |  No Comments



[1]

The new CU uniforms will have matching helmets and pants.

It appears the throwback jerseys the Colorado football team sported in 2010 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 1990 national championship team will return again in 2011.

If that's the case, don't expect to see the former Nike-designed jersey with the tiny-type Colorado across the chest over, like, an inch-and-a-half of space. That's what the team had through 2009. (It's kinda like when AT&T became at&t. Why show your name so small? Doesn't that just whimper "insignificant"?)

Consider this a victory for good taste.



^[2]Karl Gehring, The Denver Post

Hansen in 2010.

The new jerseys, based on the old jerseys, have classic stripes on the arms and a bold look. Now, it's COLORADO instead of colorado. Exclamation point.

Quarterback Tyler Hansen on Wednesday [sent out a photo](#) ^[3] of the 2011 jersey [on Twitter](#) ^[4] of the new uniform from the CU locker room (top right). They had just finished filming a commercial, Hansen said.



^[5]RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post

Tyler Hansen in 2009.

And if you'll notice carefully, the helmets are different. In years past, the gold CU football helmet was a different shade of gold than the gold pants. Apparently gold isn't always gold. But the new gold will at least be the same gold.

Linebacker [Doug Rippy](#) ^[6] was pleased. He said on Twitter: "I know #BUFFNATION love the new HELMET LOOK!!! It finally matches the Gold on our UNIFORMS!!!"

No word yet on the white road uniforms. Last season, they kept the small Colorado on the chest. And it might not be that bad, but why was the Nike swoosh logo bigger than the Colorado name? Is the sponsor more important than the team? How would you feel if you were a player busting his butt every week, basically advertising for some company that was paying a lot of money, money you as a player will never ever see?

Oh also, if you were president of the world and only your vote mattered, what would be your ideal CU uniform combo? Black jerseys and gold pants? Black and black? White and white? White and black? White and gold?

You make the call ...

[UPDATE: Mike Bohn confirmed Wednesday](#)^[7] that CU will wear the only black jerseys with gold pants and white jerseys with black pants.

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[6] Doug Rippy: **http://twitter.com/#!/Rip_3**

[7] UPDATE: Mike Bohn confirmed Wednesday : **<http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/07/20/more-details-surface-on-cu-unis/18890/>**

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