



Man of letters: CU Coach Jon Embree
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: Buffs Benefit From Embree's Letter Campaign

Release: 11/11/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - The goals were common ones - team building and bridging the gaps between freshmen and seniors. Near the midway point of a football season headed in the wrong direction, Colorado Coach Jon Embree knew exactly what he was doing - he just didn't know what the outcome might be.

Realizing how fast a season begins rolling from mid-October to its conclusion, Embree had his freshmen write seniors a letter, assuring the upperclassmen that their efforts in a season slipping away would remain solid through late November. Embree also wanted the newbies to let the seniors know the impact they had had on them in their first seasons of college football.

Said Embree: "Those are the guys that need to continue to have the sense of urgency, the younger guys because you always think that your time here will never end, you think you are here forever."

But that never happens. Instead, it always happens like this: football seasons and careers shift into overdrive and suddenly, with what seems like no notice, are within a couple of weekends of being over. CU's 28 seniors close their home careers Saturday against Arizona (12:30 p.m., FCS-Pacific). If they fail to win a game at Folsom

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Field, it will be the first time that a CU team has gone winless at the stadium that opened in 1924.

The Buffs are 0-4 in season No. 88 at Folsom, a season that has trickled to three remaining games and at this point has produced but one win, a current seven-game losing streak and the continuation of a road losing streak that stretches back to 2007 (22 games). CU is 1-9 overall and 0-6 in its first year in the Pac-12 Conference.

Embree saw all the letters and had freshmen read some of them the night before the Buffs played at Washington on Oct. 15. Right away, Embree said with a grin earlier this week, he knew he had entered the era of texts and Tweets. He called it "an interesting exercise to say the least. Not that I'm Mr. Scripps-Howard Spelling Bee champ, but golly. These guys . . . I don't know if 'Wheel of Fortune' will make it that much longer with this generation coming up.

"Some of them you thought you were reading a letter to Santa when they were little. The writing, the handwriting and all of that . . . it was different."

Questionable penmanship and atrocious spelling aside, many of the letters also were moving. Freshman receiver Tyler McCulloch, an under-recruited prospect with a mountainous upside, wrote to senior receiver Toney Clemons, a third-year transfer from Michigan who has moved in and out of Embree's good graces. But during the last month Clemons has inched toward the level of play his coaches believed he could hit.

"It was a humbling experience for me, a really good chance to express how I really feel toward him," McCulloch said. "I came in during the summer and right away looked up to Toney because he was a guy at my position and a guy I was going to learn from.

"From Day One, I looked up to him, and I don't know if he really knew that. I don't know how he saw me originally through camp, but we ended up splitting time and then I got the job. I wanted to be able to inspire him, and since then I've seen Toney do so much more to increase his game. He's been playing incredible lately. I don't know if I was a part of that, but it would definitely make me feel good if I was."

Clemons might not have appreciated McCulloch during August camp when Clemons' focus appeared to be AWOL and he was dropping almost as many balls as he caught. But Clemons appreciates him now, which might be a testament to personal growth during a difficult season for everyone.

"He was thrown into a position that was tough for him," Clemons recalled. "It really wasn't tough for me. I'm not going to be selfish about it and say it was a hard situation for me. It was a harder situation for him. He needed somebody to look up to and groom him. When I wasn't performing the way I should have, he was thrown into that fire prematurely.

"He had to grow up fast, and for him to write me a letter and get his perspective on me and how I handled the situation and how I came to work every day and practiced and helped him, that was a big thing - something I really didn't think he noticed. To have him read it in front of the team, it was an honor to hear it. He's the future of this position - the 'X' receiver for Colorado. I hope he takes anything I taught him and runs with it."

When Clemons was a freshman at Michigan, he "looked up to certain wideouts on our team . . . I was fortunate enough to relieve those guys." But unlike McCulloch, he had never had the opportunity to write a letter to a particular senior. He called Embree's freshman-to-senior letter idea "a good touch, something new. I wish I had the chance to say it to the guys I came up with above me . . . it makes an impact on a person.

"I'm glad Coach Embree took the time out to have those guys read their letters and show us they're in it for us as well, and that we're not alone as a class, that they feel our pain and are fighting for us as well. It really meant a lot. I think it's one of the highlights of my season to hear that."

The letter-writing exercise was a good one for McCulloch and the other freshmen because it reinforced the "all-in" atmosphere Embree is trying to create in CU football. It also let the freshmen know the responsibility that awaits them as seniors. McCulloch said it inspired him "to be a role model for any of the younger guys coming in

and continue to help them do whatever it is they're doing."

Hearing underclassmen before Senior Day speak of "sending them out in the right way" can become clichéd, but it doesn't seem that way for freshmen like McCulloch. "These seniors have been here four or five years; they've worked hard and they definitely deserve to go out the right way," he said. "Coach Embree talks about it all the time. It's been unfortunate this year with some of the losses, but these are some great guys. They've been good with the freshmen. They deserve to go out with a win."

The letters are bound to be among the better memories Embree takes away from his first season as a college head coach. They made him realize the number "of guys that deeply care about each other and about their teammates. I was surprised about how selfless a lot of these guys were," he said. "Especially for being so young and especially for some of these guys being thrust into the situation that they are in because of injuries and maybe not coming in thinking that they were going to play as much as they had or the role that they have played in."

"It was good to see it. It validated that a lot of the kids we bought in in the last class are the kind of kids that we can continue to build around and are about the team. That's important; we have to be about each other if we are going to be successful."

Embree began talking to the seniors very early on about their legacies at CU. With three games left and a 1-9 record, there's no chance of leaving with a winning season or a postseason trip. But there still are chances to achieve success - namely avoiding becoming the first Buffs team to go winless at Folsom and unloading that awful 22-game road losing streak for the 2012 Buffs. Ever the optimist, Embree sees the final two games, both on the road, as a chance to *start* a two-game road win streak.

Probably the biggest question for the season's final three weeks is how much the Buffs have left in the tank after opening Pac-12 play with a devastating 31-27 loss to Washington State in the final minutes, then being outscored 235-64 in their next five games. Four of those five games were against ranked opponents, with no ranked foes among the final three.

Clemons, who has made 13 receptions for 209 yards and three touchdowns in the last two weeks, said he recognizes the last three games as winnable, but added, "I honestly prepare for every game as if we're going to win and we're capable of winning . . . I feel like we can go on a three-game streak, but I'm sure those programs are saying the same thing and looking at us on the schedule in the same way."

He and his fellow seniors, he said, "just want to go out and be remembered as a group of guys that went out every day and was unwavering, was competitive and showed younger guys, be an example of 'don't let this happen to you; you guys have a great opportunity to go out, make a statement and an impact on a conference that doesn't think much of us now.'"

"Even if the numbers aren't there to show to the fan base and the media, I still feel there was success this season because as a class we learned a lot about each other's trials and tribulations and that'll make us better people. That's what hardship does for somebody; you grow from it and you produce from it and you get better."

Embree's strongest recollections of the first senior class he coached will be "the 'want-to' in this group, the adversity they've faced," he said. "They've played hurt, they've played beat up . . . I will remember them as a group that really wanted to try and get things done and help set this program on the right path. There is still some stuff out there for them and I expect they will have a great effort on Saturday and do what we can do to get them to sing that fight song afterwards."

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SHOW MENU

CU football

Last chance for Buffs' home win

Colorado hosts struggling Arizona on Saturday

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

Posted: 11/11/2011 07:05:07 PM MST

It's not the last chance for a win for the Colorado football team, but it's the best chance remaining in 2011 for the Buffs.

Colorado hosts a struggling Arizona team Saturday at Folsom Field (12:30 p.m. FCS-Pacific) in the final home game of the season, hoping to put an end to a seven-game losing streak and secure the first Pac-12 victory for coach Jon Embree.

No one thought back in the spring and summer the wait for that milestone would last until mid-November. Just as no one in Tucson thought coach Mike Stoops would be fired in October well before the Wildcats' season ended. But those are the facts these teams are left to contend with.

The largest group of Colorado seniors in recent memory is hoping to make its final walk off Folsom Field a jovial one. The program bids adieu to 28 players at the end of the season and most fans will see them in person for the final time Saturday with two road games at UCLA and Utah upcoming.

"I've been telling this to them for a while, you are really going to miss it," Embree said this week. "...It is not just being your last game, but what you'll miss is the locker room. I've told the players this, whenever it ends -- and any athlete will tell you this -- it's the camaraderie, it's the times in the locker room that you miss the most. It is a sacred place, not everyone is allowed in there and some of your funniest memories, some of the craziest things you can imagine have happened in that locker room. You will miss it and for some of the other guys, you are going to miss the fact that you won't be able to compete anymore."

The Buffs must win Saturday to avoid becoming the first CU team to go winless at home in the history of Folsom Field. The last time a CU football team went winless at home was 1920 when the Buffs played at Gamble Field.

Arizona (2-7, 1-6) comes to Boulder with a six-game road losing streak dating back to last season. However the Wildcats also bring one of the most prolific passing offenses in the nation to town. They average 370 passing yards per game.

Both teams have struggled badly on defense this fall, especially when it comes to stopping the passing game. CU (1-9, 0-6) has already allowed a school-record 28 touchdown passes this season and is coming off a loss to USC last week in which quarterback Matt Barkley and his receivers connected for six scoring strikes.

Arizona quarterback Nick Foles will be playing on Sundays next fall, and he is likely to set a number of school records Saturday against the Buffs. He enters Saturday's contest within striking distance of the program's career marks for passing yards, passing touchdowns, pass attempts and total offense. He is also closing in on single-season records at the school.

Wide receiver Juron Criner also is a future pro and his next touchdown catch will be the 30th of his career, matching a school record.

Colorado has played with a beat up and depleted secondary for more than a month now, but two players who have missed the past five games on suspension return to help.

Sophomore Parker Orms and Paul Vigo should help the Buffs tighten up in the back half of the defense. Orms was a starting cornerback at the start of the season and has made significant progress with knee soreness and a hamstring problem while suspended.

Junior free safety Ray Polk also is expected to play after missing last week's game. Senior strong safety Anthony Perkins will likely miss his final home game as he continues to recover from a high ankle sprain.

Neither of these offenses has been able to establish a consistent running game. That issue has been a persistent problem for the Wildcats for years and played a part in Stoops being dismissed last month and replaced on an interim basis by defensive coordinator Tim Kish.

Colorado has run well at times and should have opportunities to do so Saturday in tailback Rodney Stewart's final home game. Stewart is the only player in the Football Bowl Subdivision this season to have accumulated more than 500 yards rushing and receiving. He became the Buffs' all-time leader in all-purpose yardage last week.

The Arizona defense is allowing 170 rushing yards a game, but its biggest problems are in stopping the passing game. The Wildcats, with former CU safety Ryan Walters coaching the secondary, have allowed 283 passing yards a game.

If wind isn't too much of a factor this afternoon in Boulder, CU quarterback Tyler Hansen should have plenty of opportunity to cap his time in Boulder with a big passing day. While Hansen doesn't receive the attention many of his fellow signal callers around the Pac-12 do, he still holds the single-best passing day in the conference this season. He threw for 474 yards against California in September.

Hansen said this week the goal for the remainder of the season is finish 3-0 and propel the program into the offseason and next year instead of limping along that road. Senior wide receiver Toney Clemons agrees.

"We just want to be remembered as a group of guys who went out there every day and was unwavered," Clemons said. "We want to be competitive and show younger guys and be the example that, you know, don't let this happen to you. You guys have a great opportunity to go out here and make a statement and make an impact on a conference that doesn't think much of us now."

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THORBURN: CU Buffs must win home finale

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/11/2011 07:24:41 PM MST

Just another brick in the wall.

That's what the Buffs are playing for Saturday in the home finale against Arizona.

It feels like the big-win brick in the Dal Ward Center for Jon Embree's first career victory as head coach -- Colorado 28, Colorado State 14 -- was painted eight years ago instead of eight weeks ago.

That lone bright spot in a dreary season took place on Sept. 17 at Sports Authority Field in Denver. Entering Senior Day, the 2011 Buffs are 1-9 overall, 0-6 in the Pac-12 and 0-4 at home.

No CU team has ever gone winless in the friendly confines of Folsom Field.

On Oct. 11, 1924, Myron Witham's Buffs beat Regis 39-0 in the first game ever played at the venue, which was called Colorado Stadium at that time.

CU has gone unbeaten at Folsom Field 18 times. And the best teams in program history have dominated on the hallowed turf in the shadow of the Flatirons.

In 1937, Bunny Oakes and the boys went 6-0 at Folsom en route to the Cotton Bowl and a final Associated Press ranking of 17th.

In 1971, Eddie Crowder's crew went 5-0 at Folsom. Despite road losses at No. 1 Nebraska and No. 2 Oklahoma, the Buffs finished the season third in the AP poll.

In 1990, Bill McCartney's national championship squad went 6-0 at Folsom, including wins over Stanford, Washington and Oklahoma. The legendary coach posted four unbeaten home seasons, including a 6-0 mark in 1994 when CU finished the season ranked No. 3.

Over the last 87 seasons, CU has compiled an impressive 296-146-10 record at Folsom.

Furthermore, only three teams in the 121-year history of CU football have gone winless at home.

In 1890, the original Buffs were blown out twice on the CU campus grass by Colorado Mines (103-0 and 50-4) during an 0-4 inaugural campaign.

In 1891, the Buffs went 0-2 at home again with losses to Colorado Mines and the Denver Athletic Club.

And in 1920, CU was 0-1-2 at Gamble Field, losing to Utah (7-0) and settling for ties against Colorado College (7-7) and Colorado State (7-7).

The 28 seniors who will be honored Saturday have already been on the wrong end of history too many times, including the ongoing 22-game road losing streak.

Tyler Hansen, Rodney Stewart, Ryan Miller, Josh Hartigan, Anthony Perkins, Travis Sandersfeld and the rest of the group will do whatever it takes to walk off Folsom Field a winner Saturday.

"I feel for them. We can still win their last home game, we can still end the road losing streak. There are things we can accomplish," Embree said. "I went to a bowl game my senior year, but I didn't win my last game at Folsom Field."

"That still kind of bothers you."

CU lost 28-0 to No. 4 Oklahoma in the 1986 Folsom finale. That team also lost to CSU in the home opener.

But Embree's senior class turned the tide for McCartney with a 20-10 victory over No. 3 Nebraska at Folsom Field that fall.

A win over the 2-7 Wildcats won't make SportsCenter or result in any goal posts getting torn down.

However, it would be a brick-worthy event as CU's first Pac-12 victory.

"I know they won't miss walking up that hill after practice," Embree said of the large senior class. "But they will miss everything else that goes along with being a Buff. From singing that fight song, to running behind Ralphie, to the blackout last week.

"It really is a special place. And until you don't have it, you maybe don't realize what you had and what opportunities were in front of you."

Despite the combined 3-16 record between CU and Arizona, this is a must-win for the home team.

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college football

CU senior defensive back Sandersfeld has enjoyed his journey

By **Tom Kensler**
The Denver Post

Posted: 11/12/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

BOULDER — Each of the 28 Colorado seniors set to run behind Ralphie for a final time today has his own story about all the work it took to get through the past four or five years. That's what makes Senior Day special.

Colorado's game today against Arizona at Folsom Field isn't just another game between two struggling teams.

For CU senior defensive back Travis Sandersfeld and others not expecting a call from NFL scouts, this likely will be the last time they play football in a home jersey. At some point, emotions are sure to let loose.

"Right now, I'm planning to go out there like it's just a game," Sandersfeld said earlier this week. "But I know I'll feel it once it comes."

Sandersfeld tells everyone

about his "great career" at Colorado, which in itself says so much about the former walk-on from Limon. He has battled through about as many challenges as anyone on the roster and acknowledges "the wins haven't shown up like

you'd like." Nevertheless, Sandersfeld values the journey, even the rocky parts.

After shining on special teams for two seasons, the 6-foot, 205-pounder finally earned an opportunity to be a starter in 2010 as a nickel back. But he broke an ankle against California in Week 2 and missed five games. Sandersfeld opened this season starting at cornerback, but after playing on every defensive snap against Hawaii and California, he fractured a fibula during a practice and watched the next six games.

Sandersfeld returned against Arizona State and is expected to make his third consecutive start today. Whether he's at cornerback, nickel or safety, his performance against the passing of Arizona senior quarterback Nick Foles could play a pivotal role in whether the Buffaloes can finally claim their first Pac-12 victory.

"I knew I wouldn't be out all year, so I worked hard to get back," Sandersfeld said. "Yeah, it's not the way you picture your senior year to go. But if you get down on yourself, your chances of coming back aren't great."

The fact that Sandersfeld is playing major-college football at all is an upset. After helping Limon go 50-1 in four years (with three state

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championships) as a wide receiver, defensive back and quarterback, Sandersfeld received offers only from Division II schools in Nebraska.

His fortunes changed when he met CU assistant coach Brian Cabral at a National Football Foundation banquet in Denver, where Sandersfeld was honored as one of the state's top scholar-athletes.

Impressed with Sandersfeld during their chat, Cabral asked veteran Limon coach Mike O'Dwyer for game films. Sandersfeld jumped at the opportunity to be a preferred walk-on at Colorado and follow in the footsteps of Tom Hubbard, a CU safety from Limon who began as a walk-on and eventually became defensive MVP of the 2004 Houston Bowl.

Like Hubbard, it did not take long for Sandersfeld to be placed on an athletic scholarship.

"I didn't really know if Travis could play Division I football," O'Dwyer said this week during a phone interview. "But I thought with his work ethic and toughness, he would have a chance wherever he went. Travis would run through a brick wall if you said it made him a better player."

Sandersfeld wouldn't win many foot races. But he is able to hang against some of the nation's best college receivers by relying on intelligence, instincts and competitiveness. Sandersfeld earned first-team academic All-Big 12 honors three times and has received numerous team awards for effort and dedication.

Defensive coordinator Greg Brown tells the story of looking around to see who might go in at safety against Southern California last week when starter Kyle Washington suffered a concussion. Without hesitation, Sandersfeld raised his hand.

"Travis had been a corner all year and hadn't taken any reps at safety, but he did a commendable job back there," Brown said.

"That's who he is. Whatever he does in life, he's going to be a huge success."

On Senior Day, peeking a bit toward the future couldn't be more appropriate.

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

NOVEMBER 11, 2011, 1:27 PM

CU's Embree must wonder if crossword puzzles will disappear

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

BOULDER — As Colorado's "Senior Day" football game Saturday against Arizona approaches, CU coach Jon Embree revealed to the media that a few weeks back he asked selected underclassmen to write a letter to a senior, to tell the senior what he has meant to the team and to the letter writer.

Several seniors said they were touched. Some examples:

"Tyler McCulloch wrote to me and it meant a lot," CU senior wideout Toney Clemons said of the freshman wideout. "It was one of the highlights of the season for me."

"Greg Henderson wrote me, and it meant a lot having a freshman like that looking up to me," senior defensive back Travis Sandersfeld said of the rookie cornerback.

Embree said he read the letters and was also touched. "The guys that wrote the letters showed they are selfless. It's about the team," the coach said.

But, oh, my, the spelling, Embree added.

"You can tell it's the texting generation," Embree said. "I don't know if 'Wheel of Fortune' is going to make it much longer."

You should follow me on [Twitter @TomKensler](https://twitter.com/TomKensler) ^[1] And read more at the [CU Buffs blog](http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/11/11/cus-embree-must-wonder-if-crossword-puzzles-will-disappear/22099/) ^[2]

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Cornerback, wideout have both endured teams' tough seasons

UA football: Cats' Richardson, cousin meet today

Ryan Finley Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Saturday, November 12, 2011 12:00 am

Before he prepared for one of the toughest assignments of his college career, Shaquille Richardson posted a photo to his Twitter account.

In it, the Arizona Wildcats' cornerback and his cousin Paul are battling each other in a high school camp.

"We haven't guarded each other much," Shaquille Richardson said. "Just the camp circuit."

They'll do it again today. Shaquille and Paul Richardson - cousins, longtime friends and onetime teammates at UCLA - will line up against each other in a game that might be most notable only for its lack of intrigue otherwise.

Paul Richardson is Colorado's best receiver, a 6-foot-1-inch, 175-pound speedster who has caught 31 passes for 492 yards and five touchdowns in limited action; he missed games against Stanford, Washington, Oregon and Arizona State with a sprained knee.

Shaquille Richardson, meanwhile, is an enigma. Torched in Arizona's first three games, ejected from last month's game against UCLA and suspended for the Wildcats' loss to Washington, Richardson is making his return to the starting lineup today. He missed last week's loss to Utah with a high ankle sprain. When healthy, the 6-foot-1-inch, 180-pound sophomore has a nose for big plays: Richardson leads the Wildcats with three interceptions, and has returned one for a touchdown.

This season has been especially cruel to the Richardsons, but they've endured worse. Shaquille and Paul started their college careers at UCLA in summer 2010, but never played a down for the Bruins; they were arrested and charged with stealing a purse after enrolling, and coach Rick Neuheisel kicked them out of the program. Shaquille signed with the UA a few weeks later, while Paul ended up at Colorado.

Shaquille and Paul talk frequently, the topics ranging from football and family to how they're enjoying college.

"Everything," Shaquille Richardson said. "Family stuff, friend stuff, school, weather, all that. ... When we get discouraged, we talk about trying to play good and bring our whole teams up. We both keep fighting."

Today, there will be competition - but no hard feelings.

"It's no different," Shaquille said. "We're still family."

THE LAST TIME

No style points were awarded 25 years ago, but UA happy with win

The last time he golfed at elevation, Nick Foles' tee shots traveled farther, and his ego swelled.

"You feel pretty good about yourself," he said. "Then you come back down here and you're like, 'Aw, where are the extra 20 yards?'"

Foles can only hope the same doesn't apply to football.

Folsom Field sits 5,360 feet above sea level. It's the third-highest elevation among college football stadiums, behind only Wyoming and Air Force. Arizona Stadium, by comparison, sits at about 2,400 feet of elevation.

The Buffaloes have long used the elevation to their advantage, whether its real or imagined. The thin air makes it harder to breathe, sapping teams and players unaccustomed to the change of their energy. Foles said the Wildcats will focus on staying hydrated before the game and take it from there.

Center Kyle Quinn, who grew up in Northern California and is used to some elevation, didn't seem concerned.

"We'll adjust to it," he said.

If anything, most Cats seemed intrigued by the idea of visiting a new place. Colorado has one of the nation's most scenic stadiums and a rabid fan base. The elevation is just another unique quirk, like the stands that sit right on top of both sidelines.

Foles can throw a football about 75 yards in Tucson's elevation; expect him to take a couple pregame chucks today to see how the Rocky Mountain air helps his distance.

"Just to see how far it'll fly," he said.

He said it

Cats' Buckner calls wind, chilly temps 'an excuse'

"We play in the same weather as the other team does. Cold's an excuse. We all live on the same earth, we're going to play on the same day at the same time, and we have to deal with the weather." - UA receiver Dan Buckner, on the cooler temperatures and wind forecasted today for Boulder, Colo.

'I learned my lesson'

For Carey, suspension serves as wake-up call for

Ka'Deem Carey watched the first half of last week's loss to Utah from the sidelines, suspended for the first - and, he hopes, only - time in his college career.

It didn't take long for the Arizona Wildcats freshman running back to grasp the severity of the situation.

"Going out there and seeing my team play, I felt bad. I definitely wanted to be out there," he said. "I learned my lesson. Sitting out a half ... they took something away from you that you love. You don't want to have that happen, of course."

UA coaches said Carey violated a team policy in the days before last week's loss to the Utes, but have since offered few details. Interim coach Tim Kish and running backs coach Garret Chachere described the violation as relatively minor.

But the message serves as a warning to Carey and his fellow freshmen: Slacking off will not be tolerated, even in the final weeks of a lost season.

"We're in this game for kids to grow up," Chachere said. "I know we all needed some waking up when we were 18, 19 years old."

Carey, 19, figures to see plenty of playing time today against Colorado, a good thing for the UA offense. Last week's suspension continues to motivate the Canyon del Oro High School graduate.

"We've just got to go out there and play football. If we do, we'll be in great shape," Carey said. "Everybody going out there and making plays, flying around like it's the first game of the season. ... As long as you're playing football, you're going to be motivated, no matter what."

Arizona at Colorado • 12:30 p.m. • Fox College Sports (see your cable/satellite listings for channel) • 1290-AM, 107.5-FM

Game-day breakdown by Ryan Finley

Arizona vs. colorado, by the numbers

- Arizona's all-time record against CU: 1-12
- First meeting: 1931. Colorado won 27-7.
- Last meeting: 1986. Arizona won 24-21.
- Largest margin of defeat: 53 points. The Buffaloes defeated the Wildcats 65-12 in 1958.
- Closest game: 1 point. CU defeated Arizona 14-13 at Arizona Stadium in 1985.
- Aggregate score: Colorado has outscored the UA 388-169.

- Average score: 29-13

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CU prepares to face Arizona

Written by Shay Knolle in Football, Front Page, Sports on Nov 11, 2011 5:03 / comments

As the final stretch of the season nears, the CU football team hopes to make the best of their remaining games.



Rodney Stewart gains a few yards late in the 4th quarter Friday night at Folsom Field when Colorado lost to USC 42-17. The Arizona Wildcats will visit Boulder this Saturday in the Buff's last home game of the season. (CU Independent/Andrew Kaczmarek)

After a losing streak against some of the best the FBS has to offer, Colorado will be getting a breather against Arizona (2-7, 1-6) who, like CU, has also been struggling in the win department.

Despite Arizona's record, CU defensive back Travis Sandersfeld isn't taking the Buffs' opposition lightly.

"They got two premier receivers out there," Sandersfeld said. "Great guys, probably going to the NFL I'm guessing, great quarterback. He's an athlete out there. It's going to be another week in the

Pac-12. It's going to be hard and it comes down to who's the best team on that day and who makes the least mistakes."



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The Buffaloes will be taking on Arizona quarterback Nick Foles. Foles has 3260 yards this season with 22 touchdowns. Colorado head coach Jon Embree said he feels that he's one of the best they've faced this year.

"Nick, one thing that jumps out to me is how accurate he is throwing the deep ball," Embree said. "He throws the deep ball really well. He is a big kid. I've heard stuff about him. Brownie (defensive coordinator Greg Brown) and Tui (defensive line coach Mike Tuiasosopo) have validated a lot of stuff."

Luckily for CU, a few previously injured players may be returning to a defense that's been weakened this season as a result.

"It's good to have them back," Sandersfeld said of his previously injured teammates. "They fought hard when they were not out there with us. They're on their way back to help us out."

The Colorado offense may have a chance to return to form.

With both Paul Richardson and Rodney Stewart back, the Buffs offense hopes that the two can get everything going against Arizona.

Even with two strong players back in the lineup, wide receiver Toney Clemons knows going up against Arizona's defense will be no easy feat.

"Pac-12 defense: fast, athletic, physical, sound," Clemons said. "They're going to come to play. They're on scholarships too. They earn their scholarships every week. We've got to come prepared. I haven't seen them make too many mistakes, especially in the back half. They're real energetic—they play with a lot of passion, energy and confidence. They're the prototypical Pac-12 defense."

The Buffs hope to be prepared in order to secure their first win in the Pac-12. CU faces the Arizona Wildcats at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Shay Knolle at shay.knolle@colorado.edu.



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