



Coach Jon Embree address the Buffs after the Senior Day win against Arizona.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: After The Talk, Embree, Buffs Know What's Next

Release: 11/15/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - So in the rare afterglow of Saturday's win - only the second time this season there's been a glow of any sort - did Jon Embree and his guys let their emotions write a check their next performance can't cash?

You'll have to wait until Saturday night for the answer to flash on the Rose Bowl scoreboard, but Embree isn't backing off a millimeter on his post-Arizona statement to his team that "we're going to get it in the Rose Bowl" - the "it" being an end to Colorado football's horrendous road losing streak.

And this came from quarterback Tyler Hansen following CU's 48-29 Senior Day win at Folsom Field: "We're not going to lose on the road, I guarantee. We're going to the Rose Bowl and we're going to get it done."

Really now, whether it was in the post-battle heat or 24 or 48 hours after the fact, what did you expect from Embree?

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Gameday

"We're going to the Rose Bowl and, by golly, we're going to try really, really hard to get a road win."

Critics will (and have) let Embree know of his first-season shortcomings as a college head coach. Plain and simple, this wasn't one of them. If you think otherwise, you're flat out misguided.

Ever-so-slowly, Embree is returning something to CU that hasn't been on the premises in a while. It starts with a belief, and minus that all else is worthless.

"We think we're going to win this week, we thought we were going to win last week, we think we're going to win in the future," Embree said Tuesday at his weekly press luncheon. "It's got to be a mindset that you think you're going to win every time you go out there . . . you have to expect to win. Every time you go out and compete in something, as corny as it sounds, that's the first step in being able to win - believing that you can."

But here's the caveat: If his first Buffs team has gone into every game of a 2-9 season believing it could win, that belief still needs validation. Last Saturday's rout of the Wildcats offered a strong dose - enough to send the Buffs into Tuesday's practice with pretty much the same fervor and focus they had in approaching last weekend's final home game.

Said Hansen: "This is kind of the same mentality as going into Senior Day . . . it's a huge game for us. Everyone has to be up for this game."

From a personal standpoint, Embree probably didn't need any more emotional storylines attached to Saturday night's encounter with UCLA (5:30 p.m. MST, Versus). He's been asked about and reminded of this game since CU hired him last December. His oldest son, Taylor, is a senior receiver for the Bruins. His close friend, colleague and former boss, Rick Neuheisel, is the Bruins' embattled head coach. Embree spent three seasons as a UCLA assistant coach under Karl Dorrell. Embree's family, including his mom, will be in the Rose Bowl watching on Saturday night.

In publicly proclaiming his and the Buffs' intentions after last weekend's win, Embree merely did what football coaches do - although some aren't so up front about it. Show me a coach who won't let it all out in front of his players and I'll show you a coach who doesn't have a handle on his team. Rest assured, Embree does.

Was it wise to "guarantee" a road win Saturday when the Buffs haven't won an out-of-state game since 2007 - that's 23 straight for anyone who's counting, and you better believe Embree is. Here's how he answered that question Tuesday:

"I don't know . . . first off, I'll guarantee Taylor has said something to them (his UCLA teammates) about me saying we're going in there and win. He's guaranteed they're going to beat us. Now, are we going to play any harder? It does not change how teams are going to play. Rick Neuheisel wants to beat Jon Embree's behind - in anything we do. It goes all the way back to noon hoops when he was here as an assistant.

"I don't expect it to change. Those things . . . maybe that's for other people, but there's not a coach in America who doesn't go into a game thinking his team going to win. Whether it's said in the locker room, whether it's said publicly, to me it doesn't change anything."

Since coaches began blowing whistles, they've been wary of their players consciously or unconsciously uttering "bulletin board" material - quotes or whatever that might land in the opposing camp like a grenade. Embree said "ask the players if it can help them," and he brought up the "asterisk" comment by former Oklahoma coach Howard Schnellenberger before the 1995 CU-OU game.

Knowing Buffs starter Koy Detmer was out with an injury and that the Sooners would face backup John Hessler, Schnellenberger said for that reason he didn't want an "asterisk" placed beside the Sooners' inevitable win.

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CU 38, OU 17 . . . Hessler threw a school-record five touchdown passes in a thorough asterisk kicking.

Embree, an assistant to Neuheisel at the time, recalled, "We didn't play any different (because of Schnellenberger's statement). You just play."

And that's what he expects the Buffs to do Saturday, regardless of what's been said in Boulder or in Westwood. "Our guys expect to win and they (UCLA) expect to win," Embree said. "I don't get caught up in that. I know what Tyler said and what I said in the locker room, and I'm sure (the Bruins) said the same things. Every week, each team thinks they're going to win - and that's no different here."

It's said that teams take on the personality of their coaches, which can be for better or worse. Hansen sees it finally happening with this CU team and believes it's for the better. "Yeah, I see it," Hansen said, "just the kind of fire we have now . . . Coach Embree is a competitive guy. He likes to have a lot of fun. He's loose, a fun coach to be around. I think this team is starting to get that feel. I think earlier in the year we maybe weren't having as much fun."

You want game-day levity? During a timeout before CU scored its first touchdown against Arizona, Embree recounted senior guard Ethan Adkins approaching him and saying the offense was going to "do the Bernie (dance), from *Weekend at Bernie's* . . . I said, 'OK, but you better score.'"

The Buffs did, then unobtrusively did their dance number "in a way that it wasn't an excessive celebration," Embree said. "For them to come to me and say they're going to do something like that . . . it's how I was as a player and a person. I'm out there, I want you to let you what we're going to do, then we're going to do it. That's just how I am."

Embree is engaged with this team. He, Hansen, senior receiver Kyle Cefalo and student assistant Cha'pelle Brown - a former CU corner - started a Friday competition eight weeks ago. They stand 20-25 yards out and see who can hit the crossbar with a football in the least amount of attempts.

The competition is tied now at 4-4, said Hansen, with the tie between him and his head coach. Hansen predicts he'll win it; Embree, of course, says otherwise.

"You have to say it," Embree said. "If you want to win a championship you have to say it. I expect us to win a championship (someday), but then you have to go do it. I think every team that's done that and had success - that's what they've done. You just don't sit there and try to sneak up and get in after the fact."

After what was said Saturday inside their locker room and out, the Buffs have no shot at sneaking into the Rose Bowl on Saturday. But slipping in unannounced is not what they want, particularly not what their coach wants. In his words, "I'm out there."

Say it, do it . . . those are the only four words Embree and the Buffs need to keep in mind as they pack for LA and what could be a rare night in the Rose Bowl.

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SHOW MENU



Jon Embree, Tyler Hansen don't regret guaranteeing CU's victory at UCLA

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 11/15/2011 04:49:29 PM MST

Colorado coach Jon Embree predicted the Buffs would end their 22-game road losing streak this week at UCLA in the euphoria of a victory on senior day last week. Quarterback Tyler Hansen took it a step further and guaranteed it.

Neither man and nobody else in the program felt any regret Tuesday in providing the Bruins and coach Rick Neuheisel with bulletin board material.

"It does not change how teams are going to play," Embree said. "Rick Neuheisel wants to beat Jon Embree's behind, in anything we do, and it goes all the way back to noon hoops when he was here as an assistant. So I don't expect it to change. ... There is not a coach in America that doesn't go into a game thinking his team is going to go win.

"So whether it's said in the locker room, whether it's said publicly, to me it doesn't change anything."

Embree, whose oldest son, Taylor, is a senior wide receiver at UCLA, assured reporters that his son has made his teammates and coaches aware of his father's comments. Embree said his son is also likely guaranteeing victory inside the UCLA locker room.

The Bruins have more riding on Saturday's game to be sure.

They can become bowl eligible with a win and also keep alive their hopes of winning the South Division and playing in the inaugural Pac-12 Championship game next month, likely at Oregon.

Predictions for victory from anyone in the Colorado program are bold considering the program's extended struggles to win on the road.

Colorado's road losing streak is easily the longest in the Football Bowl Subdivision and dates back to Oct. 27, 2007 at Texas Tech.

The Buffs have lost 23 consecutive games played outside the state since that day, including the 2007 Independence Bowl against Alabama.

There are almost as many UCLA Bruins who know what it's like to go on the road and win as members of the Colorado football team as there are Buffs who have had the experience. UCLA seniors Kai Maiava and Josh Smith both played for CU as true freshman in that win at Texas Tech. They transferred to Westwood later in their careers.

Ryan Miller and Brian Lockridge are the only current Buffs who played in the program's last road victory, but several other players were on the roster then.

Despite the lack of success the Buffs have experienced on the road this season, Embree said he believes the Buffs are improving down the stretch of the season, which feeds his confidence that the Buffs can end the streak this week.

There might be a little psychology behind Embree's prediction as well.

"I just believe part of reaching success and attaining some things, you have to say it," Embree said. "If you want to win a championship, you have to say, 'I expect us to win a championship.' And then you got to go do it.

"I think every team that has done that and has that success, that's what they've done. You don't just sit there and try to sneak up and then get in after the fact."

Embree said former CU coach Bill McCartney had the same approach. He said Neuheisel also has embraced that philosophy.

"You have to expect that you're going to win," Embree said. "Every time you go out there and compete in something, as corny as it sounds, that's the first step in being able to win is believing that you can."

Hansen grew up rooting for UCLA and attending games in the Rose Bowl. He is as excited for this game as he has been for just about any game in his career.

"We've talked about this game before and the importance of playing at the Rose Bowl and playing against UCLA and playing these type of teams, and the importance of the road losing streak and getting it over with," Hansen said. "I think this is kind of the same mentality as going into senior day. It's a huge game for us and everyone has got to be up for this game."

Was it wise for Hansen to guarantee a victory?

"I don't know," Hansen said with a smile. "Ask me on Sunday."

Inconsistency plagues CU Buffs' Richardson

Knee injury still bothering sophomore receiver

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

Posted: 11/15/2011 09:24:36 PM MST

Paul Richardson isn't talking this week.

The Colorado wide receiver turned down interview requests Tuesday as he and his teammates continued to prepare for Saturday's game at UCLA, which amounts to a trip home for the Buffs' electrifying sophomore.

Richardson, who was born in Los Angeles, came to Colorado in the summer of 2010 after initially signing with UCLA out of high school.

An off-field incident earlier that summer during his first few weeks on campus in Westwood led to him and two other former teammates leaving UCLA and seeking a fresh start.

Now Richardson will make his return and is likely itching to get on the field and do some damage against the program he was a part of only briefly.

The only problem is. Richardson still isn't completely recovered from a knee injury that kept him out of four games earlier this season.

"I think it is a combination of factors," CU coach Jon Embree said when asked about Richardson's up-and-down season. "I would love for him to have -- as I'm sure he would -- to have another breakout game this weekend against UCLA and going back home.

"It is not a lost skill or confidence with him. It is just getting your legs back -- especially when you are talking about a knee injury with a receiver and the kind of player he is and if he is thinking about it at all. I know he will say he is, but he is not 100 percent."

Richardson is slowly recovering, building up strength in his leg and regaining chemistry and timing with quarterback Tyler Hansen, but it has been a major setback to what began as a promising season.

He set CU freshman receiving marks in 2010 with 514 yards and six touchdowns. He finished his freshman year strong and picked up where he left off in the first two games this season, scoring four touchdowns against Hawaii and Cal.

But even before he sprained his knee in an early October practice, he was struggling with consistency.

Richardson has made 32 catches for 494 yards this season, but if you remove the Cal game (11 catches, 285 yards) from those statistics, he has made just 21 catches for 210 yards in his other six games.

"I'm not disappointed in his progress, but I think he needs to take the next step in his game," CU wide receivers coach Bobby Kennedy said.

Richardson began last week's game by running for 15 yards on an end-around on the Buffs' first offensive play from scrimmage.

He finished the day with that run and one two-yard reception to his credit in a win. He also had a dropped ball over the middle. Drops have been an occasional problem for him.

Kennedy, who worked under Mack Brown at Texas for seven years, said he has adopted an approach Brown often used with players who had trouble holding on to the ball. He stopped giving it to them as often until they improved.

"You don't throw him the ball as much," Kennedy said. "If you're going to drop it, we've got to find other targets and not necessarily design as many things for him. Obviously he's got to be more consistent as far as catching the ball. He's got good hands. He just needs to be more focused."

Kennedy said part of Richardson's struggles are rooted in the fact he hasn't been able to take as many snaps in practices because of his injuries.

He said the nature of the CU offense makes it difficult for players who aren't able to practice as much to still perform in games.

Kennedy said Richardson was taking about 70 percent of the first-team practice snaps earlier in the season and that number has dropped significantly but is on the rise again.

Meanwhile, senior wide receiver Toney Clemons has emerged in the twilight of his CU career to become the Buffs leading receiver this season and one of its best playmakers in recent weeks.

Clemons has produced the only two 100-yard receiving games of his college career in the past two weeks.

He has taken a more mature approach to the game over the past six weeks and it has helped him gain the trust and respect of his coaches.

"I've never doubted that he wants to be the guy, but what I always talk to Toney about is just balancing out your emotions, your ego," Kennedy said. "You know some games wide receivers are going to catch 12 or 13 balls. Other games they might catch three. That's just the way it is and when that happens, you can't get frustrated."

Clemons leads the team in receiving now with 36 catches for 528 yards and seven touchdowns. Richardson has caught five touchdown passes this fall.

What hasn't happened this season is both CU wide receivers finding their groove in the same game. Making that happen Saturday at UCLA would go along way toward ending the Buffs' 22-game road losing streak.

Embree and Kennedy say it's just a matter of time before Richardson gets back to making highlight reel plays. They're hoping it happens in the final two games of the season.

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CU coach Jon Embree downplays impact of "bulletin board material"

Posted: 11/16/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

Updated: 11/16/2011 07:47:27 AM MST

BOULDER — Although Colorado coach Jon Embree and quarterback Tyler Hansen may have stopped just short of a victory "guarantee" over UCLA in Saturday's game, it sure sounded like a prediction.

After their 48-29 victory over Arizona last weekend, Embree and Hansen told reporters that the Buffaloes will go into the Rose Bowl and snap Colorado's long road losing streak.

If those quotes make it onto UCLA's bulletin board — which they likely already have — that's no big deal, Embree said Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon.

Embree said he wants his team to feel confident about leaving Pasadena, Calif., with a victory. The coach said he never worries about any implications of so-called "bulletin board material."

Colorado (2-9, 1-6 Pac-12) plays UCLA (5-5, 4-3), led by former CU coach Rick Neuheisel, at 5:30 p.m. MST on Saturday. The Buffs haven't won outside the state of Colorado since a 2007 victory at Texas Tech.

"I expect to win and our guys expect to win," Embree said. "I don't get caught up in what Tyler

said and what I said. It's the same thing each week — each team thinks they're going to win."

Embree said he is certain that his son, UCLA senior wide receiver Taylor Embree, "has said something to them about me saying we're going in there and win," Embree said. "And he's guaranteed that they're going to beat us."

"Does that make either team play any harder?" Embree continued. "It does not change how teams are going to play. Rick Neuheisel wants to beat Jon Embree's behind — in anything we do. It goes back to noon hoops when he was here and I was his assistant."

Communication gap is gone.

Embree said the Buffs ought to feel confident because their play on the field has improved.

"I like how we're playing," the coach said. "We have continuity. Our skill guys are back (from injuries). Our offensive line is playing together, and they're starting

to figure some things out and making adjustments during the game and stuff that we don't necessarily talk to them about.

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Blog: CU Buffs



The Denver Post's sports reporters contribute analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog dedicated to CU athletics.

"Defensively, I thought that was our best game communication-wise. I've been hammering those guys . . . they're probably tired of hearing me yell 'Communicate!' There were four or five great examples. . . . Things like that early in the season, they weren't happening."

Kicking slump?

After making good on his first five college field-goal attempts, Colorado freshman Will Oliver has converted just two of his past six — including three tries that were blocked. Oliver also went wide left on an extra-point kick last weekend when he did not allow enough room for the wind factor.

Talking about Oliver's recent struggles, CU special-teams coach J.D. Brookhart called it a "first-year player thing," and he and Embree said they remain confident in Oliver. This weekend will be a homecoming for Oliver, who is from Los Angeles.

"I'm looking forward to kicking in the Rose Bowl," he said.

Footnotes.

Colorado defensive coordinator Greg Brown on his boss' son, 6-foot-3, 207-pound wideout Taylor Embree: "You should see him block. I told our guys that they had better have their head on

a swivel, because Taylor will get you. He's strong." . . . CU defensive back Travis Sandersfeld, a senior from Limon, was named Pac-12 defensive player of the week for his effort against Arizona. Sandersfeld intercepted a pass and was officially credited with 14 tackles after the game film was graded by CU coaches. "It's an honor to get that award," Sandersfeld said Tuesday. "But it wouldn't have been possible if my teammates didn't do their jobs to free me up (to make plays)." . . . Senior tailback-turned-cornerback Brian Lockridge said he hopes to play Saturday after missing six games because of an ankle sprain.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

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NOVEMBER 16, 2011, 8:47 AM

CU's Embree: P-Rich getting his legs back

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

BOULDER — Paul Richardson ought to be pumped.

The Colorado sophomore receiver will play Saturday in the Rose Bowl stadium against UCLA — the team that he originally signed with, and his father's alma mater.

But will Richardson be a factor in the game? CU coach Jon Embree sure hopes so.

After missing four games due to a knee sprain, Richardson has yet to make some noise. He caught two passes for 18 yards against Southern Cal and then recorded just one catch for 2 yards last weekend in the victory over Arizona.

What's going on?

"When he got hurt, I still think he's trying to get his legs back underneath him, and getting into the flow of things," Embree said. "A lot of the relationship between quarterback and receiver is actually getting out there and doing it, the timing.

"You see the timing and the rapport that Tyler (Hansen) has with Toney Clemons now. That's because they threw together all the time when Richardson was out.

"We talk to Tyler about throwing it on time. And if (Richardson) is indecisive at all or is slow getting out, Tyler will get off of that quick and go to his other options.

"So I think it's a combination of factors (with Richardson). I'd love for him him, as I'm sure he would, for him to have another breakout game this weekend against UCLA and going back home. It's not a loss of skill or confidence with him. I just think he's getting his legs back. I know he's not 100 percent."

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UCLA FOOTBALL

UCLA-Colorado is a family feud for the Embrees

Taylor Embree is a Bruins receiver, and his dad, Jon, coaches the Buffaloes. Winner of the Rose Bowl clash will have 'bragging rights for eternity.'

By Chris Foster

10:46 PM PST, November 15, 2011

Taylor Embree knows Saturday will be "weird."

The UCLA wide receiver and his father talk before every game, a ritual in the four years Taylor has played for the Bruins.

Sometimes Taylor is at the team's hotel, other times on the bus headed toward the stadium. Saturday, they won't need a phone.

They'll meet in person in the tunnel at the Rose Bowl. It is UCLA's Senior Day and Jon Embree, Colorado's head football coach, will be minutes away from trying to ruin his son's last home game.

"I don't know what he'll be able to talk to me about," Taylor says. "I mean, we're going to win, so...."

Jon has another view. "This will be bragging rights for eternity," he says.

Taylor has no doubt who will own those. "Someone is going to have a bitter Christmas dinner," he says, referring to his father.

Rarely has a head coach plotted against his son on the other sideline. The late Jack Elway did it when he was San Jose State's coach and son John was the quarterback for Stanford. Theirs was a four-game series, each winning two.

The Embrees have a one-time, winner-take-all situation and are looking forward to the experience.

"There has been trash talk all year leading up to this," says Natalyn Embree, the wife-mother-referee of the house. She feigns neutrality by saying, "I have a jersey that is half UCLA and half Colorado." But no one sits this one out.

"I will tell Taylor to have a nice game, but I hope Colorado ends up winning," Natalyn says.

Taylor says he is fine with that, and is hoping that Connor, his 20-year-old brother, and Hannah, his 14-year-old sister, also take his father's side. "Then I can hold it over the whole family," he says.

Both sides need this game.

UCLA, despite a roller coaster of a season, is in a first-place tie among eligible teams with Arizona State in the Pac-12 Conference's South Division. That means the Bruins still hold out Rose Bowl hopes and, if they fall short of that, a victory Saturday would make them eligible to participate in a different bowl game.

Colorado defeated Arizona on Saturday for its first Pac-12 victory, but Jon, who is 2-9 in his first season as head coach, would like the Buffaloes to put an end to a 22-game road losing streak.

Beyond the teams, though, this one is intensely personal.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we both want to maximize it," Jon says.

Taylor put it a little more plainly: "Whoever wins this game is going to be talking a whole lot of smack," he says. Which, he adds, is "nothing new in our house."

Taylor and Connor, a receiver at Kansas, are third-generation football players.

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John Embree was a receiver for the Denver Broncos. His sons Jon and Sean were tight ends at Colorado, where Sean won a national title in 1990.

Football, especially Colorado football, was passed from father to son. When Taylor's second-grade teacher asked him to lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance, he said he didn't know it.

"I knew the Colorado fight song before I knew the Pledge of Allegiance," Taylor says. "She let me sing the fight song instead."

Taylor's grandparents' house was a treasure chest of trophies and photos of his grandfather, father and uncle.

And now Linda Embree, Taylor's grandmother, has created another coveted prize. She framed a newspaper article that previewed this game as "The Embree Bowl." Saturday's winner gets it.

That it is UCLA's Senior Day only adds to the family intrigue.

Parents usually accompany their sons onto the field during pregame ceremonies. But Jon won't be able to stand beside Taylor. "I have to get my team prepared and I don't want this to be a distraction," Jon says. "We'll find some time after warmups."

Jokes Taylor, whose 130 catches place him seventh on UCLA's career list: "It won't be anything like, 'Good luck.'"

There has always been competitiveness in their relationship.

"I have the broken chairs to prove it," Natalyn Embree says. "They would chase each other around and put chairs in each other's way. Jon's a big kid at heart."

Basketball, pool, shuffleboard, video games, it didn't matter. Jon and his sons played to win.

Taylor recalls a game of Tiger Woods Golf in which his father needed a 60-foot putt to win. "I told him if he did I would run butt naked through the neighborhood."

Jon made the putt.

The only break Taylor got was that he was allowed to wear boxer shorts on his run.

But, as Taylor recalls, that didn't mean he got off easy.

"We lived on a hill with three other houses on our street," he says. "It was night, so I figured I'd just do this fast."

His dad had other ideas.

"By the time I got to the top of the hill," Taylor remembers, "Dad had knocked on everyone's door and got the neighbors out."

As competitive as they were, though, Jon never pushed football on his sons. In fact, he made them take a year off from the sport in junior high, "just to make sure they weren't playing just because of me," he says.

It was inevitable.

"My first word was 'ball,'" Taylor says.

With Jon working as an assistant with Colorado (1993-2002), UCLA (2003-2005) and the Kansas City Chiefs (2006-08), Taylor has been attending practices since the age of 4.

"I didn't realize how blessed I was to have a dad like my dad until I was in elementary school," Taylor says. "He was the cool football coach."

The coaching jobs have left Jon little time to see his son play in college. Instead, he downloads UCLA games to his iPad and watches on Friday nights.

But when it's important, Jon was there. He took a few days off as Colorado's football coach in spring to see his son graduate from UCLA.

"I had to be right down in front," he says.

He'll be front and center again on Saturday.



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Athletes of the Week: Lexy Kresl and Toney Clemons

Written by Marlee Horn in Athlete of the Week, Sports on Nov 15, 2011 6:35 / comments

In this edition of Athlete of the Week, two Buffaloes are better than one.

Freshman Lexy Kresl is already turning heads on the basketball court, while senior Toney Clemons is making the most out of his

final games at Folsom Field.

Kresl tied a team-best 14 points in the Buff's 78-40 exhibition win against Regis University. After the game, she said that nerves were a factor but she's excited for the season to kick into full gear.

"I was definitely a little nervous in the beginning, but I got used to it as the game went on ... and it was just finally realizing that all the work is coming together and it's finally starting," Kresl said after the game. "I have a good feeling about this season."

That positive attitude paid off in her collegiate debut. On Friday night against Northern Arizona, Kresl tied a school record. The 5-foot-11-inch guard made five 3-pointers in the first half, only the sixth time in program history that feat has been accomplished.

In the 84-60 win, Kresl recorded 15 points and five rebounds.



Lexy Kresl (Courtesy of CUBuffs.com)



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“I was definitely feeling my shot,” Kresl said about her first official game as a Buff. “I knew we needed a pick-up so I used my energy to try and get the team going.”

Head coach Linda Lappe isn’t surprised by the Arizona prep’s success.

“I thought she came out with a lot of confidence,” Lappe said. “I somehow knew she was going to play well against Northern Arizona, she knows a lot of those players,” Lappe said after the NAU game. “I wasn’t surprised that she had a great game at all. What I like about Lexy is her game doesn’t change from practice to the actual game.”

Kresl is following in her mother’s footsteps — Julie Kresl played basketball at TCU — but also has big plans for herself beyond basketball. Lexy is an integrative physiology major who says she wants to be an orthodontist.



Toney Clemons, 7, makes the catch for a 45 yard reception against the USC Trojans. (CU Independent file/Robert R. Denton)

Toney Clemons is also no stranger to sports-driven families. He has two sisters who run track at the University of Pittsburgh, a cousin in the NFL and another cousin in the WNBA.

Toney, a 6-foot-2-inch wide receiver, made his last two home games as a Buffalo memorable ones.

In CU’s 42-17 loss to Southern California, Clemons recorded his first career 100-yard game. He had 112 receiving yards

on five catches and earned the Buffs’ two touchdowns.

Clemons said he felt well prepared going into the game, but wished the outcome had been different. Despite the loss, Clemons held out hope for the remaining games.

“Coach Embree is behind us,” Clemons said after the USC game. “We are determined as a senior class to go out there and leave our legacy ... I have faith in what’s going to transpire. I am proud of my teammates, staff, regardless.”

Clemons and the senior class finally got to feel the best kind of positive — a win — Saturday against Arizona.

Clemons once again recorded a 100-yard receiving game, tallying up 115 yards and one touchdown. In the last three games, the Michigan transfer has caught 18 passes for 324 yards and four touchdowns.

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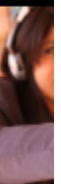


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In his post-game press conference, head coach Jon Embree gushed about how important the win was for the seniors.

“Great win for our program,” Embree said. “First Pac-12 win. These seniors, they did it. That is why I brought them in [to the press conference] with me, because it is for them, it is about them. I’m proud of these guys, I love them.”

As one athlete’s journey as a Buffalo is coming to an end, another’s is just beginning.

Clemons suits up in Buff gold for the penultimate time against UCLA at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19. Kresl takes the court Wednesday, Nov. 16 against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Statistics and quotes courtesy of CUBuffs.com.

Contact CU Independent Sports Editor Marlee Horn at Marlee.horn@colorado.edu.



About Marlee Horn

Marlee Horn is totally awesome. She is a junior majoring in news-editorial and minoring in ethnic studies. On any given day, she is most likely watching Sex and the City or SportsCenter. A Colorado native, Marlee is always rooting for her home teams, even if they are horrible. Her dreams are to be Chauncey Billups' best friend and Tim Tebow's girlfriend.

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