



Tony Jones (26) is first in line to replace Rodney Stewart at tailback.
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Brooks: Replacing 'Speedy' A Tall Task For TB Trio

Release: 10/18/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - Jon Embree's vision of Colorado's football identity hasn't been clouded by a 1-6 record, four consecutive losses and enough injuries to create a hospital wing at the Dal Ward Athletic Center.

Embree's offensive goal remains developing a power running game, but that priority list is now a wish list as CU struggles to find consistency and keep its lineup intact. The Buffs are 11th in the Pac-12 Conference in both rushing (89.9 yard average) and total offense (337.9) and 12th in scoring offense (21.9 points a game).

And this week finds CU facing No. 9 Oregon minus leading rusher/chief offensive contributor Rodney Stewart, who is out indefinitely with a knee injury. Will "Speedy" be missed?

"We'll miss him a lot," CU quarterback Tyler Hansen said Tuesday. "You could do a lot of different things with 'Speedy' . .

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Tony Jones
10/18/2011



Watch:

David Goldberg
10/18/2011



Watch:

Tyler Hansen
10/18/2011



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Jon Embree
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.. When he's out it's going to limit you, it'll change up the way you use certain people. You have to change your mentality a little bit on offense."

Consider: In the Buffs' first seven games - actually about 61/4 counting his time on the sideline last week at Washington - Stewart accounted for 908 yards from scrimmage (473 rushing, 435 receiving) and 1,169 all-purpose yards. That's 38.4 percent of CU's offensive yards and 37.9 percent of the overall yardage.

The first call to replace Stewart on Saturday will go to redshirt freshman Tony Jones, who got a season-high 14 carries (49 yards) and scored on a pair of short runs last weekend after Stewart's injury. After Jones, who's constructed along Stewart's lines (Jones is 5-7 and weighs 182), there's sophomore Josh Ford (5-9, 195) and true freshman Malcolm Creer (5-11, 205) - although Embree clarified his position in regard to pulling Creer's redshirt.

"We're bringing him up and preparing him (to play)," Embree said. "If it happens, it happens. If he doesn't have to do it, then that's what we'll do. But he's all for it; we've had good conversations with him. He's excited about the opportunity."

Also being weighed is avoiding making a "disaster situation" - one where Jones and Ford are unavailable - Creer's first game duty. Said Embree: "You have to prepare him and at some point you may have to decide to get him in there so that he has some game action, so the first time he's in there isn't in that disaster situation. Those are all different things we have to look at as a staff. I trust Eric and his judgment . . . Malcolm is all in, so we'll see what happens on Saturday."

Embree addressed his freshmen on Monday afternoon, complimenting them on their contributions thus far and explaining to first-year players like Creer how they might be needed due to the Buffs' injury woes. Creer said he understands the situation and is eager to play if summoned.

"If my name is called, I'm a team player," he said. "If I have to give up my redshirt to help my team out . . . yeah, I would pull it. Anyway I can contribute - special teams, playing (in the offense) - anyway I can contribute I will. I have no worries if I don't play, but if I can contribute I'll go all out."

After seeing only scout team offensive duty for the season's first seven weeks, Creer this week returned to "re-learning" CU's offense. "It's going to take me a while to get back in it because I've just been running scout team," he said. "But our offense isn't that difficult to get back in the flow of; I'll have coach (Eric) Bieniemy and some other seniors to help me get back into it. It'll just take time every day."

Ford, a Mullen High School product who walked on at CU in 2010, had one carry for 13 yards at Washington, giving him five rushes for 28 yards for the season. His back-up role now to Jones apparently puts him in position for more duty, although Embree said any possible tailback rotation would not be set until later this week.

"That's probably will come Thursday when we get a better feel for guys and how they practiced, what kind of game it's going to be," Embree said. "And how tired Tony gets will probably have some bearing on it."

Still, Ford is eager for a chance. Despite an above average high school career at Mullen (1,348 yards rushing, 19 TDs), he did not receive a Division I scholarship offer and planned to walk on at Kansas State. When that didn't pan out, he attended Barton (Kan.) Community College - which doesn't have a football team - and got his academics in order enough to be accepted at CU.

"This is always the college I wanted to come to . . . as a kid growing up, it was always CU," Jones said. "Everybody always goes somewhere from my high school, and not having any (scholarship) offers I just kind of wanted to be prestigious and show people 'look where I'm going.' It was tough coming off a state title and not going anywhere,

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but I'm happy to be here now."

Jones, New Jersey's Gatorade Player of the Year (he's from Paterson) as a senior, is a graduate of perennial football power Don Bosco Prep. The school was 47-1 in Jones' four years there and finished the 2009 season ranked No. 1 nationally by *USA Today*. He ran for 1,387 yards and scored 34 TDs in his final season.

Jones claimed there's "not too much of a difference" in his and Stewart's running styles, but Hansen sees at least one difference: "He's kind of a different player than Rodney is; he's more of a downhill guy. He's not going to make so many moves, but he's going to get north and south real quick - which is nice. It's a little different change up from what we've had. And he's a real good receiver - a lot like Rodney in the passing game. He's a good, solid back."

Embree said he hasn't "really thought of it or looked at it from that standpoint" of whether Stewart or Jones hits a hole faster. "Now sometimes, too, it's the play that's called. A running back - they all have their different styles and uniqueness. So I don't think you can pigeonhole guys in certain things. I thought (Jones) did run hard between the tackles (at Washington)."

Jones and CU's other tailbacks will have to contend with Oregon's overall speed, which shows up most prominently in the Ducks' offensive statistics. The Ducks aren't among the Pac-12 leaders in most defensive categories; they're 10th in rushing defense (173.0), 11th in total defense (413.8).

But given their offensive output, the Ducks don't need to be airtight on 'D.' Or as Hansen put it: "When your offense is so good and scores so many points (48.7 a game), it really puts your defense in some great spots . . . they're always ahead so much and they've got a comfort level with what their offense does, so the defense is going to play confident and fast."

Working sideline to sideline, Oregon's up-tempo option offense averages a league-best 315.0 rushing yards a game and is the primary reason the Ducks top the conference in total offense at 539.0 yards a game.

The best chance for Hansen and his tailbacks is to generate enough offense to make the clock work for them, relegating Oregon's 'O' to a spectator's role.

"But that's in any game," Jones said. "We want to be on the field more than our defense is out there. We pretty much want to take control and kill time. When you watch their games, they're really fast on offense and defense . . . if you can just keep (their offense) off the field, that would be great for us."

BUFF BITS: Embree admitted his team "took a step back on defense" (which includes tackling) last week at Washington, allowing 52 points and 562 yards in total offense. The Buffs are ninth in the conference in three defensive categories (rushing, 156.1; passing, 252.7; total, 408.9) and 11th in scoring defense (36.0 points) . . . Senior defensive end David Goldberg says CU's pair of recent subpar defensive performances against Stanford and UW hasn't demoralized his unit. "I don't think that's shaken us too much," he said. "You just have to take it one play at a time and don't let it affect your (overall) performance." CU's defense has yielded 100 points and 1,000-plus yards in total offense in the past two games . . . The Buffs, said Embree, have improved in drawing fewer penalties (only three for 30 yards at UW), and he believes the coverage units have improved with the use of more starters. "We're also getting some guys dinged up, too, but you've got to do it now," he said, adding that overall weekly improvement also is noticeable despite the record . . . Hansen said the Buffs have experienced "some crazy things" this season and believes the team is at the point where it feels it has "nothing to lose . . . but we still get to play football." . . . CU leads the series with Oregon 8-7, but the Ducks won the last meeting - 38-16 in the 2002 Fiesta Bowl. That loss snapped a six-game bowl winning streak for the Buffs . . . CU has lost five straight games against ranked opponents, with the last win coming against Kansas in 2009 (34-30) . . . Turnovers haven't been the Buffs' big problem this season. They've committed only six, tying them for the sixth fewest in NCAA stats.

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CU notebook: Buffs ready to run with Tony Jones

Freshman expected to start in place of injured RB Stewart

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

Posted: 10/18/2011 06:52:27 PM MDT



Tony Jones = bright spot.

As injuries and lopsided losses continue to pile up for Colorado, there were some highlights visible on the mostly depressing film of the Buffs' 52-24 loss at Washington.

Jones, filling in for an injured Rodney Stewart, scored his first career touchdowns in the second half and finished the game with 49 yards rushing on 14 carries and 49 yards receiving on seven receptions.

The 5-foot-7 freshman will make his first career start against No. 9 Oregon on Saturday at Folsom Field.

"All we have to do is come out here and play our game," Jones said. "Just can't be scared, just can't be panicking or anything."

The Ducks (5-1, 3-0) have won 15 consecutive conference games and rank third nationally in scoring offense (48.7 ppg).

The Buffs (1-6, 0-3) have lost five consecutive games against ranked opponents and are 11th in the Pac-12 in scoring defense (36.0 ppg).

CU will almost certainly have to dominate the time of possession to even dream about winning this homecoming game.

"We still want to be able to try to run the ball," CU head coach Jon Embree said. "Offensively, we show flashes every game of being able to run it. We have to get consistency. Our identity hasn't developed because we haven't been consistent in what we want to do."

Stewart, who is expected to miss between two and four weeks with a knee sprain, had produced 908 yards from scrimmage (473 rushing, 435 receiving) and 1,169 all-purpose yards through seven games.

CU is flirting with the idea of burning the redshirt of tailback Malcolm Creer and making him the 14th freshman to see meaningful action this season.

"We've had good conversations with (Creer) and he's excited about the opportunity," Embree said. "I don't know how long Speedy is out, hopefully it's not very long, but who knows. You have to prepare him and at some point you may have to decide to get him in there so he gets some game action, so maybe his first time in there isn't a disaster situation."

Although Jones and Stewart are both versatile and small in stature, Tyler Hansen said they approach line of scrimmage differently in the running game.

"He's kind of a different player than Rodney is. He's more of a downhill guy," the quarterback said of Jones.

Although excited about the opportunity, Jones is hoping that Stewart's career at CU can end on a brighter note.

"I'm pretty much just filling in for Rodney Stewart and trying to do the best that I can," Jones said.

Rippy effect

Embree said Tuesday the coaching staff was still debating what to do about replacing CU tackles leader Doug Rippy, who suffered a season-ending knee injury at Washington.

Defensive coordinator Greg Brown could have Jon Major slide over from his outside linebacker position to Rippy's spot in the middle of the defense. Derrick Webb could be asked to move from his weak-side spot to the middle. Or Brady Daigh, another true freshman, could step in as the starter.

"There's a couple different things I'm sure we'll evaluate with coach Brown and coach (Brian) Cabral to get our best 11 out there," Embree said. "But we haven't settled on exactly what we'll do."

Is anyone healing?

The bleak injury situation isn't all bad. Embree said center Daniel Munyer and sack leader Josh Hartigan will likely be able to play. There is also a chance that starting cornerback Travis Sandersfeld could return from a fractured fibula sustained on Sept. 13.

Wide receivers Paul Richardson and Kyle Cefalo have been ruled out. Linebacker Liloa Nobriga and defensive backs Ayodeji Olatoye, Parker Orms and Paul Vigo remain suspended indefinitely.

"The other team is not going to feel sorry for you, so we're not either. We're going to go out there and we're going to compete," Embree said. "Whoever is representing the University of Colorado and is on the field, do it to the best of your ability, play with great effort, and see what happens."

Notable

CU has only committed six turnovers (three fumbles, three interceptions), which is tied for sixth fewest in the NCAA. The Buffs' fewest in a season was 11 back in 1956 (a 10-game schedule). ... Stewart and Richardson have combined to produce 53.7 percent of CU's all-purpose yards this season. ... Sophomore defensive end Chidera Uzo-Diribe leads CU with 4.5 sacks and three forced fumbles.

Quotable

"Oregon can beat Jon Embree. I've lost a couple steps. As far as the Buffaloes, I don't know. I'll race Chip (Kelly), though. We can settle it that way," Embree said when asked how much faster Oregon was.

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THORBURN: Keeping up with CU's injuries no trivial pursuit

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:10/18/2011 11:59:52 PM MDT

Any chance some of the injured players could be back for the Oregon game?

Jon Embree snickered at the question.

"You'll have to be specific because I know we've got a lot of guys out," the Colorado head coach said. "It's like a game show."

I'll take Celebrity (Knee) Rehab for \$400.

This diminutive tailback, nicknamed "Speedy" by his peers, is the Buffs' second all-time leading rusher and was responsible for 38.4 percent of CU's yards before spraining a knee at Washington.

Who was Rodney Stewart? Same category for \$500.

This dynamic sophomore shattered the program record for receiving yards in a game with 284 during a spectacular 11-catch, two-touchdown afternoon against Cal on Sept. 10 before a knee injury two weeks ago intercepted his bid for All-Pac-12 first team honors.

Who was Paul Richardson? Curse of the Cornerbacks for \$100.

These two promising young cornerbacks suffered serious injuries during the first week of fall camp to set an ominous tone for a secondary that has now lost nine cornerbacks to date.

Who were Jered Bell and Sherrard Harrington? Curse of the Cornerbacks for \$200.

This model citizen volunteered to switch from running back to cornerback four games into his senior season but was injured in his first defensive game against Washington State.

Who was Brian Lockridge? Curse of the Cornerbacks for \$300.

Despite running out of warm bodies for defensive coordinator Greg Brown to use, Embree refused to lower his standard and suspended these four defensive backs for breaking team rules. Who were Josh Moten, Ayodeji Olatoye, Parker Orms and Paul Vigo? Curse of the ... no, I'll try Linebacker U(gly) for \$500.

This Brian Cabral protege was enjoying a breakout season and leading the Buffs in tackles before tearing up a knee during a sleepless second half in Seattle.

Who was Doug Rippy? I'm sorry, you're ... correct again. Thanks for playing.

What has happened to CU's already thin roster is more like a cruel reality show.

Entering a 13-game schedule without a bye, the key to Embree's first season as head coach was for the undermanned Buffs to stay relatively healthy.

Would CU have been able to upset Stanford or Oregon with all hands on deck? Probably not.

But a once proud program certainly wouldn't be a 32½-point underdog to the Ducks at Folsom Field with better luck on the injury front.

"I just figure at some point it's going to even out for us," Embree said. "Unfortunately, it won't be this year."

The Buffs have already lost a total of 59 man games from injured players the coaching staff had penciled in on the two-deep or as key special teams contributors entering the season. With six games remaining, this projects as the second-worst rash of injuries to hit the program in the last 25 years behind the mangled 2008 team.

Fans don't want to hear about excuses, but Vince Lombardi and Bear Bryant wouldn't stand much of a chance with this skeleton crew.

"I think a lot of crazy stuff has happened to us this year," said senior quarterback Tyler Hansen, who, ironically, is feeling as good as he ever has physically after making a start. "We've played some good football, we've played some bad football. A lot of crazy stuff has happened."

Can CU beat No. 9 Oregon? I guess crazier things have happened.

Tony Jones could play like LaMichael James for one night. CU's defensive line could play like an SEC front for one night.

The high-flying Ducks could ground themselves with five or six lost fumbles. Perhaps the visitors will eat some spoiled buffalo meat during training table on Friday night.

I'll take Miracle on Grass for \$500.

This group summoned its inner David to stun gridiron Goliath Oregon and deliver coach Jon Embree his first Pac-12 victory.

Who were the 2011 CU Buffs?

Oops, I'm afraid you would have to be more specific. There were so many new and unexpected faces in the lineup that fall.

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CU Buffs plow ahead with nothing to lose in another tough season

Bufs will host No. 9 Oregon on Saturday in Boulder

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

Posted: 10/18/2011 01:22:27 PM MDT

Humongous, enormous, gargantuan. None of these words seem quite up to the job of describing the task Colorado football coach Jon Embree and his staff face this week in hosting No. 9 Oregon at Folsom Field.

Colorado will be in a scoring contest - as it is every week - with the third highest-scoring team in the nation. The problem is: CU brings the 113th rated scoring defense to the party and its offense is missing more than 50 percent of its total production so far this fall with tailback Rodney Stewart and wide receiver Paul Richardson out with sprained knees.

This is akin to defending oneself from the school bully with a hand tied behind your back and your shoelaces tied together.

"It's not just their offense," Embree said Tuesday during his weekly meeting the press. "It's their whole team. The thing that jumps out about them is their speed."

The Buffs are coming off consecutive beat downs against teams generally considered to be a notch below the Ducks in terms of offensive fire power. Stanford dismantled CU by a 41-point margin. Washington beat CU by 28 points, scoring 52 against the beleaguered Buffs defense.

Oregon, averages 49 points and plays at a pace unmatched by anyone in the nation. The Ducks put a heavy emphasis on snapping the ball for the next play as soon as possible after one play has ended, giving defenses no time to substitute, catch their breath or think about what's coming next. Embree said Oregon coach Chip Kelly and former CU offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich do a superb job of making opponents defend the 53-yard width of the field as well.

"We have to be very disciplined this week on defense," Embree said.

Embree was unconvinced that there is a formula for beating the Ducks, even when pointed in the direction of the game film from Oregon losses to Auburn in the national title game last season and LSU in the season opener this season.

Even if Embree had spotted similarities in those outcomes and approaches, it's likely CU doesn't have the personnel to pull off a huge upset. Embree said one common denominator was that Auburn and LSU both were able to run with the speedy Ducks while also playing physical with them.

The one team that Embree said seemed to have the most success against Oregon in the past two years was the 2009 Cal Bears. Embree said Cal was better at being Cal that day than Oregon was at doing what it does.

"You have to do what you do better than what they do," Embree said.

CU is expecting a crowd of more than 50,000 for the game and many of those fans are hoping the Buffs can keep it close and competitive, making the cost of the ticket worth it. CU players will face relatively little pressure in the game because of the low expectations. Perhaps that will help them play differently.

Starting quarterback Tyler Hansen was asked whether the Buffs have reached the point where they can hit the field Saturday and play like they've got nothing to lose. After all, they are all but eliminated from the postseason for the fourth straight year and fifth time in the past six seasons.

"I think so," Hansen said. "I think a lot of crazy stuff has happened to us this year. We've played some good football. We've played some really bad football. There has been some crazy stuff. The overtime game (Cal), to last week (Washington) to a bunch of guys going down (to injuries).

"So I think we've got nothing to lose. So let's go out there and the great thing about where we're at right now is we get to play football. We came here to play football. We're playing the game we love and we still get to play football, which is good."

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Ex-coach Bill McCartney to lead CU-Boulder's Homecoming parade

By **Brittany Anas**, Camera Staff Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 10/18/2011 05:13:33 PM MDT

Former University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney will be the grand marshal of this year's homecoming parade.

CU's Homecoming begins Friday and is themed "Celebrating CU Through the Decades." CU this year is combining its Pearl Street Stampede with the Homecoming Parade. Parade events begin at 7 p.m. on the Pearl Street Mall in the Courthouse Plaza area.

The festivities will combine the traditional pep rally and Golden Buffalo Marching Band performance with the Homecoming Parade's floats. The parade will end in the 1000 block of the Pearl Street Mall, in the parking lot of the former Camera building.

There will be an additional performance from the marching band, remarks from head football coach Jon Embree, McCartney and CU football team captains.

McCartney's 1990 CU Buffs' team was crowned national champions by the Associated Press.

Also in 1990, McCartney started the Promise Keepers, which began as a male Christian group.

The rally Friday will close with a performance by CU a cappella group The Buffoons.

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Battered and bruised Buffaloes searching for consistency against ninth-ranked Ducks

PAT GRAHAM AP Sports Writer

First Posted: October 18, 2011 - 6:08 pm

Last Updated: October 18, 2011 - 6:08 pm

AAA



Photos:



Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen starts to get up after being sacked by Washington in the first half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011, in Seattle. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)



Colorado's Douglas Rippey is assisted by trainers after being hurt against Washington in the second half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011, in Seattle. Washington won 52-24. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

BOULDER, Colo. — For all the hits he's absorbed, Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen still feels remarkably healthy.

That makes him a rarity on this team.

The Buffaloes (1-6, 0-3 Pac-12) are battered and bruised heading into a game against ninth-ranked Oregon (5-1, 3-0) on Saturday. They have more than a dozen players out, including leading tackler Douglas Rippey and top tailback Rodney Stewart, who are both sidelined with knee injuries.

What's more, their egos are ailing as the Buffaloes have taken their lumps during their inaugural season in the league. The last two weeks have been particularly painful, losing at Stanford and Washington by a combined score of 100-31.

This surely wasn't what coach Jon Embree envisioned when he took over the team.

Even through the rough start, Embree hasn't lost his sense of humor.

When asked Tuesday about how much faster the Ducks were, Embree chuckled and responded, "Oregon can beat Jon Embree. I've lost a couple of steps."

Embree suggested that instead of settling things on the field, maybe he could just have a foot race with Oregon coach Chip Kelly.

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-Select

First Name

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- Doug
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colorado football

Bufs' Jon Embree sticking with plan vs. Oregon

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/19/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 10/19/2011 09:04:02 AM MDT

BOULDER — Oregon's frenetic "blur offense" and other spread attacks can be wildly effective, but Colorado coach Jon Embree said Tuesday that he will always favor the pro set.

Although Colorado ranks 11th among Pac-12 teams in total offense, this is not the time to deviate from the plan and search for quick fixes, he said.

"Just the nature of where we are as a program right now, we can't do that," Embree said during his weekly media luncheon. "We're at a different point (from an Oregon). We're trying to install the competitiveness, the physicalness, those different things that I feel are important for our program to be able to take the next step."

Embree said on one occasion the Buffs (1-6, 0-3 Pac-12) did attempt to execute the "zone read" popularized by No. 9 Oregon (5-1, 3-0) and other spread offenses — with the quarterback reading the defensive end to determine whether to keep the ball or hand off to the tailback.

"We fumbled," he said.

That's not to say the Buffs won't eventually incorporate some plays from other systems, Embree said.

"There will be certain components that we would sprinkle in . . . as we grow and as our depth grows, we can start doing some of those things," he said.

"We've just got to keep building and keep focused on what our vision is and what our plan is. I think sometimes when you struggle, if you deviate from your plan you end up setting yourself back."

If that's being "stubborn," so be it, the coach added.

"I understand (Colorado's record) is not ideal right now," Embree said. "But I'm happy about some of the things we have accomplished. I still feel great about the direction we're going with our younger guys. I do feel good about the way things are going from a recruiting standpoint."

"So we have to keep our eye on building it the right way and not trying to find some short-term success at the expense of the overall vision for this program. I believe that what we're doing and how we're doing it will (eventually) give us a chance to be successful in this conference."

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cu briefs

CU homecoming game is based on schedule, not foe

Posted: 10/19/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — It's really Colorado's homecoming? That's right, Saturday's 1:30 p.m. game (Root) between Oregon and Colorado at Folsom Field is designated as CU's homecoming game — with the Buffs about a 30-point underdog.

Rather proudly, Colorado explains that it selects the annual homecoming game based on an appropriate slot on the calendar and the quality of opponent is not considered.

The best defense can be a good offense.

"They're good," CU senior quarterback Tyler Hansen said of Oregon's defense. "They do a lot of different stuff that we haven't seen before. They definitely have some fast guys back there and some big guys.

"I think what really makes (their defense) good is their offense is so good. When your offense is so good and you score that many points, it puts your defense in great spots. Their defense always has a comfort level knowing what their offense can do. So their defense is going to play confident, they're going to play fast."

Footnotes.

Fewer than 2,900 tickets remain for Saturday's game. . . . Coach Jon Embree said CU receiver Paul Richardson (knee) likely will not be ready for this weekend but center Daniel Munyer (ankle) and defensive back Travis Sandersfeld (leg

fracture) may get back this week. . . . None of the four remaining suspensions will be lifted in time for this game, Embree said.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

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college football

CU's Embree says Buffs must deal with No. 9 Oregon's speed

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/18/2011 01:58:21 PM MDT

Updated: 10/18/2011 02:03:13 PM MDT

BOULDER — A standard football field measures 53 yards in width, and Colorado's defense will see all 53 yards Saturday afternoon at Folsom Field against No. 9 Oregon, CU coach Jon Embree said Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon.

The Ducks (5-1, 3-0 Pac-12) like to run — make that sprint — by starting east-west, before turning upfield north-south.

"The thing that jumps out at you about Oregon is their speed; they do a tremendous job of making you defend the whole field — vertically and horizontally," Embree said of the Ducks.

"They run essentially option football. So you have to be assignment conscious. We have to be very disciplined on defense to limit big plays. We have to try to force

them into situations where we can have the upper hand on the defensive side."

Coaches call it "setting the edge." When on defense, Colorado (1-6, 0-3) can't afford to let Oregon's speedsters get around the corner.

"That's has to be priority No. 1 for us," Embree

said of containing Oregon's offense. "We have to do a good job of that in practice this week."

Oregon ranks fifth nationally in rushing offense (315.0 yards per game) and total offense (539.0). The Ducks rank third in scoring (48.67).

"They try to wall you off (on the edge)," CU senior outside linebacker David Goldberg said Tuesday. "We have a big challenge ahead of us."

Footnotes Saturday's 1:30 p.m. game (Root Network) is Colorado's homecoming. As of the close of business on Monday, 2,900 tickets remained.

...Embree said CU receiver Paul Richardson (knee) likely will not be ready for this weekend but the team could get center Daniel Munyer (ankle) and defensive back Travis Sandersfeld (leg fracture) back this week.

...None of the four remaining suspensions will be lifted in time for this game, Embree said.

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

OCTOBER 18, 2011, 5:59 PM

CU Rhodes Scholar Jim Hansen visits Buffs football practice

By **NATALIE MEISLER** |  No Comments

One of the smartest, if not the smartest, football player ever to wear the black and gold broke Colorado's huddle after practice Monday.

Then the Rhodes Scholar had a chat with his former National Championship teammate. After two decades, the two could switch roles. Offensive tackle Jim Hansen lost his football weight almost immediately after his career ended. He never had an interest in the NFL, just acquiring a Ph.D.

Offensive coordinator/running backs coach Eric Bieniemy now looks like he could block for Hansen. He took the role reversal with his usual good humor, saying offensive linemen lose all the weight.

Hansen comes to Boulder several times a year for work at NCAR. He also wants to help raise funds for both the C-Club. He lives near Monterrey, CA. and enjoys increased coverage of the Buffs thanks to Pac-12 ties.

"I'm just a fan now," Hansen said. By the way, he defers "smartest Buff alive" credit to CU's other Rhodes Scholar, 1961 All-America Joe Romig.

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/10/18/ex-rhodes-scholar-visits-cu-practice/21468/>

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

OCTOBER 18, 2011, 4:58 PM

Embree: CU frosh TB Creer “on board” with possibly losing redshirt

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

BOULDER— Colorado coach Jon Embree said Tuesday that if the Buffs need freshman tailback Malcolm Creer to pull off his redshirt, the Californian is “on board” with that possibility.

The sprained knee suffered by starter Rodney “Speedy” Stewart against Washington last weekend leaves CU with two tailbacks, redshirt freshman Tony Jones and sophomore Josh Ford, a walk-on.

Embree said during his weekly media luncheon that he is not sure whether the Buffs will try to go with just two tailbacks and preserve Creer’s redshirt, or if they might give Creer some action to get him ready in case Jones or Ford get dinged while Stewart is out.

Stewart is said to be out two to four weeks.

Embree said attempting to preserve Creer’s redshirt “is what you try to do. But at the same time, I don’t know how long Speedy is out. Hopefully, it’s not very long, but who knows?

“So you have to prepare (Creer), and at some point you may decide you have to get him in there for some game action, so his first time in there isn’t a disastrous situation.

“Those are all different things we’ll have to look at as a staff,” Embree added. “I trust Eric (offensive coordinator and RB coach Eric Bieniemy) and his judgment. Malcolm is all in. So we’ll have to see what happens Saturday.”

Creer, 5-feet-11 and 205 pounds, was ranked last winter as the eighth-best running back in California by Scout.com. He rushed for 1,270 yards and 19 touchdowns for Palisades High School in 2010.

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/10/18/embree-cu-frosh-tb-creer-on-board-with-possibly-losing-redshirt/21464/>

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

OCTOBER 18, 2011, 2:48 PM

Even with injuries, there's no letting up in practice, CU's Embree says

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

BOULDER — Despite all the injuries thinning Colorado's depth chart to seemingly the bare necessities, Buffaloes coach Jon Embree said Tuesday that the team can't afford to let up one bit in practice.

"No. We have have to go," Embree said during his weekly media luncheon. "When you're dealing with college athletes, there's a fine line in not going. If we don't work on tackling, if we don't work on certain fundamentals, and blocking and technique, we're not guys who are going to show up and all of a sudden do it on Saturday."

Colorado (1-6, 0-3 Pac-12) hosts ninth-ranked Oregon (5-1, 3-0) Saturday (1:30 p.m., Root Sports).

"You have to keep working," Embree said of practices. "Unfortunately, some of things that you need to work on and improve on, there's no easy way around (the preparation). So, yeah, we don't have some things (because of injuries) that maybe would help us. We knew that coming into the season (that might happen, with a 13-game schedule and no open date).

"You just can't shut it down, and say, 'Well, let's get them there Saturday.' You (do that and) get out there Saturday and you can't run, block or tackle."

You should follow me on [Twitter @TomKensler](#) ^[1] And read more at the [CU Buffs blog](#) ^[2]

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/10/18/even-with-injuries-theres-no-letting-up-in-practice-cus-embree-says/21442/>

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TIME: 03:30 P.M. EST
VENUE: Folsom Field

Oregon already had injury concerns about Heisman Trophy candidate LaMichael James. The status of quarterback Darron Thomas is also not certain now.

It's unclear whether both stars will play Saturday as the ninth-ranked Ducks try to extend their win streak to six and hand injury-plagued Colorado a fifth straight loss.

James dislocated his elbow during a 43-15 win over California on Oct. 6 and sat out last Saturday's 41-27 victory over then-No. 18 Arizona State.

James, who is averaging 170.4 yards a game, told reporters Tuesday he was awaiting a special brace. He plans on making the trip to Boulder and dressing for the game, but doesn't know yet if he'll play.

"I definitely could play," James said, "It's one of those things - if they need me to play."

Oregon (5-1, 3-0 Pac-12) finished its latest win without Thomas, who injured his left knee and was replaced by Bryan Bennett with the Ducks leading 21-17.

Bennett finished 2 of 5 for 22 yards as Oregon mainly ran the ball with Kenjon Barner, James' usual backup.

"No one really knew what Brian can do and he came in the game when it was close, and it was difficult and he showed what he can do," James said. "And I'm really proud of him."

Thomas insisted he was fine after the game, but coach Chip Kelly has not committed to his starter just yet.

"I think the offense is the same so it's not like we run things different when Bryan is in there," Kelly said.

Barner, hampered by an ankle injury earlier in the season, ran for 171 yards with one touchdown last weekend. He and freshman De'Anthony Thomas have combined for eight rushing scores - the same total as James.

"I think I came out a little too amped up for myself," Barner said. "Instead of controlling my jitters, I let my jitters control me. Once the game got going I got into a groove."

James leads the nation with a rushing average of 170.4 yards. He said last Saturday that he felt he could have played, describing himself as at "80 percent."

Colorado (1-6, 0-3), meanwhile, has lost leading tackler Douglas Rippy to a season-ending knee injury and his cousin, top tailback Rodney Stewart, for up to a month.

The Buffaloes own the second-worst offense in the Pac-12 at 337.9 yards per game and the fourth-worst defense, allowing an average of 408.9 yards. Still, the Ducks are not taking them lightly.

"When you watch the tape, they play extremely hard," Kelly said. "They've lost a ton of players through attrition and they've got a ton of injuries right now but they play hard from the beginning of the game to the end of the game."

Colorado has conceded 100 points over its last two games, falling 52-24 at Washington last Saturday. The Buffaloes know improvement won't be easy against an Oregon team scoring 48.7 points per game for the nation's third-highest average.

"Oregon, it's not just their offense but their whole team," coach Jon Embree said. "The thing that jumps out about them is just their speed. They have great speed at all their skill positions. They do a tremendous job of making you defend the entire field."

The Ducks will take aim at Colorado's Tyler Hansen, who has been sacked a Pac-12-high 19 times. Hansen has done a good job of protecting the ball with 13 touchdowns to three interceptions.

Tony Jones will replace Stewart as the starting tailback. He's carried 31 times for 116 yards, and Embree insists he will continue to try to run the ball.

The Buffaloes also remain without top receiver Paul Richardson due to a knee injury, while receiver Kyle Cefalo is out with a knee sprain suffered last week.

Colorado is playing at home for the first time since Oct. 1, and Oregon isn't doing anything specific to prepare for the altitude.

"Well we haven't played there yet," Kelly said. "There's nothing we can do about it so we don't really talk about it. We can't move the Moshofsky Center (training facility) higher to get ready for practice."

Colorado leads the all-time series 8-7. The Ducks won the last meeting 38-16 in the 2002 Fiesta Bowl.

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Comments

No comments yet. Be the first to comment.

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TV Schedule

National: FSN Regional

Standings

Team	Standings	Conference	Overall
Oregon	2nd Pacific 12 North	3-0	5-1
Colorado	5th Pacific 12 South	0-4	1-6

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Team Stats

Oregon						Colorado					
Passing						Passing					
Player	Pct	Yds	TDs	Int		Player	Pct	Yds	TDs	Int	
Thomas	61.3	1227	17	3		Hansen	56.5	1682	13	:	
Rushing						Rushing					
Player	Att	Yds	Avg	TDs		Player	Att	Yds	Avg	TDs	
James	95	852	9.0	8		Stewart	113	473	4.2	:	
Barner	58	338	5.8	4		Jones	31	116	3.7	:	
Receiving						Receiving					
Player	Rec	Avg	TDs	Yds		Player	Rec	Avg	TDs	Yds	
Thomas	21	14.8	4	310		Richardson	29	16.3	5	47	
Tuinei	19	11.5	5	218		Stewart	28	15.5	0	43	

Head to Head

 Oregon Ducks 5-1		 Colorado Buffaloes 1-6	
PASSING	Ducks	Buffaloes	
Net Passing Yds	1344	1736	
Passing Yds/Game	224.0	248.0	
Completions Pct.	60.1	56.0	
RUSHING	Ducks	Buffaloes	

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Husky Football Blog

Times reporter Bob Condotta keeps the news coming about the Montlake Dawgs.

October 18, 2011 at 10:55 AM

Coachspeak --- Embree and Shaw

Posted by Bob Condotta

Tuesday, as always, means the Pac-12 Coaches Conference Call.

And that meant a chance to talk to the coach of the team that most recently played UW --- Colorado coach **Jon Embree**; and the coach of the opponent this week --- Stanford's **David Shaw**.

Embree's team, in fact, has played both Stanford and UW the last two weeks, each on the road, losing to the Cardinal 48-7 and at UW 52-24.

I asked Embree what he thought of this week's matchup of UW and Stanford:

"I think it will be a great game for the fans of both of those programs. You've got two very good quarterbacks in (**Keith Price**) and the odds-on favorite for the Heisman Trophy in **Andrew Luck** so I think it will be a very good game, both offenses have found their identity and they've kind of got things set in what they want to do. But it's kind of like the national championship game last year where everyone wants to talk about the offenses and ultimately it came down to the defenses. I would expect a high-scoring game but shoot, it might end up being both defenses having big days."

I then asked Embree if he thought there was anything that separated the two team's defenses:

"No, you know they are different in that one is a 3-4 and one is an even front so how they do things from our standpoint they are a little different in how they get to 8-man fronts and from a pressure standpoint, so it would be hard for me to say of a difference in scheme what would separate those two."

As for Shaw, he was asked if there is one specific thing he would look at in trying to defend UW's offense:

"Not at all. There's not just one place because they can hurt you in a lot of different ways. You can tell that it's an orchestrated attack. They have a quarterback that is playing really well and multiple receivers that can do a lot of different things and run a lot of different routes and a running back that if you play too much coverage he can hurt you. He's been hurting people for years. So they've got a good thing going."

Asked why Price has been so successful this year, he said:

"It's two big things --- one is talent and the other is coaching. Athleticism wise he can move in the pocket, and not just escaping out to run it but being able to bide a little time sliding in the pocket and keeping the ball in throwing position. He's a talented passer, an accurate passer with a nice release. I know **Steve (Sarkisian's)** history with quarterbacks and he's got a good one that's going to be good for a while."

Asked about last year's 41-0 win for Stanford over UW, he said:

"Our game last year to be honest I think was it was just, I don't want to call it happenstance, but we did a lot of things right they did some things wrong, we called some perfect plays versus some perfect looks and caught momentum and sometimes once you catch momentum you just keep it going. But the thing is they looked like a different team right after our game. They went on and played some great football the rest of the year, all the way to the bowl game against Nebraska last year. So these guys have been good and kind of been on that roll ever since last year. They are playing with a lot of confidence and playing physical, playing hard on defense. They give you a lot of different schemes and blitzes to pick up and when you can play with confidence you play at a high level."

"I remember I saw them on TV the next week and said 'wow they've put this thing back together.' Because you never know, a game like that sometimes can go either way and give those guys a lot of credit, coach **(Nick) Holt**, coach Sarkisian just rallying those troops and they've been on a roll ever since."

And asked to elaborate on what he sees in Price, he said:

"I believe this, when I was in the NFL evaluating quarterbacks (he was an NFL assistant for a decade)--- when you watch a quarterback and you can tell what his progression is, that means he's well-coached and he knows what he's doing and that's what you see in Price. You see him drop back with urgency, you see him set his feet, you see him keep his eyes where they need to be, you see him get his entire body around to where he can throw it to No. 2 (progression) and No. 3 (progression), and that's a credit to the coaching staff up in Washington. What you see is that it's not a hodge-podge of randomness, you see that they are trying to attack something specific, which as an offensive coach I appreciate seeing that on film."



Posted on Wed, Oct. 19, 2011

(9) Oregon (5-1) at Colorado (1-6) (ET)

By Sports Network
The Sports Network

GAME NOTES: The ninth-ranked Oregon Ducks will attempt to extend their winning streak to six games when they take on the Colorado Buffaloes this weekend in a Pac-12 Conference affair in Boulder.

Since losing to now top-ranked LSU to open the season, Oregon has cruised to five consecutive wins, all by double figures. Last time out, the Ducks defeated a talented Arizona State squad by a 41-27 final to move to 3-0 against league competition.

"I was proud of our guys and we talked about playing a full 60 minutes, and that's what we did," said Oregon head coach Chip Kelly after the recent triumph.

Jon Embree's first season as head coach at Colorado has been rocky to say the least, as the team is off to a dreadful 1-6 start. The last four outings have resulted in defeat for the Buffaloes, who are in their first season as Pac-12 members since jumping ship from the Big 12. Last weekend, the defense let Embree and company down in a 52-24 loss to Washington.

"They (the defense) have to go out and compete and have some pride. There's nothing magical you can tell them," said Embree. "We have what we have, so we have to understand that when we're out there it's better knowing what you can't do as a player."

Colorado holds an 8-7 edge in the all-time series with Oregon, but the Ducks won the most recent matchup by a 38-16 final back in 2002.

The two best players on the offensive side of the ball for Oregon are RB LaMichael James and QB Darron Thomas. James is listed as questionable for this weekend's affair because of an elbow injury, and while Thomas is also banged up (knee), he is expected to play.

Thanks to those two players, Oregon is one of the nation's most explosive offensive teams. The Ducks are generating 48.7 ppg and 539.0 total ypg, including 315.0 rushing ypg. James has rushed for 852 yards and eight TDs already while gaining 9.0 ypc. As for Thomas, who is a threat as a runner as well, he has completed 61.3 percent of his passes for 1,227 yards and 17 touchdowns against only three interceptions.

While Oregon isn't a dominant defensive team, the club is certainly far better now than it was in the opener against LSU. Overall, the Ducks are yielding 23.3 ppg and 413.8 total ypg, and they have given up 16 touchdowns split evenly between the run and the pass. While Oregon can take pride in its healthy total of 15 sacks, there is room for improvement in the takeaway department, as the club has notched just one fumble recovery and five interceptions to this point.

Against Arizona State last week, Thomas threw for 187 yards and two touchdowns before exiting with an injury. James missed that game, but Kenjon Barner and De'Anthony Thomas were tremendous running the football in his absence. Barner tallied 171 yards and a score, proof of his big-time ability. Meanwhile, the Ducks allowed only 13 points over the final three quarters after surrendering two touchdowns in the opening frame.

"Our defense has done a nice job of understanding what the concept is, what our coaches want to do and make people drive the distance, go the distance, and force them into mistakes as they continue to go," said Kelly.

Just as Oregon's top tailback is injured, the same is true for Colorado's lead runner Rodney Stewart. Because of a knee injury, Stewart is expected to miss this affair. Considering the fact that WR Paul Richardson also has a bad knee that has him listed as questionable, the Buffaloes enter at far less than 100 percent.

Overall this season, Stewart has run for 473 yards, although his average of 4.2 yards per carry won't scare many opponents, and he certainly is not in the same league as James. Richardson has caught 29 passes for 474 yards and five touchdowns, and he is every bit as good as any receiver on the Ducks' roster.

Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen has completed just 56.5 percent of his passes for 1,682 yards and 13 touchdowns against only three interceptions. His team is generating 21.9 ppg and 337.9 total ypg, while yielding 36.0 ppg and 408.9 ypg.

Against Washington last week, the Buffs finished with only 269 total yards, a far cry from the 562 yards that they surrendered to the Huskies. Colorado allowed 295 rushing yards on 40 attempts and permitted the Huskies to complete 23-of-30 passes without an interception. A mere one sack was registered by the CU defense in that tilt.

"We got minimal pressure; we had plenty of assignment issues," said Embree. "In man coverage our guys didn't cover their men."

There is a glaring disparity in talent between the two teams, so even if James can't go, the Ducks will have no trouble getting past Colorado this weekend.

Sports Network Predicted Outcome: Oregon 52, Colorado 17

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