



QB Tyler Hansen says the CU culture must change.
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Brooks: Does November Hold Anything To Remember?

Release: 10/29/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

TEMPE, Ariz. - You were waiting on someone to say, "The games they remember are played in November." So there it is - only because I'm pretty sure circumstances over the 2011 season's final month will prevent Colorado coach Jon Embree from uttering those words.

I'm also pretty sure of this: Embree's memories of his first November as a head coach will be referenced in some future season - hopefully one sooner than later - to remind him that he knew things might get worse before they got better.

You'll probably ask how this could be, but things indeed got worse Saturday afternoon at Sun Devil Stadium, where CU had just been slapped silly by Arizona State, suffering its fourth 28-or-worse point loss in five Pac-12 Conference games. These Buffs aren't just getting beat, they're getting hammered.

This slap-fest was 48-14, and Embree's beef with the Buffs was

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a familiar one, although he had more to be troubled about on this afternoon than some of his players apparently having grown comfortable with being abused. Embree was dreading this, but CU's list of players lost for the season again grew by one; only a week out of his redshirt, freshman tailback Malcolm Creer suffered what Embree said was a torn MCL and possibly a torn ACL.

 **Final Game Book**

Embree shook his head when speaking of Creer and muttered, "Unbelievable . . ." A reporter asked him who he might have offended to warrant so many injuries to this team and Embree answered, "I don't know, but they're doing a good job of getting me back."

The circumstances beyond his control gnaw at him, the more tangible ones treat him even worse. He doesn't believe some of his players have enough of a distaste of losing to spit it out and search for a taste more palatable. He believes some of them have been too accepting of losses of 41 points (to Stanford), 28 (to Washington), 43 (to Oregon) and 34 (to ASU).

How does he know this? He's "watched them play . . . how they act on the sidelines . . . how they act after a loss like this and after previous losses. In some cases we can't do anything about it because they're the only people we have - and that's a sad thing. But I guarantee it's not going to be like this in the future."

Embree understands his team's incredibly bad injury situation and being shorthanded at many spots. "I understand it's not maybe the best circumstances for us." But he wants his team to win "in spite of" those things.

"The goal is to find a reason why you can (win) and then go do it, and focus on that. You can't control your team's injuries, you can't control the other team's schedule; you can control your play, your effort, how you handle the ball, how you handle your assignment, and then trust your teammate to do the same."

Players have "talked about" changing the mindset, "but it's just talk," Embree said. "I'm trying to be good here. But at some point, as I told them in there (locker room), we have some people that are comfortable with the results. That's just the facts. We're comfortable at times with what happens . . .

"We're comfortable with the circumstances we're in; you can ask guys in there and they'll tell you the same thing. I've had guys come tell me that. We just have to keep doing what we can to minimize the role of those people.

"I'm trying to create a culture, an environment where that isn't the case. And we'll keep working on that, keep coaching the guys that want to do it and keep trying to put them out there to make plays . . . the other ones, the guys who just want to be on the team, just want to be around if it goes good then decide they want to jump in the water, we'll just have to keep weeding it out."

Asked how much blame for his team's malaise he puts on himself, Embree responded, "I put a lot on myself; I'm the head coach . . . yet at the same time you have to want to do it. I can't make you do something. In some situations we can't make changes. But like I said, it's not going to stay like this."

Quarterback Tyler Hansen, cleared to play after suffering a concussion in the first half against Oregon in the previous game, said some players "think it's just OK to wear the jersey - and that's got to change. We've got to change that culture."

Hansen and other players have spoken with some of their teammates about the issues in question and, "They're saying all the right things, but their actions don't match their words," Hansen said.

Those players in question, he added, amount to a "handful of guys, both seniors and underclassmen . . . some guys are not here anymore, some are happy with just playing. It's not good enough to just be out there taking up space."

In a best-case scenario, something will snap in one or more of November's final four games - against USC Friday night at Folsom Field, against Arizona two Saturdays later at Folsom, then on the road for the final pair (at UCLA, Nov. 19; at Utah, Nov. 25).

Somewhere among that foursome is a November game to remember . . . isn't there?

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

SHOW MENU





Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Brooks: Sun Devils Slap Buffs Early, Cruise Late

Release: 10/29/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

TEMPE, Ariz. – In a football season short on answers and long on disappointment for the Colorado Buffaloes, maybe the most puzzling question concerns their anemic starts.

Games begin and the Buffs don't – and their early no-show act was repeated here Saturday against No. 23 Arizona State. A 21-point first quarter was cushion enough to allow ASU to hit cruise control and ultimately crush CU 48-14 at Sun Devil Stadium.

Losing its 22nd consecutive true road game, CU dropped to 1-8 overall and 0-5 in the Pac-12 Conference. ASU improved to 6-2 and 4-1, strengthening its hold on the South Division lead.

The Buffs return to Folsom Field Friday night to face Southern California (7 p.m., ESPN).

ASU quarterback Brock Osweiler completed 18-of-28 passes

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for 307 yards and two touchdowns, with tailback Cameron Marshall adding 114 yards rushing and three TDs on his 15 carries. CU quarterback Tyler Hansen finished 23-of-36 for 321 yards and one TD (two interceptions). Tailback Josh Ford was the Buffs' leading rusher, gaining 73 yards on 10 carries.

CU got defensive backs Travis Sandersfeld (leg), Ray Polk (concussion) and Vince Ewing (knee) back from injuries on Saturday, and offensive lineman Shawn Daniels (calf) returned to field goal and PAT teams for his first duty this season.

But on the players-lost side of the ledger, add freshman running back Malcolm Creer, whose redshirt was pulled last week against Oregon. He went to the sidelines with a knee injury midway through the second quarter and did not return. Coach Jon Embree said Creer suffered a torn MCL, possibly a torn ACL, and is lost for the season.

Nick Hirschman opened at quarterback, but Hansen (concussion vs. Oregon) replaced him on CU's third possession. Neither could help generate any early offense; the Buffs managed 54 total first-quarter yards to the Sun Devils' 222.

Opening play in the Pac-12 South didn't change any of the Buffs' old, bad habits. At the end of the first quarter, they trailed 21-0 and by halftime they were down 31-7. In four previous conference games against North Division opponents, intermission found CU trailing by a cumulative score of 111-30.

The Sun Devils scored on three of their first four possessions, two of the touchdowns coming on Osweiler passes (26, 33 yards) and the third on a 19-yard run by Marshall.

ASU, the third CU opponent this month to have an open week before playing the Buffs, fattened its margin to 24-0 on a 38-yard Alex Garoutte field goal with 7:56 left in the second quarter. And at that point, with its offense laboring badly, CU looked in danger of being held scoreless.

The Buffs' deepest penetration of the first half came on the following series, when they marched to the Sun Devils' 16-yard line. But at that point, Hansen was intercepted by safety Clint Floyd, killing the threat.

The defense accounted for CU's only first half points. After Sandersfeld batted an Osweiler backward pass, Josh Moten - making his first start in the secondary - snatched the ball off the ground on the run and ran 16 yards for a touchdown. Will Oliver's PAT brought the Buffs to within 24-7, but that might have aroused the Devils after they appeared to be nodding off.

ASU needed just three plays and 43 seconds to cover 62 yards and get its final first-half TD. Marshall got it on an 11-yard run, giving him 99 yards on 10 carries and his two scores.

Osweiler finished the half 13-of-18 for 230 yards and his pair of TD tosses, while Hirschman was 3-of-6 for 16 yards and Hansen was 13-of-21 for 159 and the lone pick.

ASU outgained CU 350-180 in total offense in the first half.

The Buffs accepted the second half kickoff but didn't do anything with it. Hansen's second interception led to another Garoutte field goal - this one a 46-yarder - and ASU padded its lead to 34-7 with 9:58 left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing possession, CU drove to the ASU 1-yard line, where two runs - one by Hansen, the other by tailback Tony Jones - netted nothing. The Sun Devils celebrated a little too much after the fourth-down stop, drawing a half-yard penalty.

The Buffs forced a punt, then fumbled it and the Sun Devils recovered at the CU 13. Three plays later, Marshall scored his third TD on a 4-yard run, giving him 114 yards on 15 carries and ASU a 41-7 lead.

The third quarter was 28 seconds from ending, and the fourth quarter once again presented little hope for CU. But on the brighter side, the Buffs offense scored for the first time since the fourth quarter of the Washington game (Oct. 15).

With 12:45 remaining, Hansen and Toney Clemons hooked up for a 21-yard TD. Oliver's extra point made the score 41-14. ASU responded by changing quarterbacks, pulling Osweiler and letting backup Mike Bercovici and No. 3 Taylor Kelly close this one out.

Kelly led a five-play, 51-yard march for the Sun Devils' final TD, handing off to No. 3 tailback James Morrison for an 8-yard run that put the score at 48-14.

The Buffs kept battling, driving to the Sun Devils 2-yard line in the final 3 minutes. But a lost fumble by Ford snuffed that scoring opportunity and sent CU home with its 34-point loss.

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SHOW MENU



Arizona State routs CU Buffs

Creer out for year with knee injury

By Kyle Ringo Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:10/29/2011 07:47:47 PM MDT

TEMPE, Ariz -- Ugly. Dull. Depressing.

The latest 60 minutes of torture in this black hole season for the Colorado football program unfolded in familiar form Saturday on the field at Sun Devil Stadium.

Over matched by superior talent, depth and speed once again the Buffs fell behind quickly, surrendering touchdown drives on Arizona State's first two possessions and three of its first four. Colorado came to the desert as a 30-point underdog and by the end of the first quarter of a 48-14 loss that spread seemed kind.

For the third straight week the opponent scored more than 30 points and racked up more than 300 yards of total offense in the first half alone against the beleaguered Buffs' defense.

And for the third straight week another key member of the team suffered a significant injury. True freshman running back Malcolm Creer's season ended two weeks after being activated from a redshirt. He suffered a knee injury feared to be torn knee ligaments. He will be evaluated today.

"I understand we are playing shorthanded. I understand it's not maybe the best circumstances for us, but that still doesn't change your mindset," coach Jon Embree said. "Your mindset is to still go out there and win in spite of. You can find a million reasons why you can't. The goal is to find the one reason why you can and will and then go do it and focus on that.

"You can't control injuries. You can't control the other team's schedule. All you can control is your play, your effort, how you handle the ball, how you do your assignment and then trust your teammate to do the same."

The Buffs have been outscored 193-47 in the past four games.

Colorado lost for the 22nd straight time on the road and 23rd consecutive time outside the state. It is the longest road-losing streak in the Football Bowl Subdivision. The Buffs fell to 1-8 overall and 0-5 in the Pac-12 Conference.

Embree is still looking for his first victory over a team from a Bowl Championship Series league. Fellow Pac-12 newcomer Utah beat Oregon State 27-8 in Salt Lake City on Saturday, leaving the Buffs alone in the cellar.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Nick Hirschman made his first collegiate start for CU after taking the majority of the practice snaps throughout the week while senior Tyler Hansen recuperated from a concussion.

The Colorado offense had been shut out at home against Oregon last week and Hirschman hoped to provide a spark. But it did not go well. Hirschman completed three of six passes for 16 yards and was replaced by Hansen after nearly throwing two interceptions on the Buffs' first two possessions. Hirschman returned in fourth quarter garbage time.

"He was late on things and all that," Embree said. "We just wanted to get him going and see how Tyler was. We felt the way the game was going, we needed to get Tyler in to get something going."

Hansen was intercepted twice, including once in the red zone. It was the first time this season Hansen has been picked off twice in the same game.

"The interceptions were not his fault," Embree said. "I thought he played pretty well. He could have got rid of the ball a little quicker a couple times, but the two interceptions wasn't his issue."

Meanwhile, Arizona State quarterback Brock Osweiler became the latest Pac-12 signal caller to pick apart the injury-

riddled and freshman-laden CU secondary. Osweiler completed a pair of pretty touchdown passes in the first quarter.

The first score covered 25 yards to Jamal Miles and the second went 33 yards to Kevin Ozier. Osweiler completed 18 of 28 passes for 307 yards. ASU tailback Cameron Marshall added touchdown runs of 19, 11 and 4 yards and ran for 114 yards.

Colorado's first score came courtesy of one of the few mistakes Osweiler made.

Late in the first half, he threw backward to the wide side of the field. Defensive back Travis Sandersfeld tipped the lateral and cornerback Josh Moten scooped it up and ran into the end zone for a touchdown. It was the first touchdown for the Buffs since the fourth quarter at Washington two weeks ago, but the offense still hadn't scored.

CU drove to within inches of the end zone in the third quarter but was stuffed at the goal line on consecutive running plays on third and fourth down.

The shutout streak extended to seven quarters before the CU offense finally put points on the board when Hansen connected with wide receiver Toney Clemons for a 21-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter. The play capped a six-play, 80-yard drive.

Embree was asked what the offense can do to improve down the stretch this season.

"We had the goal-line stand. We had the turnover inside the five. We had the interception," Embree said. "Don't turn the ball over and convert when you're down there. That's what we can do. Don't get down 21-nothing. There is a lot we can do."

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Frosh RB Creer out for season

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

Posted: 10/30/2011 12:09:44 AM MDT

True freshman running back Malcolm Creer hobbled off the field at Sun Devil Stadium on Saturday using a pair of black crutches to keep weight off his injured knee.

Creer, who is expected to miss the rest of the season with torn knee ligaments, is the latest in a long line of Colorado players to suffer a significant injury this season. The number of games missed by players in the two deep depth chart now just causes coach Jon Embree to smile, shrug and shake his head.

"He's done. He has an MCL and possible ACL," Embree said of Creer. "He's ... unbelievable. Poor kid."

Creer had agreed to pull his redshirt and play just two weeks ago in the wake of starting tailback Rodney Stewart being injured. His season ended with 15 carries for 45 yards to his credit along with one kickoff return.

Happy returns

Colorado is expecting Stewart and wide receiver Paul Richardson to return from knee injuries next week for the USC game at Folsom Field on Friday night.

The duo has accounted for approximately 50 percent of the Buffs total offensive production this season. Stewart is the Buffs' leading rusher and Richardson is the team's leading receiver and most dynamic playmaker.

500 Club

Arizona State became the fourth consecutive opponent to rack up more than 500 yards of total offense against the Buffs. It is the first time in CU history the Buffs allowed that kind of production in four straight games.

Sandersfeld back

in the fold

Senior defensive back Travis Sandersfeld was a starting cornerback in the first two games of the season before suffering a broken leg against Cal. He had missed the previous six games before Saturday while recuperating.

Sandersfeld returned to the lineup against the Sun Devils and played a part in the Buffs scoring their first touchdown of the day on defense. Sandersfeld tipped a lateral from ASU quarterback Brock Osweiler causing a fumble and Josh Moten picked up the ball and ran into the end zone for the score.

Merry go round

CU has used 13 different players to return kickoffs this season, including Justin Gorman and Josh Ford, who saw their chances Saturday. The only time in school history the program used more was the 1959 season when 14 different Buffs returned kickoffs.

Notable

Senior Shawn Daniels saw his first action of the year after a severe calf strain. He played on the field-goal team for two extra point attempts. ... Defensive back Vince Ewing, who suffered a torn ACL last season, had missed most of this season too because of swelling in the knee. He played for the first time Saturday. ... The Buffs committed a season-high five turnovers. They had turned the ball over only seven times in the previous eight games prior to Saturday.

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THORBURN: Larry Scott still believes Buffs right pick for Pac-12

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:10/30/2011 12:11:46 AM MDT

LOS ANGELES -- The Buffs are on their way to a last-place finish in the Pac-12.

Colorado is now 1-8 overall, 0-5 in the new conference after Saturday's 48-14 loss at Arizona State.

So why was CU No. 1 on Larry Scott's expansion list?

"CU just checked all the boxes for us," the forward-thinking Pac-12 commissioner said during an interview with the Camera. "CU was a fit in terms of academic compatibility, being a good geographic fit and sharing a similar philosophy and culture in terms of the role of athletics within the broader mission. And Denver is a very important market."

If recent success on the football field were factored in during the ongoing realignment free-for-all, the Buffs would be out in the cold with their noses pressed against the Pac-12 window.

To their credit, CU chancellor Phil DiStefano's new peers -- Stanford (5), Cal (21), USC (23) and UCLA (25) are all ranked among U.S. News & World Report's top-25 universities -- understand what the well-respected university in Boulder adds to the equation academically. Academics is a major reason why the schools Texas wanted to drag into the Pac-16 were stiff-armed.

Meanwhile, the Big East is banking on emerging football factories like Boise State and other geographical misfits such as Houston and SMU to serve as buoys to keep the crumbling basketball conference afloat.

What if Chris Petersen ever decides to leave the Broncos for a better payday somewhere else?

The Pac-12's new television deal is going to be worth about \$3 billion to the member institutions. Being in a stable conference right now is priceless.

"It's great to know who you are and to be really comfortable with the makeup of your conference," Scott said. "Obviously, we have a lot of wind in our sails with the TV agreements that we struck and a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. Not having anyone in our conference with a wandering eye is nice."

Scott believes the Buffs' rich football tradition will be back in due time. CU basketball coach Tad Boyle has been reaping the benefits of recruiting Southern California, and Jon Embree will too.

Despite the ghastly scoreboard results this fall, the Buffs faithful have made it clear that the program is right at home in the Pac-12.

"It has really been palatable this football season with Colorado playing in some of the Pac-10 venues, the way the fan base is traveling," Scott said. "And I know some of our schools have really enjoyed the road trips to Boulder. There's a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. It has been a good fit."

Football pays the bills and drives conference expansion. The coaches who gathered at the Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles for Pac-12 basketball media day are smart enough to understand that.

"I spent 14 years in investment banking, so I understand economics," said Oregon State head coach Craig Robinson, who is also Barrack Obama's brother-in-law. "Economics drives things, and there's nothing wrong with that."

At Arizona and UCLA basketball will serve as a welcome diversion from the firing of Mike Stoops and Rick Neuheisel's scorching-hot seat.

Boyle would love to help erase some of the pigskin pain at CU by orchestrating another feel-good story at the Coors

Events Center this season.

"I do know that Colorado fans are looking for something to hitch their wagon to, there's no question," Boyle said. "They're looking for something to cheer for. We were able to do that last year and we want to be able to do that this year."

In basketball, freshmen like Askia Booker and Spencer Dinwiddie can be stars right away. In football, the 15 freshmen the Buffs have thrown into the fray will need to take their beatings for a couple of years before becoming the bully.

"Obviously, CU is coming off a great year. They're very well respected in basketball," Scott said. "I think Jon (Embree) is excited about the same thing with recruiting, the annual road trip to L.A. for a game. I think it's going to help the program tremendously."

As Ricky Bobby says: If you ain't first, you're last.

Colorado was first in conference expansion, and these tough times on the football field won't last.

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CU Buffs' Jon Embree vows to weed out complacent players

Hansen backs up coach's take on those happy just to wear jersey

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

Posted:10/30/2011 12:10:59 AM MDT

TEMPE, Ariz. -- A majority of the Colorado football team was recruited to the program by a coach who preached to never get too high or too low after wins and losses.

Those players are now being coached by a CU alum who takes the results on Saturdays personally.

The transition has been bumpy at times including an episode Saturday evening in the visiting locker room at Sun Devil Stadium following another blowout loss.

CU coach Jon Embree told his team there are players on the roster who are "comfortable with the circumstances we are in." He promised to weed out those players over time, saying it's not acceptable to be happy just to wear the Colorado jersey.

Then he shared the message with the media when asked what players have talked about with him in regards to what they have left to play for.

"They've talked about it. We just talk," he said. "I'm trying to be good here. At some point, as I told them in there. We've got some people who are comfortable with the results. It's just the facts. We're comfortable at times when it happens like that. I'm trying to create a culture and environment where that isn't the case.

"We'll work on that. We'll keep coaching the guys that want to do it. We'll keep coaching the guys who want to do it and keep putting them out trying to make plays, the ones that it's important to. The other ones who just want to be on the team and the guys that just want to, you know, be around if it goes good then decide they want to jump in the water, we'll just have to keep weeding it out."

Colorado has lost six consecutive games and sits in the cellar of the Pac-12 Conference with a 1-8 overall record and an 0-5 mark in the conference. The team has suffered a rash of key injuries and morale in the program is low.

Senior quarterback Tyler Hansen backed up his head coach. He said some members of the senior class meet with Embree every week to let their coach know what the mood of the team is. Hansen said Embree appreciates having that feedback.

Hansen said those seniors have shared their concerns with Embree about some of what they have seen from teammates. Hansen said the problem players are spread over different classes and the seniors have talked to them as well. He said some of them continue to play.

"We don't like it, especially the seniors," Hansen said. "There are guys who are just OK wearing the jersey. That's wrong and that's what's got to change. We're trying to change that culture around here. We want guys who want to win, want to play for the University of Colorado and want to help the Buffs play for championships and stuff like that. And guys are OK with just being out there."

Embree said feedback from players about their teammates is not the only source he uses in the weeding out process. He said those players have ways of identifying themselves.

"How you watch them play, how they act on the sidelines, how they react after a loss like this, how they've acted after previous losses," Embree said. "In some cases we can't do anything about it because they're the only people we have, which is the sad thing. But I guarantee you it's not going to be like this in the future. It will not be like this in the future."

Redshirt freshman cornerback Josh Moten knows what it's like to upset his head coach. Moten was one of five players suspended earlier this season. Moten said he had failed to complete community service he was ordered to perform as part of an incident he was involved in with an ex-girlfriend last fall. He was reinstated after handling the matter.

"Coach Embree, he set the bar and that's what he's going by," Moten said. "It doesn't matter who you are. If you're not following his standard or his way, cause it's his program now, then he'll move on without you.

"It just challenges them and makes them want to do the right thing all the time. Since his bar is so high, I don't think any one of those guys in that locker room want to be that guy to be kicked off or to be suspended. It just makes them put more effort into doing the right things, going to class, being on time to tutors, going on the field and playing hard, playing ball."

Athletic director Mike Bohn said Embree is passionate but frustrated in the middle of a difficult season. He said the immediate aftermath of a loss is not the appropriate time to discuss whether the program might be heading for significant attrition when the season ends.

"After a ball game, Jon is a competitive coach and we love that in him," Bohn said. "I know he is committed to continue to do everything he can to inspire his players and also to find the players that are going to represent the competitive spirit that he represents."

Linebacker and team captain Jon Major said he believes Embree is simply trying to challenge the players. He said in a season as disappointing as this one it can be easy for players to fall into the trap of accepting the results.

"It's tough and it's the dog days, but there is still a lot to play for," Major said. "We love our seniors and we care about each other. That's ultimately who you play for. You play for each other. You play for Buff Nation. You can never give up when you still have an opportunity to play."

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cu football

Colorado gets blown out, 48-14, at Arizona State

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/29/2011 07:46:06 PM MDT

Updated: 10/30/2011 12:53:49 AM MDT



Arizona State's Mike Willie, left, rushes against Colorado's Greg Henderson in the second quarter of an NCAA college football game Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, in Tempe, Ariz. (Ross D. Franklin, The Associated Press)

TEMPE, Ariz. — Jon Embree's honeymoon period with Colorado is turning into a slow boat ride to Hades.

What he's going through in his first season as head coach is the equivalent of losing his luggage, contracting a disease he can't pronounce, getting robbed at machete point and having his honeymoon suite occupied by some of the larger area rodents.

Saturday's most recent day trip found Embree and his Buffaloes lost in the desert. This time, 23rd-ranked Arizona State took its turn in whacking the Buffaloes with the Pac-12 welcome mat, rolling to a 31-7 halftime lead in a 48-14 pounding.

Now Embree is slowly learning his dearly beloved isn't so hot anymore. After the game, he openly wondered about some players'

commitment.

"I'm trying to be good here," said Embree, choosing his words carefully. "As I told them in (the locker room), we've got some people who are comfortable with the results. It's just the facts. We're comfortable at times with what happens like that."

Colorado (1-8, 0-5 Pac-12), a 31-point underdog, served as the perfect homecoming guest. Lingering injuries still left CU without its leading receiver and runner and its best defensive player. Senior quarterback Tyler Hansen came off the bench fighting off the effects of a concussion from the Oregon rout the week before and the offense did little.

Arizona State (6-2, 4-1) outgained CU 222-54 in the first quarter in building a 21-0 lead, inspiring

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a third of the Sun Devil Stadium crowd of 53,168 parched souls to leave at halftime.

From the sounds of Embree, some of his players should've joined them.

"We'll keep coaching the guys who want to do it and keep trying to put them out there to make plays, the guys that it's important to," Embree said. "The other ones that just want to be on the team, the guys that just want to be around if it goes good and decide to jump in the water, we just have to keep weeding them out."

Besides



Colorado hit a roadblock in Arizona State on Saturday. The Sun Devils' Clint Floyd upends the Buffs' Malcolm Creer in the first quarter. Creer finished with just 6 yards before suffering a season-ending knee injury. (Ross D. Franklin, Associated Press)

searching for its first Pac-12 victory, Colorado still seeks its first out-of-state win since before the Beijing Olympics. The loss was the Buffaloes'

23rd straight outside Colorado dating to 2007.

This one wasn't a fair fight. Colorado faced its third consecutive opponent coming off a bye week and the inspired first-place Sun Devils have a steel gaze on the South Division title. Meanwhile, Colorado's ravaged secondary trotted out three freshmen and a junior safety coming off a concussion.

Brock Osweiler, the latest future NFL quarterback the Buffs can tell their kids they faced, had target practice. The first two possessions produced touchdowns in a combined 4 minutes, 24 seconds.

When the Sun Devils started nodding off, leading 24-0, and CU cornerback Josh Moten returned a deflected backward pass 16 yards for a touchdown, it just made them mad. Arizona State took only three plays to go 62 yards and make it 31-7.

Tailback Cameron Marshall rushed 15 times for 114 yards and three touchdowns as Arizona State rolled up 522 yards. Hansen, cleared Friday morning, went 22-of-35 for 285 yards and two interceptions.

Now with sole possession of the South Division basement, Embree is looking in the pockets of o

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Id clothes searching for something to play for. With his offense among the worst 20 in the country and his defense about ready to join it, he may just settle for a momentary spark.

Hansen's 21-yard TD pass to Toney Clemons with 12:45 left was the Buffaloes' first offensive score in eight quarters. Colorado also got stuffed on fourth-and-goal at the 1, Josh Ford fumbled at the ASU 2 and Hansen threw an interception at the ASU 19.

Running out of time, Hansen is one of the seniors telling Embree about the vibe on the team. It's not good news.

"We don't like it, especially the seniors," Hansen said. "There are some guys who are just OK wearing the jersey. That's wrong. That's going to change."

Colorado's search for paradise won't get easier. This week it shows the world all its warts and wounds when it faces Southern California on Friday night on ESPN.

Oh, how Embree could just once order room service.

John Henderson: 303-954-1299, jhenderson@denverpost.com, [twitter.com/johnhendersonDP](#)

Three questions for CU

1. Can Colorado quarterbacks, especially if redshirt freshman Nick Hirschman starts in place of senior Tyler Hansen (concussion), avoid turnovers against an opportunistic Arizona State defense?

Hansen, who took over for Hirschman with 4:48 remaining in the first quarter, threw multiple interceptions in a game for the first time this season. ASU began the weekend leading the Pac-12 in interceptions by a wide margin with 11. The Sun Devils still top that category.

2. Will Colorado's defense force Arizona State into enough third-down situations?

ASU entered the game ranked 10th among Pac-12 teams in third-down conversion percentage (36.8) and was successful on just 2-for-6 in the first half Saturday. That mattered not. The Sun Devils amassed 350 yards of offense during the first 30 minutes and scored 31 points.

3. This question seems to be asked weekly, but can Colorado (a 30-point underdog) stay competitive into the second half?

No. At halftime, Colorado trailed 31-7 and had not scored on offense.

Tom Kensler, The Denver Post

Key stat

222: Arizona State's yards in the first quarter as it built a 21-0 lead.

Key play

Cameron Marshall's 17-yard touchdown run for a 14-0 lead was just one TD in a 34-point rout. But no Colorado defender touched him on a simple dive play up the middle. It set the tone for the Sun Devils' total domination.

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"I put a lot on myself. I'm the head coach. Yet at the same time you've got to want to do it. I can't make you do something. In some situations, we can't make changes but it's not going to stay like this."

Jon Embree, CU coach

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cu football

Colorado coach Jon Embree seeking more "gamers" after latest loss

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/30/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

TEMPE, Ariz. — After watching his team get blasted once again, Colorado coach Jon Embree stopped short of saying his players have quit.

But there are some, he said, that readily accept losing and the game apparently does not mean as much to them as it should.

"At some point, we have people that are comfortable with the results," Embree said Saturday night after CU's 48-14 loss to No. 23-ranked Arizona State. "That's just the facts. We're comfortable at times with what happens. We're trying to create a culture and an environment where that isn't the case. We'll keep working on that. We'll keep coaching the guys that want to do it.

"The guys that it's important to . . . we'll keep putting them out there to make plays. The guys that are just happy to be on a team, or the guys that just want to, you know, be around when things go good, and then (when adversity occurs) just jump in the water — we'll have to keep weeding that out."

The Sun Devils (6-2, 4-1 Pac-12) took a 31-7 lead into halftime. CU (1-8, 0-5) entered the game having yielded an average of 48.3 points in

blowout losses to Stanford, Washington and Oregon, and this wasn't any better.

Embree was asked how he can tell which players accept losing.

"It's watching them play, how they act on the sidelines, how they react after a loss like this, how they've acted after previous losses," Embree said. "I've had guys in the locker room tell me that."

Injuries, to a point, have tied the coaches' hands, he said. CU still has to send out a lineup, even if not everybody is on board with Embree's passion.

"That's the sad thing," he said. "We're doing what we can to minimize the role of those people. But I guarantee you, it's not going to be like this in the future. It will not be like this in the future."

CU senior quarterback Tyler Hansen said the team leaders, including himself, concur with Embree.

"There are some guys that are just OK wearing the jersey," Hansen said. "That's what's got to change. We're trying to change that culture."

"We want guys that what to play for the University of Colorado and want to play for

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championships. Some guys are just OK being out there."

tkensler@denverpost.com

What can the leaders say?

"We have conversations with them and with Coach Embree," Hansen said.

Like Embree, Hansen declined to mention names. "It's a handful of guys, whether it be seniors, freshmen, it's a group of guys," the quarterback said. "We have to change that. We have to change the attitude. Some of the guys aren't here anymore. But some of the guys are playing, and just playing. We're trying (to get the point across) that it's not just OK to take up space," he added. "We're trying to get that message across."

Shaking off the effects of a concussion suffered a week earlier, Hansen entered the lineup Saturday in place of starter Nick Hirschman with 4:48 remaining in the first quarter.

Colorado finally scored its first offensive points in eight quarters — a drought dating to the fourth quarter against Washington — when Hansen connected with senior wideout Toney Clemons for a 21-yard touchdown pass with 12:45 remaining in the game.

Hansen threw multiple interceptions for the first time in a game this season. But Embree said the interceptions were not Hansen's fault.

Hirschman, making his first career start, was given just two series (going 3-for-6 passing for 16 yards) before being replaced by Hansen.

Hirschman did come in for some mop-up duty in the fourth quarter but was obviously upset when he spoke to reporters after the game.

"I haven't had a conversation with coaches yet, so I don't know," Hirschman said when asked why he was pulled so early.

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or

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cu football

Colorado freshman RB Creer suffers knee injury

By Tom Kensler and John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 10/30/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

TEMPE, Ariz. — The freshman season of Colorado tailback Malcolm Creer has apparently ended before it had a chance to get going.

Creer, a 5-foot-11, 205-pounder from Los Angeles, suffered ligament damage to his left knee Saturday.

He had his redshirt pulled a week ago and carried 11 times against Oregon.

"He's done," CU coach Jon Embree said, shaking his head. "Unbelievable. The poor kid."

On the positive side, CU senior tailback Rodney Stewart and sophomore Paul Richardson are expected back for Friday's game against USC.

Kasa moves to offense.

CU junior Nick Kasa moved from the defensive line to tight end.

"We're just trying to get some depth (at tight end)," Embree said.

Three frosh in secondary.

Senior cornerback Travis Sandersfeld returned for the first time since injuring his leg in practice Sept. 13. He didn't start but provided the biggest play for Colorado, deflecting Brock Osweiler's

backward pass that cornerback Josh Moten picked up and ran 16 yards for a touchdown.

Starting in the secondary were Moten, a redshirt freshman; cornerback Greg Henderson, a true freshman; safety Kyle Washington, another true freshman; and junior safety Ray Polk.

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Marshall runs for 3 TDs, No. 23 Arizona State avoids letdown with 48-14 rout over Colorado

By Associated Press, Published: October 29

TEMPE, Ariz. — Brock Osweiler winged passes into tight spaces. Cameron Marshall, finally fully healthy, showed off his ability to get into the end zone. That ballhawking defense did what it does best.

Letdown? Not a chance, at least not this time.

Osweiler guided Arizona State's offense to near perfection during a big opening blitz, Marshall scored three touchdowns on the ground and the 23rd-ranked Sun Devils maintained control of the Pac-12 South with a 48-14 rout of Colorado on Saturday.

"We didn't want to come out lethargic like we have the past few times (against underdogs)," said Arizona State receiver Gerell Robinson, who had four catches for 89 yards. "This is a different team with a different mindset. We know that we control our own destiny and it's the first time we're in this position, so we're not going to slip."

Arizona State hasn't been particularly good against teams it was supposed to beat, including a sluggish-starting win over then-winless Oregon State to start October.

Knowing they couldn't afford a slip-up against an injury-riddled, 31-point underdog, the Sun Devils (6-2, 4-1 Pac-12) manhandled the Buffaloes on both sides of the ball from the start, jumping out to a 21-point lead in the first quarter.

Marshall finished with 114 yards on 15 carries, Arizona State had 522 total yards and its defense forced five turnovers to stay a game ahead of UCLA in the division race.

"From Oregon State, we learned how to come out and start a football game, how to come out and execute," said Osweiler, who hit 18 of 28 passes for 307 yards and a pair of touchdowns. "I think we did a great job of that today."

Arizona State's start left Colorado with another disappointing finish.

The Buffaloes (1-8, 0-5) couldn't stop Osweiler's passing, Marshall and the running game (207 yards on 36 carries) or hold onto the ball on offense as Colorado suffered its 22nd straight road loss and sixth straight overall.

Tyler Hansen, back from last week's concussion, threw for 285 yards and a touchdown, but also had two interceptions after replacing freshman Nick Hirschman in the first quarter.

Colorado had a respectable 420 total yards of offense, but the offense couldn't find the end zone until the game was out of reach.

Adding another lopsided loss to the pile left first-year coach Jon Embree fuming, focusing on the players who appear to be along for the ride instead of the ones trying to turn the struggling program around.

"You can tell which ones by the way they play, the way they act on the sidelines, how they act after a loss like this, how they have acted after previous losses," Embree said. "In some cases we can't do anything about it because they are the only people we have, which is the sad thing."

Arizona State put itself in control of the Pac-12 South with a solid run through the toughest stretch of its schedule.

The Sun Devils have a favorable closing road to the Pac-12 Championship game, with four of their five games against teams with losing records.

Unlike the Oregon State game, there was no lookahead or letdown this time.

Osweiler hit Jamal Miles on a 25-yard touchdown pass on Arizona State's fifth play. Next drive, Arizona State's line created a hole big enough for a bus to drive through and Marshall cruised through for a 19-yard touchdown run.

Osweiler made it 21-0 before the first quarter was over, threading a 33-yard pass just over the shoulder of Colorado defensive back Ray Polk into the hands of Kevin Ozier for a touchdown.

Marshall added touchdown runs of 11 and 4 yards to keep the Buffaloes from making any kind of run.

"We took down there right away and scored and dominated the first half," Arizona State coach Dennis Erickson said. "I

thought it was a good effort, I really did.”

Arizona State’s dominance wasn’t much of a surprise the way Colorado’s year has gone.

The Buffaloes came into their inaugural Pac-12 season without much depth, making the rash of injuries even tougher to take.

Colorado’s injury report for Arizona State listed 18 players, including five out for the season, leaving Embree to spend his first season in Boulder shifting the roster around like a game of Sudoku while trying to find combinations that work.

The lack of a bye week hasn’t helped much, either.

Outscored 145-33 the previous three games, Colorado found itself on the wrong end of another rout almost from the opening snap.

Arizona’s offense had its way with the young Buffs, piling up 222 yards in the first quarter on the way to a 31-7 halftime lead.

Colorado’s offense didn’t have it much better, even after switching quarterbacks.

Hirschman opened under center and nearly threw an interception on his first pass. He was just 3 for 6 for 16 yards when Hansen replaced him for Colorado’s third series.

Hansen appeared to be fine after last week’s hit and had a few decent plays in the first half, but he and the Buffaloes couldn’t get out of their own way.

Colorado had two turnovers in the half — an interception by Hansen and a fumble on a hook-and-ladder that failed miserably — and got its only points when Josh Moten scooped up a deflected backward pass and ran the fumble in for a 16-yard touchdown that made it 24-7.

Three plays later, Marshall scored on an 11-yard touchdown run, set up by Osweiler’s 51-yard pass to Aaron Pflugrad over the middle. Hansen completed a Hail Mary to Logan Gray at the halftime buzzer, but the 53-yard pass was well short of the goal line.

It was that kind of day — and season — for the Buffaloes.

“There are some guys who are just OK with wearing the jersey,” Hansen said. “That’s wrong and that’s what has to change. We have to change that culture around here.”

Just like the Sun Devils have.

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CU still winless in first year of Pac-12 play

Posted By [William Boor](#) On October 30, 2011 @ 5:59 pm In [Football,Sports](#) | [No Comments](#)



[1]

STILL THE WRONG FOOT: Colorado senior quarterback Tyler Hansen begins his throwing motion during the Buffaloes' 48-14 loss to the Sun Devils on Saturday. CU coach Jon Embree expressed dissatisfaction at some of his players' complacency despite being 0-5 in their first season in the Pac-12. (Photo by Aaron Lavinsky)

Check out photos from Saturday's game against the CU Buffaloes in this [slideshow](#) ^[2].

OR

Didn't catch the Homecoming parade? See photos from the parade and the game in this [slideshow](#) ^[3].

Successful teams are often described as being focused, committed and hard working. While these terms may be cliché, they are often the difference between winning and losing, as evidenced by ASU's 48-14 drubbing of Colorado Saturday night.

While the Buffaloes (1-8, 0-5 Pac-12) continue to say all the right things, their on-field performance tells a different story.

"We have all talked about it, but it's been all talk and no action," Colorado coach Jon Embree said. "We have some people who are comfortable with the results, that's just the facts. We are comfortable at times with what happens. So I am trying to create a culture and

environment where that isn't the case and we'll keep working on that and keep coaching the guys that want to do it, keep putting them out there to make the plays.

"The other ones that just want to be on the team, be around if it goes good and then decide to jump in the water when it's not going good. We will just have to keep weeding them out."

While Embree is not the one putting on the pads and playing, he does accept some of the blame for the team's lack of commitment thus far.

"I put a lot on myself, but at the same time you have to want to do it," Embree said. "Some situations we can't make changes, but like I said it's not going to stay like this."

Embree may feel he is partially to blame for being unable to reach all of his players, yet the players do not seem to be having much luck either.

"There are guys that are ok just wearing the jersey and that's wrong," senior quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "They're saying all the right things; their actions aren't matching their words. We are talking to those guys and trying to get it changed."

Embree and Hansen were both adamant about changing the culture in Colorado, but that process will have to wait a week as some negative trends were continued in the loss to the No. 21 Sun Devils (6-2, 4-1).

The Buffaloes have now lost 22 straight road games. They have allowed over 40 points and 500 yards in four straight games.

Although the offense has only scored seven points in the past two weeks, Embree was pleased with Hansen who threw for 285 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions.

"The interceptions weren't his fault, I will start with that," Embree said. "I thought he played pretty well, he could have gotten rid of the ball a little quicker at times. The two interceptions weren't his issue."

Colorado is clearly building towards the future, and although the remainder of the 2011 season looks bleak, Hansen believes his team still has a lot to play for and he will remain focused and committed for the final four games.

"I think our last three games are games that we can win," Hansen said. "Teams that are struggling just like us so I think there's a lot to play for."

Reach the reporter at william.boor@asu.edu ^[4]

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