



*The availability of left tackle David Bakhtiari is key to this week's potential O-line juggling.*  
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



## Brooks: Loss Of Harris Will Further Shuffle O-line

Release: 09/12/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**BOULDER** - Steve Marshall's broken toe is doing quite well, thank you. As for the overall health of his starting tackles, that's the sorest of subjects for Colorado's offensive line coach.

As the Buffaloes begin preparation for Saturday's Rocky Mountain Showdown against unbeaten Colorado State, Marshall is faced with the prospect of having to replace both starting tackles.

Right tackle Jack Harris, a sophomore, could be lost for the season after undergoing surgery on Thursday to repair a fracture in his lower right leg. He was injured in Saturday's 36-33 overtime loss to California.

On the left side, Marshall still is waiting for the status of sophomore David Bakhtiari to be determined. Bakhtiari suffered a sprained medial collateral ligament (MCL) in his left knee at Hawai'i and did not play against Cal.

Possibly complicating matters up front this week, Bakhtiari's replacement, junior Ryan Dannewitz, also sprained a knee in the first half last weekend. But Dannewitz, making his first college start, only came out for one play and finished the game.

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Said Marshall: "He basically played the whole game; I was very impressed with that. And he played his butt off."

On the one play Dannewitz missed, freshman Alex Lewis stepped in at left tackle. A January enrollee who participated in spring practice, Lewis wasn't immune to health problems last week either. He was recuperating from a stomach bug that kept him off the Hawai'i trip and cost him almost 15 pounds.

The status of Bakhtiari and Dannewitz will determine the starter at left tackle, but Marshall already knows he must find a new No. 1 on the right side. If Bakhtiari can play, Dannewitz could switch sides. If not, senior Sione Tau likely would open at right tackle against the Rams, who have beaten New Mexico (14-10) and Northern Colorado (33-14).

Tau stepped in for Harris against Cal, playing the first snaps of his career on offense against the Bears.

Marshall also must account for depth this week, and to that end he's ready to remove the redshirts from tackle Marc Mustoe, of Arvada West, and Paulay Asiata, from St. Louis High School in Honolulu. Freshman Stephane Nembot, who transferred from defensive tackle to offensive tackle last week, is scheduled to keep his redshirt.

Redshirt freshman guard Kaiwi Crabb also could factor into Marshall's shuffling if Marshall has to move either starting guard - seniors Ryan Miller (right) and Ethan Adkins (left) - outside to man a tackle spot. Marshall hopes to avoid that, but said having either starting guard ready to play in a back-up role at tackle remains a possibility.

The bottom line, noted Marshall, is "we've got to go with the ones we've got."

Either of Marshall's centers, Daniel Munyer and Gus Handler, could play guard, but the personnel juggling act hasn't come to that - yet.

"Before I make any moves I'm going to see where we are with David and Ryan," Marshall said. "It'll be evolving all week."

After allowing quarterback Tyler Hansen to be sacked seven times in the opener, Hansen wasn't taken down once by Cal and passed for a school-record 474 yards. Marshall said his unit "played much better against a quality defense. We did some things to help (his players) and they helped themselves. They were better technique-wise from week one to week two. And they'll need to be better in week three."

**'P-RICH' HONORED BY PAC-12:** CU sophomore receiver Paul Richardson was one of three players honored as Bank of the West Pac-12 Players of the Week.

Richardson, of Gardena, Calif., caught 11 passes for 284 yards and two touchdowns (66, 78 yards) against Cal. Ten of his 11 catches earned first downs (school record for a receiver), with 162 of his yards came after the catch. He had 297 all-purpose yards including one rush for 9 yards and a punt return for 4 yards. He set the school record for the most receiving yards in a single game, and third most all-time in Pac-12 history, with the 284 yards (the third 200-plus game in CU history), and tied the CU single game reception mark of 11. It was also his fourth two-TD game, third most ever at CU. Richardson now has six career plays of 50 yards or longer, and his 10 career TD catches have covered 362 yards (3, 60, 62, 4, 3, 50, 15, 21, 66, 78).

The other players honored were linebacker Cort Dennison (defense) and defensive tackle Everett Thompson (special teams), both of Washington. CU placekicker Will Oliver, who kicked four field goals and three PATs against the Bears, was among those nominated for special teams play.

**LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT . . . :** Whatever punter Darragh O'Neill's marching orders, he's up for the assignment.

Against Cal, which overloaded the right side of its punt coverage team with seven rushers, the CU redshirt freshman was called on to use a left-footed rugby style punt. He averaged 39.5 yards on two punts, with a third punt of 15 yards that officials ruled was partially blocked. O'Neill, who was buried by a pair of Cal rushers,

argued that the punt wasn't touched, wanting a roughing penalty.

The previous week at Hawai'i, O'Neill punted conventionally with his right foot and averaged 44.9 yards on seven punts. Through two games, CU's 38.9-yard net punting average is third in the Pac-12 Conference.

CU special teams coach J.D. Brookhart said O'Neill, who appeared in his first college game against the Warriors, is adept at punting with either foot.

"One thing it does now, it makes (an opponent's) punt return team look at us and say, 'What are they going to do? (O'Neill) can go right or left, so we've got to balance this thing up a little bit,'" Brookhart said.

The other half of Brookhart's kicking game - Oliver - connected on all four of his field goal attempts against Cal, making him a Pac-12 best five-for-five for the season. Brookhart said he was particularly impressed by Oliver's 52-yard kick last Saturday, which set a school freshman record.

"I love his demeanor," Brookhart said, adding if Oliver's improvement continues, having him kick from further than 52 yards might be a possibility. "But it has to be the right situation . . . it'll be a coaching decision. Field position is always a factor."

Oliver also will kick off against CSU. Brookhart said sophomore Justin Castor, who has put one kickoff out of bounds in each of the first two games, has a hip issue and is scheduled to undergo an MRI.

Of CU's return units, Brookhart is more pleased with his punt than the kickoff return team. He called senior Toney Clemons' decision to bring a return out of the end zone on one kickoff "a mistake" and said kickoff return personnel is being reevaluated.

The Buffs are last in the league in kickoff returns, averaging 12.0 yards on nine attempts. Coach Jon Embree said kickoff returns must improve: "We're going to keep looking at different guys . . . we've got to get somebody who has a knack for hitting holes. We didn't always block it cleanly for Ben Kelly (former CU return specialist)."

**TIME TO SHARE THE LOAD:** Don't count on a tailback ever complaining about getting too many carries in a game. And you won't hear a whisper from senior tailback Rodney "Speedy" Stewart, who has been the only Buffs tailback to touch the ball in the first two games.

Stewart has been CU's main man out of the backfield, carrying 42 times (18 vs. Hawai'i, 24 vs. Cal) for 130 yards and catching 11 passes (4 vs. Hawai'i, 7 vs. Cal) for 184 yards.

Running backs coach Eric Bieniemy loves Stewart's willingness and productivity, but he also realizes there's a durability question that can come into play in a 13-game season.

"I've got to do a better job of being a position coach and managing my position. I've been caught up in being a coordinator," Bieniemy said. "I know I said this last week, but it has to happen. We cannot play that poor kid that many snaps. He won't last.

"I love him to death; he would play twice that many if he could. But that's not fair to him and the players behind him. Those kids behind him have worked their tails off and they deserve to play as well."

Behind Stewart on the depth chart are freshman Tony Jones, sophomore Josh Ford and senior Brian Lockridge.

**LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE:** In the opener, Bieniemy called plays from the sidelines - an unconventional vantage point for most offensive coordinators. Against Cal, he moved to the coaches' booth of Folsom Field's press box level.

The switch upstairs, he conceded, was beneficial.

"It's a different feel," 'EB' said. "You have a chance to see everything. I'm not going to lie, though; I do miss the field. But it gives you an opportunity to see exactly what's going on with everything and get more comfortable - and that's what I need to be doing anyway."

Embree agreed: "I thought it went well. We made some good adjustments during the game and at halftime. I feel good about what we're seeing from up there and getting done. We just have to continue to roll with it. But it was good having him up there and him seeing things. It's different and he has to get used to being up there."

Through two games, Embree said he felt positive "about what the staff has done so far. One of the most important things is you have to be able to make adjustments and find effective ways to answer things that have been hurting you. I feel like both games we've done well, for the most part, in giving our kids some answers to give us some success."

**FLAGS, FLAGS AND MORE FLAGS:** The Buffs have been penalized 19 times in two games, including drawing a dozen penalties against the Bears. Embree doesn't want to overreact to the flags, particularly ones he called "aggressive" penalties that most coaches view as inherent to the game. He said his players "are trying to do what we're asking them to do. They'll understand and correct those things."

However, drive-killing flags - such as a couple thrown against the Buffs in Saturday's final 2:50 of regulation play for being off-sides and holding - are inexcusable. CU was penalized nine times in the opening half, only three times in the second half - but the late pair possibly prevented the Buffs from winning in the fourth quarter.

CU has the second highest number of penalties (Arizona has 21) in the Pac-12, but the highest total of yards lost (156) due to flags.

"The (penalties) that drive me crazy are the self-inflicted ones - like the off-sides," he said. "On our roughing-the-punter call, we just took a bad angle (and hit the punter). But we can't be off sides and have illegal procedure, we just can't have those."

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# CU Buffs have yet to get running

## Rodney Stewart lone CU back to carry the ball so far

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

Posted: 09/12/2011 08:18:08 PM MDT

There is no doubt the breathtaking playmaking of wide receiver Paul Richardson and the boneheaded penalty parade produced by the entire team have produced the most significant statistics for the Colorado football team through two games.

Richardson leads the nation in receiving yards and only three teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision have committed more penalties than the 19 by CU.

Zero is probably the next most eye-catching number on the Colorado season box score to date.

It is the number of times a running back other than senior Rodney Stewart has carried the ball this season. Stewart is well on his way to reprising his ironman role of last season when he carried the ball 290 times, the second most in a single season in CU history.

What's going on here? Do coaches not trust players such as senior Brian Lockridge, redshirt freshman Tony Jones or third-year sophomore Josh Ford. All three had their moments in fall camp and all three have participated on special teams units in the first two games.

Coach Jon Embree said he and offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy meant to get Jones in each of the first two games, but having a senior as rock solid as Stewart has made taking him off the field in close games difficult.

"We're definitely going to get Tony in this week," Embree said after Monday's practice. "He's a good player and he's earned it and he can help us. We've just got to make a better effort of putting it on the script -- 26 (Jones' jersey number)."

Finding times to give Stewart a breather and get Jones and Ford some experience has been one of the hiccups of coaches adjusting to the college game after years in the NFL, Embree said.

Embree and Bieniemy both came to CU from NFL franchises and the normal operating procedure in the league is for players to run on and off the field when certain formations are called or certain situations arise.

"In the league, guys came in on third downs so you're used to having a guy in there and you play him," Embree said. "It's a combination of that."

Stewart has rushed 42 times for 125 net yards, averaging an anemic 2.98 yards per carry. On the flip side, he has made a huge impact with effective screen passes that have burned each of the Buffs' first two opponents. Stewart is the team's second leading receiver behind Richardson with 11 catches for 184 yards. He is averaging nearly 17 yards per catch.

"It's probably because I'm short," Stewart said, explaining what makes him so effective on screen passes. "I get up under those linemen and it makes it hard to see me and I'm real quick. So when I break away from the line, I get separation. And Tyler (Hansen) does a good job of finding me."

Stewart has an opportunity to break the CU career rushing record this season if he can rush for 1,200 yards. Stewart said the record isn't on his mind much right now but it would be special to break the current mark held by Bieniemy.

Stewart said he is in great shape and his experience has taught him what it takes to get through the grind of a full season. He said he is interested to see how he will feel in late October and November if his workload continues at this rate.

"I'm a pretty tough guy," he said. "Even if I am beat up, I think I can go all the way. I'll be curious to see what it's like in Week 8 or Week 9 as far as how strong my body stays."

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# Jon Embree must juggle CU Buffs' O-line again

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

Posted:09/12/2011 09:24:50 PM MDT

For the second straight week, the Colorado offense will spend much of its week of preparation unsure of whom its five starters on the offensive line will be.

CU lost its starting tackles in the first two games. Left tackle David Bakhtiari suffered a sprained knee in the season opener against Hawaii and did not play last week against Cal. Right tackle Jack Harris suffered a broken lower leg against Cal and could miss the rest of the season.

In addition, Ryan Dannewitz, who replaced Bakhtiari was injured against Cal and was still extremely sore on Monday. Coach Jon Embree said he probably won't know until Wednesday who will be able to play and who won't against Colorado State on Saturday.

Freshman tackle Alex Lewis saw the first action of his career against Cal and played well under the circumstances. He could be thrust into a starting role this week if his teammates don't heal quickly.

"He was OK, he was good," Embree said. "He didn't stand out for the wrong reasons. So that was good."

## Kickers only half the story

There is no doubt Colorado has improved in punting and place-kicking so far early in the 2011 campaign. The team definitely has more confidence in true freshman place-kicker Will Oliver (5-for-5) and redshirt freshman punter Darragh O'Neill (41.3 yard net).

But the Buffs are still having problems in the kicking game, especially on kickoff returns.

CU is averaging a meager 12 yards per return, which is the worst total in the Football Bowl Subdivision (120 teams). Throw in the other 110 teams in the Football Championship Subdivision and the only Division I team worse than CU on kickoff returns is Jackson State.

"That's crazy. I don't understand. We should be significantly better," Embree said. "Sometimes it's the returner. Sometimes it's guys running back and then not seeing who to block and losing sight of their man. It's inexcusable, but we're going to keep looking at some different guys back there who maybe have a little electricity cause I know we didn't block it clean for Ben Kelly. He just had a knack. Hopefully we have somebody on the team who has a knack of hitting that hole."

## Richardson honored

After his record-setting receiving performance in a loss to California, the Pac-12 Conference named CU wide receiver Paul Richardson one of three players of the week in the conference on Monday.

Richardson caught 11 passes for 284 yards and two touchdowns against the Bears, setting a CU record for receiving yards in a game. His 284 yards were the third most in a Pac-12/10 game.

Richardson leads the nation in total receiving yards through two games. Both he and Florida International wide receiver T.Y. Hilton have 333 yards.

Richardson is also serving as the punt return man for the Buffs. Embree said he isn't concerned that he is exposing his most dynamic playmaker to injury, but he has thought about it.

"It's another chance for him to touch the football," Embree said. "It's a fine line, but really with the nature of the way punts

are now, returns are far and few between. So I don't feel like I'm exposing him a lot."

#### **OSU kickoff and TV set**

Colorado's game at Ohio State on Sept. 24 will begin at 1:30 p.m. (MDT) and will be televised on ABC or ESPN2 depending on the region of the country. It is considered a national telecast.

#### **Notable**

Embree has played 10 true freshman in the first two games and says more will play in coming weeks. He mentioned running back D.D. Goodson and offensive lineman Paulay Asiata as candidates to play. ... Jason Espinoza has moved from wide receiver to cornerback. Espinoza began his CU career as a defensive back.

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## CSU coach Fairchild impressed with CU so far under Embree

**By Chris Dempsey**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 09/12/2011 03:30:30 PM MDT

Updated: 09/12/2011 04:57:17 PM MDT

FORT COLLINS — It didn't take long after the opening statement for the subject to turn toward CU. Reporters had barely settled in their seats. CSU coach Steve Fairchild's feet barely had a chance to wear a groove in the carpet at the podium.

Fairchild has already gotten to know the Buffs inside and out in preparation for Saturday's Rocky Mountain Showdown at Sports Authority Field. And though CU comes in sporting an 0-2 record, nothing Fairchild has seen on film suggests to him anything but a team that is a huge challenge for his bunch.

"Number one, their defense is very complex," Fairchild said today. "I've know (CU defensive coordinator) Greg Brown for quite a while. He's done a great job everywhere he's been.

They're very pressure-oriented. They do a nice job. It's different than what we've faced the first two weeks obviously. That's concern.

"I appreciate the way they play offensively. They

line up and try to establish the run game, they've got a good back. Obviously the receiver's (Paul Richardson) an elite player. They've got ways to move the football. They're a good football team. Despite their record they've played some very, very good football. We need to obviously have a great week of practice to have any chance."

Colorado State is coming off of a 33-14 victory over Northern Colorado but will not have star linebacker Mychal Sisson, who is out of the game with a fractured ankle. He had eight tackles in this game last season.

Also huge question marks are fullbacks Austin Gillmore and Jake Levin, who both suffered knee injuries against UNC. Defensive lineman Scott Carter also suffered a knee injury and is very questionable for the game. Running back Derek Good injured a thumb, but is expected to play.

This game is usually the first of the season for both teams, but scheduling complications didn't allow that to happen this year. Though Fairchild prefers to play the game as the season opener, he acknowledged

that this year it was probably to his advantage to have seen a couple of games of CU film because of the turnover in coaching staffs in Boulder.

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## All Things Rams Blog



The Denver Post's college football reporters give analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CSU athletics.

"That probably was an advantage," Fairchild said. "Anytime you're going to play a new staff, you just as soon not have them in the opener. Yeah that was an advantage, no question."

Had the game been played as the season opener, CSU coaches would have gone with summer study of Minnesota Vikings and Washington Redskins film as their sole means of game prep.

As it is, it has been of some help, CSU offensive coordinator Larry Kerr said, who noted that much of what CU does offensively resembles those teams. Buffs head coach Jon Embree coached with the Redskins under Mike Shanahan, while CU offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy coached under Brad Childress and Leslie Frazier in Minnesota.

"That's what we're seeing," Kerr said.

*Chris Dempsey: 303-954-1279 or [cdempsey@denverpost.com](mailto:cdempsey@denverpost.com)*



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cu briefs

## CU Buffs deal with injuries in offensive line

Posted: 09/13/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

**BOULDER** — Don't ask Jon Embree about Colorado State's missing players. He has enough to worry about juggling his offensive line for the second week in a row.

CU right offensive tackle Jack Harris is out for Saturday's game against CSU with a broken bone in his lower leg. CSU, meanwhile, will be without Mychal Sisson, its defensive leader, who suffered a broken ankle last Saturday against Northern Colorado.

"I've been looking at (CSU) more from a scheme standpoint than personnel," CU coach Embree said Monday. "I've got enough to worry about. I'm sure Coach (Steve) Fairchild is the same way, not worrying about guys we don't have."

Embree hopes to get a better picture of his offensive line availability by Wednesday. He wants to see where Ryan Dannewitz, who started Saturday at left tackle, and original starter David Bakhtiari are physically. The latter missed Saturday's loss to Cal with a knee sprain.

One of the reserves who stepped in was freshman Alex Lewis, a freshman from Tempe, Ariz.

"He didn't stand out for the wrong reasons," Embree said.

**Richardson takes first Pac-12 honor.**

Wide receiver Paul Richardson's school record-shattering day was rewarded with the Pac-12 offensive player of the week honor. The sophomore is the first CU athlete to take home a prize in the new league.

"I was real excited. That's a big accomplishment," he said after practice Monday evening. "That was big for me."

Richardson caught 11 passes for 284 yards.

### All in the family.

There is one CSU player whose reputation precedes him in Embree's book. CSU linebacker Mike Orakpo is the younger brother of Washington Redskins all-pro linebacker Brian Orakpo. Embree coached tight ends for the Redskins last season.

"(Brian) told me his brother was playing here. 'Rak' is a great guy. He is proud of his brother," Embree said.

### Ohio State TV.

After this Saturday's 11:30 a.m. wake-up call for the in-state battle in Denver, Buffs fans will get a now-rare 1:30 p.m. kickoff the following weekend when CU visits Ohio State. ABC/ESPN

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picked up the game, and it will be on KMGH-Channel 7 in Denver in Colorado and ABC in Ohio. Other parts of the country will get the game on ESPN2.

## Footnote.

After a spirited practice Monday, Embree said he was feeling better. "It's one day closer to having a chance to play again," he said.

*Natalie Meisler, The Denver Post*

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## CU's Paul Richardson named Pac-12 player of the week

*The Denver Post*

Posted: 09/12/2011 12:34:10 PM MDT

Updated: 09/12/2011 12:35:06 PM MDT

Colorado wideout Paul Richardson is the first player in school history to be named player of the week by the Pac-12 Conference.

The sophomore was given the conference's offensive honor after he caught 11 passes for a school-record 284 yards and two touchdowns in CU's overtime loss to California this weekend. He also returned a punt for four yards, and had one rush for nine yards.

Ten of Richardson's catches were for first downs.

Washington linebacker Cort Dennison (12 tackles and a forced fumble) was named defensive player of the week.



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## Paul Richardson: Athlete of the Week

Written by Marlee Horn in Athlete of the Week, Football, Sports on Sep 13, 2011 14:35 / comments

With his stellar performance versus Cal, sophomore wide receiver Paul Richardson is the inaugural CU Independent Athlete of the Week

The 6-foot-1-inch California native set a school record for the most receiving yards in a single game with 284. This marks only the third 200-plus game in CU history. Richardson also tied the single game reception record with eleven. Ten of his 11 catches earned first downs, also a record for a CU receiver.

"I didn't even know I broke the record," said Richardson after the disappointing overtime loss to Cal. "But without the coaches putting together the game plan and without [Tyler Hansen] being able to throw the ball it would not have happened."

This was his fourth, two-touchdown game, which ranks third all-time at CU.

Richardson has six career plays of 50 yards or longer, with his 10-career touchdown catches covering 362 yards. His two touchdowns in the Cal loss went for 66 yards and 78 yards.

After the game, Richardson's teammates had nothing but accolades for the receiver. Senior quarterback Tyler Hansen said that Richardson got into the zone and proved that he is a special player.

"You know that's P-Rich, that's him every day," said junior linebacker Douglas Rippey in a press conference. "Obviously he's very persistent and that's what he does in practice, so you know whatever he does in practice he does in the game."

His standout performance has also gained him national attention.

"Over the week, we talked about Richardson's playmaking ability," said Cal defensive back Mark Anthony. "But you got to give credit where credit is due. The guy came out and made big plays. That's what we tried to limit, but he was in the right place at the right time."

Richardson is getting plenty of credit indeed. On Monday, he earned the Bank of the West Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Week, and Intersport announced that he has been nominated for the Receiver Performance of the Year.

The Receiver Performance of the Year is part of a four-month competition where fans vote for the top individual performances during the 2011 college football season. The top two wide receivers of the week will go head-to-head with the winner proceeding to the finals, which runs from Jan. 19-25.

"I think Paul Richardson is a star in the making and we are seeing it," head coach Jon Embree said.

Contact CU Independent Sports Editor Marlee Horn at [Marlee.horn@colorado.edu](mailto:Marlee.horn@colorado.edu).

SEARCH



COLLEGE LIVING, FRONT PAGE, LIFESTYLE,  
NEWS SEP 13, 2011 / comments

### CU party registration service helps buffs party smart

After the recent alcohol-related death of a CU student, safe partying should be among every Buff's top priorities. Despite the possible risks, there are measures students can take to still live it up at a party, while staying safe. For many... [read more »](#)

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