



Sophomore receiver Paul Richardson (6) has established himself as an offensive weapon for the Buffs.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: 'P-Rich' Brings Wealth Of Talent To Buffs

Release: 09/13/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER - Paul Richardson's freshman year at Colorado hardly propelled him into the 2011 football season as a well-kept secret. Word travels at Tweet speed among college campuses these days, and it didn't take long for the abundant receiving abilities of 'P-Rich' to go national.

But then came CU's game against California last weekend at Folsom Field . . .

A spindly, spidery sophomore who is deceptively durable, the 6-foot-1 Richardson had been told by head coach Jon Embree and receivers coach Bobby Kennedy that "they needed a lot out of me" against Cal. "They put a lot on my shoulders; I didn't expect statistically to be a finish like that, but I expected the ball to come my way more."

The ball did. He caught it, then ran with it very, very well. While Richardson's follower (Twitter) and friend (Facebook)

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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requests slowly began trending upward for the rest of the weekend, his close-knit family back in Gardena, Calif., offered this advice: Stay humble, kid.

For anyone else, that might have been difficult. Richardson added several eye-popping entries to CU's record book in the Buffs' gut-wrenching 36-33 overtime loss. His 11 receptions tied the school's single-game mark, and his 284 yards broke the school's single-game mark. Ten of his 11 catches went for first downs, setting a single-game record for a receiver.

Of his yardage total, 162 came after the catch - a point of emphasis for Richardson since last winter when Embree and most of his staff arrived. At almost every practice since last spring, Richardson said offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy has preached the need for second and third efforts from his receivers and running backs - and Richardson has been listening.

"I pride myself in that," he said. "Every catch I try to show extra effort and have a good finish."

Richardson caught 34 balls last season for 514 yards (15.1 average) and six touchdowns. His reception total was third on the team, trailing Scotty McKnight (50) and Toney Clemons (43). McKnight graduated as CU's career receiving leader, but Clemons has but one catch in CU's first two games this season, a trend that needs to change as defenses put more of their focus on 'P-Rich.'

"I'm going to pick up a lot of attention," Richardson admitted. "At the end of last season, when I made a few plays, the coverages started to pick up as far as bracketing me and double-covering me. I think one of the Cal DBs said they even went to double-coverage in the second half . . . so I pretty much have to expect that for the rest of the season."

Added Kennedy: "Anytime a guy has a game like that (Cal) you expect people to focus on him. I'm sure he'll get some attention . . . but the good thing about that is put other guys in single coverage. It's important for some other guys to step up. Paul's not going to have a game like that every week - but it would be nice."

To utilize Richardson to the maximum in future games, likely beginning Saturday against in-state rival Colorado State in Denver (11:30 a.m., Root Sports), the Buffs "have to be creative with him," said senior quarterback Tyler Hansen. "We're going to have to move him around, use some motion, some shifts . . . we have to be creative."

One of the reasons Richardson has started so explosively this season - he's tied for the NCAA lead in receiving yards (333) and is second in TD receptions (four) - is the off-season time spent on developing timing and chemistry with Hansen.

"It took a year to develop that," Hansen said, adding that his passing game bond with McKnight developed because "Scotty was a smart player; he knew everything about our passing game."

That same kind of bond is forming between Hansen and Richardson, who, according to Embree, is good because he's obviously talented but also because he wants to be good.

"He's improved as a route-runner, improved his body control," Embree said. "He's using speed more in bursts and knowing when to play at a different speed. He's always been a good hands catcher, not a body catcher. And he's understanding what defenses are doing and how he fits within the scheme of what we're trying to do from a passing standpoint."

Plus, Richardson has put in his due diligence with Hansen. The duo worked at least three days a week during the summer, going through "the whole route tree," Hansen said. "He's done a great job since spring, he's worked on everything. He's a complete receiver now (but) you can't coach or teach speed. He has it."

And that "it" factor has helped 'P-Rich' develop this mindset: "Don't get hit . . . so pretty much I'll run as fast as I

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can."

Richardson's early football career was spent playing cornerback and quarterback, and some colleges pictured him playing defense. By his admission, he was "hard-headed" in high school and "didn't take coaching to heart."

But that eventually changed and he began to take more pride in his route running, as well as studying the technical aspects of his position. That change, said Kennedy, can be credited to Richardson's still-developing maturity: "He's into it. He wants to be good, he studies it. He's more receptive to us moving him around. He's learned so much and I'm confident that he'll just keep growing."

He's already grown enough to appreciate being CU's "go-to guy" in the passing game, as well as accept the responsibilities of being a premier playmaker. He said he relishes the pressure: "I feel like the heat is on, and I like that. Having that pressure and having that leadership put on me . . . I like it. My whole life I've been a leader, so for them to put that pressure and give me that goal - the go-to guy and the playmaker - I just appreciate it."

The 2011 Rocky Mountain Showdown finds CSU unbeaten (2-0) and CU winless (0-2). For both schools, bringing those records into this game is a rarity. The Rams haven't met the Buffs with a 2-0 or better record since 1941; the Buffs haven't confronted the Rams with a 0-2 or worse mark since 1939.

Richardson realizes "a sense of urgency" in Week 3, but adds, "There has to be that every week, but there's no panic button we need to push now. We just need to come out and compete. Against Cal we showed a lot. It didn't add up at the end, but we played really, really hard. We expect nothing short of that this weekend."

CSU, he predicted, "will come out hard, but we'll come out hard. We'll have a chip on our shoulder; we're 0-2, we have no choice."

On the other hand, the Rams will have no choice but to try and contain 'P-Rich.' It's becoming one of early September's tougher assignments.

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SHOW MENU



Tyler Hansen: CU Buffs must beat CSU Rams

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

Posted: 09/13/2011 07:43:23 PM MDT



The Buffs will try to end their tiresome 18-game road losing streak in front of approximately 102,329 Ohio State fans at the Big Horseshoe on Sept. 24.

Colorado's starting quarterback doesn't want to think about what the team's disposition would be like if there are no wins of any kind to draw from before the trip to Columbus.

That's why Tyler Hansen is describing CU's game against Colorado State on Saturday at Sports Authority Field as a must-win.

"We have to win this game. To be 1-2 and 0-3 is a big change. That's a big difference," Hansen said. "I know it's one game, but we've got to develop some confidence going into conference play, especially to go play at Ohio State. This is a must-win for us."

For the first time since 1941, the Rams (2-0) will play CU with a record of 2-0 or better. For the first time since 1939, the Buffs (0-2) will play CSU with a record of 0-2 or worse.

Despite the early-season results, CU is confident after following up a tough 34-17 loss at Hawaii in the opener with a better effort in last Saturday's gut-wrenching 36-33 overtime loss to Cal.

The jury is still out on CSU after beating winless New Mexico and Northern Colorado.

"It's real big. Just because (we're) playing Colorado State and them being rival. Being 0-2, we've got to win one," Hansen said. "Going into Ohio State 0-3 isn't going to be good for us. We've got to get a victory this weekend."

Bieniemy adjusting

CU offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy moved up to the press box level at Folsom Field to call the Cal game after working on the sideline at Aloha Stadium in the opener.

Hansen set a single-game CU record for passing yards (474), and Paul Richardson set a single-game school record for receiving yards (284) against the Bears. So don't expect to see Bieniemy on the field Saturday, unless the Buffs are celebrating a win after the game.

"If we would have came away with two victories, it wouldn't have mattered. I just have to be honest. Being upstairs you can see more," Bieniemy said. "It's a calmer environment and it's probably what's best for me. But obviously I'm missing the field because I've always been a guy who has always been a part of it. Being up there, professionally you can just see things and it's a much better view."

Missing Sisson

CSU head coach Steve Fairchild has closed practices for the first time this season as the Rams prepare for CU and life without dynamic linebacker Mychal Sisson. The team's leading tackler broke an ankle during the 33-14 win over UNC last Saturday.

"He is disappointed. We all are with what happened," Fairchild said on the Mountain West coaches teleconference. "He's a tremendous player, but his leadership on the field and in the locker room is what will really be missed."

CSU also lost its best pass rusher, Broderick Sargent, to a season-ending injury in the opener.

"You can definitely tell he's the ring leader," CU head coach Jon Embree said of Sisson. "He brings energy on that side of the ball, he makes a lot of plays, great player."

Tackle trouble

Both of CU's starting offensive tackles have sustained leg injuries already this season.

Right tackle Jack Harris will not be available against CSU, and could be lost for the season. He is expected to have surgery today or Thursday to repair a fracture in his lower right leg sustained against Cal.

Sione Tau, a senior who had never played a snap on offense until filling in for Harris last week, is penciled in as the starter.

Left tackle David Bakhtiari, who missed the Cal game after suffering a sprained knee in the opener at Hawaii, is day to day. And his backup, Ryan Dannewitz, is also recovering from a sprained knee suffered against the Bears.

Embree won't decide who the starters are until Thursday.

P-Rich encore?

Richardson, the reigning Pac-12 player of the week, was asked Tuesday if he had an encore performance in him for CSU.

"What am I going to do for an encore? That's a tough question," Richardson said.

Cal finally started double-teaming Richardson in the second half. The speedy sophomore expects cornerbacks to get help from a safety when covering him the rest of the season.

"We showed ourselves a lot," Richardson said of the confidence the offense gained after racking up 582 yards against Cal. "We've been having success in practice against the scout team, but to do it against an opponent was big for us. We built a lot of confidence off of that."

Notable

CSU is looking to open a season 3-0 for the first time since 2009. The Rams opened that campaign with a win over CU and closed it with nine consecutive losses. ... This year's game and the 2015 game are the only two matchups in the 10-year CU-CSU contract that won't be played the first week of the season.

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CU Buffs in must-win mode for CSU Rams showdown on Saturday

Coach Jon Embree leads Colorado against CSU for the first time

By Kyle Ringo, Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:09/13/2011 02:32:40 PM MDT



Some Colorado football fans would prefer not to play Colorado State every year especially if the games are off campus in Denver. They would prefer to diversify the schedule and only play the Rams once every few seasons.

First-year coach Jon Embree has the opposite view.

With family roots in Southern California, Embree was raised in the 1970s and early 1980s with a deep appreciation for the significance of the UCLA and USC football rivalry. During his high school years at Cherry Creek he said he always found it strange that the Buffs and Rams didn't play each fall the way the Bruins and Trojans did.

Embree has coached as a CU assistant against Colorado State many times. He will lead the Buffs in the Rocky Mountain Showdown on Saturday in Denver for the first time as head coach and he made it clear today what the series against the Rams means to him.

"I think it's special that we play each other every year," Embree said.

Colorado is favored to win this year despite an 0-2 record and the Rams 2-0 mark. The oddsmakers apparently put more value in the Buffs' performances against Hawaii on the road and against Cal at home than they do the Rams beating up on two of the worst teams in major college football - New Mexico and Northern Colorado.

"They're a very well coached team," Embree said. "They're 2-0 and we're 0-2 and we will have to have our A game."

CU players have put a tough overtime loss to Cal behind them and are preparing for CSU in the third week of the season instead of the opening game of the season for a change. And it didn't take long for them to switch their focus.

Starting quarterback Tyler Hansen called this week's game a must win during his postgame remarks following the loss to Cal. He reiterated that view Tuesday during the program's weekly media luncheon.

"We have to win this game," Hansen said. "To be 1 and 2 and 0 and 3 is a big change. That's a big difference. I know it's just one game, but we've got to develop some confidence going into conference play and especially going to play at Ohio State the next week. So this is a big win, this is a must win for us."

Hansen described the mood of the team as optimistic after playing so well against Cal. Hansen set a school record for passing yards in one game and wide receiver Paul Richardson set a school record for receiving yards in a game.

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Bufs try to get ground game on track against CSU

By: **PAT GRAHAM** | 09/13/11 2:35 PM

AP Sports Writer

Tyler Hansen's right arm wasn't the least bit sore even after flinging the ball all over the field.

No ice or rest were remotely required after the Colorado senior quarterback threw for a school-record 474 yards in a 36-33 overtime loss to Cal last weekend.

And while Hansen wouldn't mind even more passing plays called against rival Colorado State on Saturday, he realizes that's not going to help the Buffaloes (0-2) fix their woes.

An anemic ground game has to pitch in at some point, too.

To think, that part of the offense figured to be a strength in coach Jon Embree's first season in charge, especially with senior Rodney Stewart leading the way.

Through two games, the Buffs are averaging just 62.5 yards on the ground.

"Quarterbacks like throwing," Hansen said Tuesday, "but we have to run the football more. We have to be effective running the football."

The task won't be easy given the fact the Buffs will head into the game against the Rams (2-0) with a patchwork offensive line. Right tackle Jack Harris fractured his lower right leg against the Bears and could be out for the season. Left tackle David Bakhtiari remains questionable with a knee injury that caused him to miss the Cal contest.

Embree said he wouldn't make any decisions on his offensive front until at least Thursday, when he has a chance to assess the situation in practice.

More than anything, the Buffs are simply searching for some kind of rhythm.

"We go in stretches where you're saying, 'What are we doing?'" Embree said. "We play well in spurts. But we haven't played a (complete) game yet. That's what we have to do, get to where we're playing a complete game."



AP PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMERA, PAUL AIKEN EXAMINER OUT;

NO SALES

Colorado's Tyler Hansen (9) is run down by California's Ryan Davis late in an NCAA college football game in Boulder, Colo., Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011.

Asked for his thoughts on how to solve his team's inconsistency, Embree broke into a grin.

"If I knew I'd be a rich man," Embree said. "I'd be selling that pill to everybody in the league."

The pressure will be ratcheted up against their in-state rival, especially with a trip to Ohio State waiting the following week and Pac-12 play beginning after that.

"This game is a must-win for us," Hansen said. "Going into Ohio State 0-3 isn't going to be good for us. We've got to develop some confidence."

Hansen and wideout Paul Richardson are certainly developing some chemistry. All those extra sessions this summer working on pass routes is paying dividends.

Richardson caught 11 passes against Cal for a school-record 284 yards. Even when the Bears tried to put multiple defensive backs on the speedy receiver, he still found a way to get open as Richardson hauled in TD passes of 66 and 78 yards.

For his big day, Richardson credits pep talks from Embree and receivers coach Bobby Kennedy.

"They told me they needed a lot out of me. They put a lot on my shoulders," said Richardson, who was named the Pac-12 offensive player of the week. "I didn't expect statistically to finish like that, but I expected the ball to come my way more."

Now that the word is out on the receiver known as "P-Rich," the Buffs fully anticipate facing plenty of different coverage schemes in an effort to contain him.

"We're going to have to be creative with how we use him," Hansen said.

This would definitely help: Keeping defenses honest with the run. Embree said he's not overly concerned about the lack of production from his backs.

Not yet at least. He's spotted some issues along the line (a failure to sustain blocks) and more from the backs (not hitting the holes with aggression).

They're working to shore up those areas.

"I'd be concerned if it was more of a scheme or just being overpowered," Embree said. "But I believe in these players. I trust these players."

"I have the utmost confidence in our players and our coaches that our situation will be resolved."

The Buffaloes will be facing a Colorado State squad that's off to a solid start with wins over New Mexico and Northern Colorado. But the Rams were dealt a blow last weekend when linebacker and team captain Mychal Sisson broke his ankle.

"He's a great player," Hansen said. "The last couple of years, we had to account for him on every play. It's definitely going to hurt them having him out. But they do some good things and it's going to be a challenge for us."

URL: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/sports/2011/09/buffs-try-get-ground-game-track-against-csu>

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sports

Top prospect Sione Tau finally gets to play for Colorado Buffaloes

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/14/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 09/14/2011 12:35:08 PM MDT

BOULDER — Colorado senior offensive tackle Sione Tau said he lives by the motto: "You finish what you start." Good thing, otherwise Tau likely would have bolted from Boulder years ago.

In a remarkable show of patience and perseverance, Tau, a fifth-year player, finally got off the bench for the first time in his college career two weeks ago at Hawaii when he drew some snaps on special teams in his hometown of Honolulu.

Then, the 6-foot-5, 335-pounder got to play on offense last weekend, thrust into the lineup at right tackle for 31 plays in the 36-33 overtime loss to California when right tackle Jack Harris went down with a broken leg.

"It's been a long time, but it was worth waiting," Tau said. "I was really nervous when I first came in. I just tried to calm myself down."

What has Tau really excited is this week, for the first time in his career, he's included in the game plan. CU coach Jon Embree said Tuesday that Tau is likely to play, and perhaps start, Saturday against Colorado State at Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

The availability of two other offensive tackles, sophomore David Bakhtiari and junior Ryan Dannewitz, likely won't be known until after practice today, Embree said. Both are recovering from knee sprains; Bakhtiari in Hawaii, Dannewitz vs. Cal.

Coming out of high school, Tau was ranked as the top offensive-line prospect in Hawaii. He arrived in Boulder in the summer of 2007 out of shape and overweight (ballooning as high as 380 pounds). He was redshirted. Tau was then ruled academically ineligible for the 2008 season. He sat out all of 2009 when suspended for violating an undisclosed team rule.

Tau finally dressed for games last fall, as a backup left tackle, but never played a snap because first-round NFL draft pick Nate Solder played every down.

"This new coaching staff has been supportive and really gave me a chance this year," Tau said. "Whatever happens from now on, I'll

never have any regrets about coming here."

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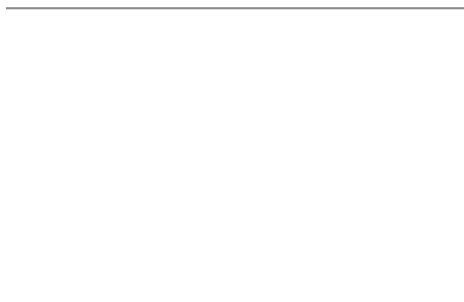


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Tau approached Embree during spring ball and told the first-year coach that he had never played a down in college.

"I'm proud of Sione (pronounced See-own-E)," Embree said. "I know it is important to him. Just like all our other players, he's going to get beat at times. I understand that. But I know he's going to give great effort; I know he knows what to do."

Tau would like to make up for the false-start penalty called on him late in regulation against Cal. But he kept his assigned Bears pass rusher off quarterback Tyler Hansen, who was not sacked all day.

"To me, a kid like Sione . . . in their last year and getting an opportunity, that means a lot to me as a coach," Embree added. "They won't look back at Colorado and think it was a waste of time. It will help them through the rest of their life. If you compete and keep working, eventually good things will happen."

Footnotes. Embree was asked Tuesday if game planning for CSU has been affected by the uncertainty over the status of Bakhtiari and Dannewitz. "No, because I went through that in the NFL," Embree said. "You may not know (whom

you have) until late." . . . Embree, on CSU sophomore Pete Thomas: "I see a kid that's growing up as a quarterback. You look at our game last year (against CSU), that was his first game ever. I've been watching him a lot (on film) against San Diego State and BYU. Seeing the progress he has made to this year, that really jumps out." . . . Hansen calls this a "must" win for the program. "And not just because it's (a rivalry game)," he explained. "But being 0-2, we've got to get one, we've got to get one. Going into Ohio State (next week) 0-3 isn't going to be good for us. We have to get a victory this weekend." . . . Two former warriors of the Colorado-Colorado State rivalry will handle the guest honors at today's annual Rocky Mountain Showdown luncheon. That's right. Ex-CU coach Gary Barnett and his former CSU antagonist Sonny Lubick will share the stage in the Seawall Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Only a handful of tickets remain and festivities start at 11:30 a.m.

Staff writer Natalie Meisler contributed to this story.

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college football

CU's Embree: CSU quarterback Pete Thomas "growing up"

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/13/2011 01:18:09 PM MDT

Updated: 09/13/2011 01:20:35 PM MDT

BOULDER — Speaking Tuesday during his weekly media luncheon, Colorado coach Jon Embree said the progress made by Colorado State sophomore quarterback Pete Thomas "jumps out at you."

Colorado (0-2) and CSU (2-0) meet Saturday at Sports Authority Field at Mile High. The game will be televised by Root Network. Kickoff is 11:30 a.m.

"On their offensive side, I see a kid (Thomas) that's growing up as a quarterback," Embree said. "You look at our game last year (against CSU), that was his first game ever.

"I've been watching him a lot (on film) against San Diego State and BYU. Seeing the progress he has made to this year, that really jumps out you."

CSU's defense, Embree said, is taking on the personality of veteran defensive coordinator Larry Kerr. They worked together for three years at UCLA as assistant coaches.

"I see a Larry Kerr defense," Embree said. "They're sound. They do a good job of tackling. They know where their help is.

"They do a good job of taking away what you do well and making you do things you don't do well.

"So they're a well-coached team. They're 2-0 and we're 0-2, so we have to have our A-game."

CU quarterback Tyler Hansen also took questions during the media luncheon and called Saturday's game "a must win."

"Not just because it's (a rivalry game against Colorado State)," Hansen said. "But being 0-2, we've got to get one, we've got to get one.

"Going into Ohio State (next week) 0-3 isn't going to be good for us. We have to get a victory this weekend."

Embree said the availability of offensive tackles David Bakhtiari and Ryan Dannewitz may not be known until after Wednesday's practice. Both have knee sprains.

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SEPTEMBER 14, 2011, 3:15 PM

Embree in good company of new CU coaches starting out 0-2

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

With much input from the Colorado sports information department, here are some notes in advance of the Saturday game against Colorado State:

- After two games, CU first-year coach Jon Embree still lacks a victory. The three CU coaches that earned their first win in the third game: Dal Ward (1948), Eddie Crowder (1963) and Bill Mallory (1974).
- Former CU quarterback Joel Klatt will be color analyst for the national Fox Sports Net telecast (Root Network locally), Craig Bolerjack will handle play-by-play, with Petros Papadakis doing sideline interviews.
- According to CU, Saturday's game at Sports Authority Field at Mile High is among a dozen intrastate battles. Others of note include Utah vs. BYU, Kentucky vs. Louisville and Oklahoma State vs. Tulsa.
- After two games, CU first-year coach Jon Embree still lacks a victory. The three CU coaches that earned their first win in the third game: Dal Ward (1948), Eddie Crowder (1963) and Bill Mallory (1974).
- Hard-luck reserve defensive back Vince Ewing underwent arthroscopic knee surgery last week and has been ruled out for this game. Ewing, a junior, missed the entire 2010 season with a torn ACL.
- Colorado senior offensive guard Ryan Miller will earn his fifth letter this fall (all seniors letter). That's because Miller played enough to letter in 2008 before suffering a season-ending leg fracture against Florida State. Five letters is a rarity — only eight others have done it at CU. That last? That was running back Bobby Purify (2000-2004).
- Colorado leads the series with CSU 60-20-1, but only by a 6-4 margin in games at the Broncos' stadium.
- This is the eighth straight game in the series with neither team in ranked in the national top-25 polls.

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/09/14/embree-in-good-company-of-new-cu-coaches-starting-out-0-2/20504/>

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

SEPTEMBER 14, 2011, 11:46 AM

CSU defense will be different without Sisson, CU says

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

BOULDER — Colorado coaches and players expect a tough game Saturday against Colorado State, but there was no denying that the CSU defense will be different without linebacker Mychal Sisson, they said.

Sisson, a senior and annually the team's top tackler, is out with a broken ankle. He had not missed a game in his college career.

"You can definitely tell (on tape) that he's the ringleader (of the CSU defense)," CU coach Jon Embree said. "He brings energy on that side of the all, makes a lot of plays, great player.

"Obviously, how that affects them, we won't know until Saturday. But he's a special player."

Said CU quarterback Tyler Hansen: "We had to account for him on every play."

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<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2011/09/14/csu-defense-will-be-different-without-sisson-cu-says/20501/>

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2011, 1:24 PM

CU-CSU rivalry festered on UCLA staff

By **NATALIE MEISLER** |  No Comments

Colorado-Colorado State was out of sight but not out of mind when the UCLA staff of 2003-05 was a house divided between ex-CU player/assistants Jon Embree and Eric Bieniemy and Colorado State partisans Larry Kerr and Brian Schneider.

Actually the rivalry just festered.

From 2003-05, the UCLA losing coaches had to wear the other team's colors and sing the rival's fight song.

Embree and Bieniemy never broke out the green and gold but Bieniemy said he was plenty worried. Those were all games CU won in the final minutes.

Bieniemy said ex-Bruins head coach Karl Dorrell, who had spent some previous time at CU, stayed clear of the fray. Everyone watched the game together one year but they couldn't bring themselves to after that.

"We had fun. Larry is a great man," said Bieniemy.

Embree said during Monday's press conference he didn't know if Kerr, a grandfather, appreciated everything the much younger Schneider did for him on basketball court. Bieniemy remains good friends with Schneider, currently on the Seattle Seahawks staff.

"Larry is a great guy and he has great passion for CSU," Embree said. "When we were at UCLA we watched this game. It was for bragging rights."

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

SEPTEMBER 13, 2011, 12:47 PM

Richardson: Buffs carrying the chips this week

By **NATALIE MEISLER** |  No Comments

The proverbial chips are reversed this week in the Colorado-Colorado State rivalry.

“We have the chips on our shoulders, We’re 0-2”, said Pac-12 offensive player of the week Paul Richardson.

Historically, CSU has had the perception of the chip on the shoulder attitude owing in part to the greater exposure of the CU program and CU leading the series 60-20-2.

Against New Mexico, one of the worst FBS programs in the country and Northern Colorado, an FCS team which lost to an NAIA squad, CSU is 2-0.

CU quarterback Tyler Hansen said the Buffs’ schedule at Hawaii and hosting Cal will be good preparation for the conference schedule ahead.

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The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

SEPTEMBER 13, 2011, 10:52 AM

CU asst. J.D. Brookhart a Ram at heart

By **NATALIE MEISLER** |  No Comments

BOULDER — On a staff with a heavy emphasis on past Colorado ties, if not a few varsity letters and a degree, CU passing game coordinator/special teams coach J.D. Brookhart is definitely the odd man out this week.

Brookhart is a proud Colorado State alum. The Pueblo native started three seasons at wide receiver for the Rams, leading CSU with 683 yards in 1987. He is still ninth on CSU's career receiving list with 1,873 from 1985-87.

"It's going to be as blast," Brookhart said of the reunion with his alma mater. "I have a great feeling for the CSU team."

He said he goes back the longest with director of football operations Tom Ehlers.

The much-traveled Brookhart had a successful stint at Akron where he was Mid-America coach of the year 2004. There was a groundswell of support for Brookhart to become CSU's coach in 2008.

As for those CSU ties, however, fellow first-year CU assistant Mike Tuiasosopo said "He'll have to get over it."

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2011, 11:40 AM

CU's Embree still uncertain about starting tackles for Saturday

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

Speaking Tuesday morning on the weekly Pac-12 coaches teleconference, Colorado coach Jon Embree was still uncertain about who will line up at his starting offensive tackles for Saturday's game against Colorado State at Sports Authority Field at Mile High.

"I wish I could answer that question," Embree said. "I'll know more on that on Wednesday, about how (David) Bakhtiari and (Ryan) Dannewitz are doing (with their knee injuries).

"On the right side I'm assuming it's going to be Sione Tau. The left tackle, I really don't know until Wednesday to see who can do what."

Embree, who played football at Cherry Creek High School before becoming an immediate starter at Colorado, said the CU-CSU rivalry means more to him and his staff, which largely has Colorado ties.

"To me that makes it special," Embree said. "It's crazy the way the schedule set up. (As a first-year head coach) I had my first away game (at Hawaii), then my first home game (vs. Cal) and now first opportunity at a rivalry game, all in a row.

"All three games are big games for me personally. My first time playing (in college) was against CSU, in 1983. This rivalry has always been a special rivalry to me."

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 The Rocky Mountain Showdown is this Saturday.

Rocky Mountain Showdown: Keys to the Contest for CSU, CU

The Rocky Mountain Showdown is this Saturday.

Credits: denver.metromix.com

By [Rich Kurtzman](#), Colorado State Rams Examiner

It's that time of year again football fans, when the biggest college football contest in Colorado takes place in Denver.

2011 marks the 83rd Rocky Mountain Showdown between Colorado State and the University of Colorado, and the two teams first played one another way back in 1893. It's also the first time CSU has been 2-0 or better before playing the Buffs since 1941.

This is surely a storied rivalry that marks both schools' history with significance, and there's no love lost between CU and CSU.

Each team wants to beat the other, no matter the circumstances, and this year will be no different.

And even though the two teams come into the contest at different ends of the spectrum record-wise—CSU is 2-0 while CU is 0-2—it's difficult to differentiate which team is truly better.

Colorado State has started their season perfectly for the first time since 2009, but both wins were ugly. The Rams had to squeak out a win against the lowly Lobos in New Mexico in Week One, and while they blew out the Bears 33-14 last week, many key players were injured including starting linebacker and defensive leader Mychal Sisson.

Colorado has faced some tougher opponents and their record reflects just that. In Week One, the Buffs were blown out by Hawaii, but last Saturday they nearly stole a win against Pac-12 foe California, losing 36-33 in overtime.

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As the two Colorado colleges get set to take on one another this Saturday at Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium in Denver, there will be keys to consider in this madly entertaining match up.

Keys to the Contest



Handling injuries

Colorado State has already been devastated by injuries this season, possibly losing five starters after only two games.

In their first contest against New Mexico, starting defensive end Broderick Sargent was sidelined for the season after tearing his ACL, but sophomore Nordly Capi stepped in capably and set a new NCAA record with four forced fumbles in the game.

Last week, Mychal Sisson was lost for likely the entire season with a broken ankle, while DL Scott Carter and fullbacks Joe Brown and Jake Levin all sustained knee injuries of differing degrees to which the details have not been released.

Sisson's injury is most significant because he was the best tackler on the defense—he forced a nation-high seven fumbles in 2010—and he was also their senior leader. Junior James Skelton and sophomore Shaquil Barrett will both have to try to fill the void, while sophomore Mike Orakpo must continue to step up for the Rams' defense.

Fullback was already a questioned position coming into the season, and losing both Brown and Levin will force Steve Fairchild to be creative at filling in the spot with a capable player.

But Colorado has some injuries to starters of their own that they will be dealing with Saturday as well. Both offensive tackle positions are huge question marks for CU; starting right tackle Jack Harris is out of the showdown and the Buffs have to evaluate how healthy starting left tackle David Bakhtiari and his backup Ryan Dannewitz are this week before deciding if either can play.

Those injuries to the offensive line could be a big boon for CSU's defensive line and they will have to try to take advantage in the pass rush Saturday.

Running the ball

With Sisson sidelined, CSU must be concerned with their run defense Saturday. Even with Sisson playing, the Rams have given up an average of 140 yards on the ground in their first two games and really, CU doesn't do much running.

Senior Rodney Stewart only has 125 yards on the ground this season and it would help the Rams' effort if they can slow him down. Of course, the flip side of the coin is that the Buffs will pass the ball a great

deal, so if they are able to slow Stewart down, CSU must be ready to rival receiver Paul Richardson's amazing abilities.

On offense, the Rams have run the ball well this season. Their two-headed attack of Raymond Carter and Chris Nwoke gives Colorado State two backs that can break big runs while each one has their own style of running. Carter is a bruiser, able to bust up inside the tackles for strong gains while Nwoke is best running outside the tackles, using his explosive ability to burst downfield.

If the Rams can run the ball effectively and therefore control the clock, it will be a big help in winning this game.

Special teams

In a game that looks to be as close as this one, special teams will certainly end up being a key.

The Rams are historically not one of the best at returning the ball, but Derek Good has given them strong field position many times already this season. When Good gets going, the going gets good—he's averaging 29 yards per return—and Colorado State has an easier time of scoring on a short field.

Likewise, CSU must not give up long, crippling returns to CU and force the Buffs to go the length of the field as often as possible.

In the kicking game, Colorado sports one of the best place kickers in the nation. Will Oliver is currently perfect in extra points (5-5) and field goals (5-5) including a season-long 52 yarder. For Colorado State, Ben Deline can be somewhat shaky—he's only 1-3 on field goals this year—and if the game comes down to a field goal, DeLine will have to be focused at putting the football through the uprights.

Rich Kurtzman is a freelance journalist actively seeking a career in journalism. Along with being your CSU Rams Examiner, Kurtzman writes for Blake Street Bulletin, Stadium Journey, Bleacher Report, and Swoosh Nation.

Follow Rich on twitter for breaking news, need-to-know retweets and interesting insight on the Rams and everything Colorado sports related.

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William Kate

Prince William

Kate Prince

Manny Pacquiao

CSU's defense has avoided giving up the big play

By Mike Brohard For the Times-Call
Longmont Times-Call

Posted:09/14/2011 08:07:57 PM MDT

There were a lot of areas Colorado State targeted defensively in the offseason.

A better pass rush, altering the cornerback play and being more stout on third down were all hot topics for defensive coordinator Larry Kerr. But there was one more fire to put out, and that was eliminating the explosiveness from the opponent's offense.

Too many times the Rams talked of being hurt by big plays by 2010, and it was one of the key trends they intended on stopping in the upcoming year. In reality, all have played into one another.

CSU head coach Steve Fairchild noted a better pass rush has led to improved coverage, despite down distance and game situation. That, and a bit more experience have led to greater success.

"We've got to keep that mentality of keeping the ball in front of us, and if we can do that, we can win ball games," CSU safety Ivory Herd said. "As you see, we're 2-0 and we've kept that mentality coming into the season and it's worked out for us."

So far, so good for the starting defense, but it's a capability Colorado will test throughout Saturday's game as the Buffs have a couple of playmakers who have Kerr's full attention.

The most eye-catching to date has been CU receiver Paul Richardson, who is coming off a record-setting performance with 11 catches for 284 yards and two touchdowns in the overtime loss to Cal. A lethal combination of size and speed, the Rams haven't seen a wideout like him yet, and if they blink too often, all they are likely to see is the back of his jersey.

They can ask Cal for a description.

Then there's the reputation of Rodney Stewart in the backfield, and though he's done little in two previous outings against Colorado State, his 1,318 yards rushing a season ago are all Kerr needs to see to know he's not an afterthought. That and Stewart is equally as explosive in the Buffs' screen game, to the point he is the team's second-leading receiver behind Richardson.

"If you look at them, both of them after the catch really make something happen," Kerr said. "That's where they've got their explosive plays. You know, not only are they downfield catching the ball or taking the screen for a 2-, 3-yard reception, but then they turn into 50-, 60-yard plays. That's critical, and that's why the whole defense has to be alert and flying around. We have to keep very sound and keep the ball in front of us and we have to tackle."

Keeping them in front sounds easy until you watch Richardson catch a slant and blow past the secondary, or watch Stewart weave his way through blockers and around defenders coming out of the backfield.

To CU coach Jon Embree, quarterback Tyler Hansen has been key in the formula by putting the ball in places where Richardson particularly can catch the ball on the move, making him that much harder to stop.

"They've got some guys up there that are very athletic, and they'll threaten us deep," CSU corner Elijah-Blu Smith said.

"We just have to put in our work during the week. That's the main goal right there. Just work hard and keep doing what the coaches are telling us."

The CSU staff said the Rams have the flexibility to isolate a corner on Richardson throughout the game, but really have no plans of doing so. The first two games have played out well, and until further notice, there is no reason to change what's been working.

But every game is different, and the combination of Richardson and Stewart are like an early-season final exam.

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